

Applying to do a PhD

September 2018

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) or 'doctorate' is the highest level of degree that a student can achieve. Applicants for a PhD should hold or expect to obtain a first or upper second class honours degree (or an equivalent qualification) in a subject relevant to the proposed area of study. Some Institutions will also require a master's degree (such as an MA, MSc or MRes).

How to apply for a PhD

Prospective PhD students are usually expected to submit a research proposal to the department they wish to undertake their study in. Applications are usually online and applicants are advised to discuss their application prior to submission with relevant academics working in that field.

How long does it take?

A PhD usually lasts three years (four for a New Route PhD – see below), or rather, any available funding usually lasts for that time. Students may be able to take extra time in order to complete their thesis but this will usually be at their own expense. For part-time, self-funded students, a PhD can take up to seven years.

Information about the New Route

The New Route PhD (also known as Integrated PhD) is a four-year programme that combines taught elements, including professional and transferable skills, with the student's research. Integrated PhDs are supported by the government, the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) and the British Council. There are now hundreds of NRPhD students studying a variety of subjects at a consortium of universities across the UK. Check www.findaphd.com for further information and a list of participating universities.

PHD studentship opportunities and sources of funding

- 📌 Ulster University: <https://www.ulster.ac.uk/doctorscollege>
- 📌 Queen's University Belfast: <https://www.qub.ac.uk/Research/>
- 📌 The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA): <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/postgraduate-study>
- 📌 Republic of Ireland: <https://gradireland.com/further-study>
- 📌 United Kingdom: <https://www.prospects.ac.uk/postgraduate-study/phd-study>

- ✦ Worldwide: <http://www.jobs.ac.uk/phd>
- ✦ Worldwide: <http://www.phdportal.eu/>
- ✦ PhD & other Doctoral study/funding:
<https://www.postgraduatestudentships.co.uk/subject/all-subjects/social-sciences/european-studies/pgr>

Research Councils which fund doctoral level study:

UK Research and Innovation: www.ukri.org/
 Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC): www.ahrc.ac.uk
 Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) www.bbsrc.ac.uk
 Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC): www.esrc.ac.uk
 Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC): www.epsrc.ac.uk
 Medical Research Council (MRC): www.mrc.ac.uk
 Natural Environment Research Council (NERC): www.nerc.ac.uk

Other Organisations and Funding Bodies

Department of Employment and Learning: www.delni.gov.uk
 British Council: <https://study-uk.britishcouncil.org/options/scholarships-financial-support>
 British Federation of Women Graduates: www.bfwg.org.uk
 Postgraduate Studentships: <http://www.postgraduatestudentships.co.uk/subject/all-subjects/pgr>
 Postgrad.com: http://www.postgrad.com/editorial/fees_and_funding/funding/phd_studentships/
 PHD UK Study & Funding Guide: www.hotcourses.com
 Prospects Postgraduate Funding Guide: <http://www.prospects.ac.uk/funding>
 Student Finance, Northern Ireland: www.studentfinancenl.co.uk
 Other Ulster University Scholarships: www.ulster.ac.uk/apply/fees-and-finance/scholarships
 Professional and Career Development Loans: www.gov.uk/career-development-loans

A comprehensive guide to Global postgraduate funding opportunities can be referenced in the University Library on Quick Reference

The Grants Register: The Complete Guide to Postgraduate Funding Worldwide (2018)

Palgrave & Macmillan ISBN 9781137592095

Contains funding Lists of charities / foundations / trusts / associations & professional bodies that provide postgraduate funding.

If you require any further assistance, please do not hesitate to call into your Employability and Careers hub during “drop in” times or log onto the Employability Portal to book an appointment with

one of our Employability Advisors. Alternatively, email us at: careers@ulster.ac.uk and a member of the team will respond.

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