

Studying for a PhD in the UK

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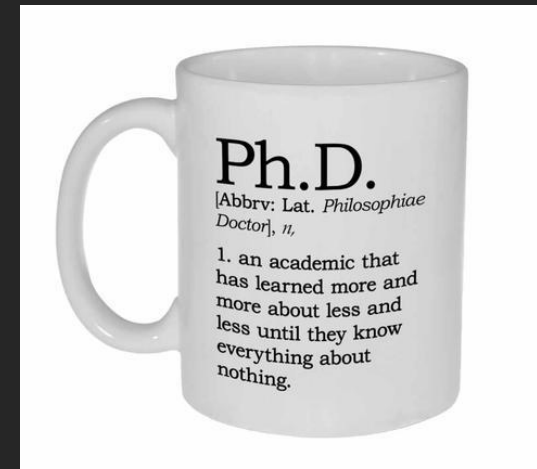
- Senior Lecturer in Operations Management
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University of Bradford
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- Teaching and research areas:
- Technology management and innovation
- Commercial aviation
- Currently supervising two PhD students looking at sustainable development in energy resources in Nigeria and Kenya



2016 Olympic Games, Rio

Definition of a PhD

- The term 'PhD' stands for 'Doctor of Philosophy'.
- In most cases, a PhD:
 - Is an advanced postgraduate degree involving three or more years of independent research on an original topic.
 - Is carried out with the support of one or more expert academic supervisors.
 - Results in a thesis that offers a *significant original contribution to knowledge*.
 - Confers the title 'Doctor' upon successful candidates.
 - Is the highest academic degree a student can achieve and is considered the *de facto* entrance qualification for a career in academia.





Why do a PhD?

- Everybody undertaking a PhD has their own reasons
- **Personal motivation is essential**
 - The PhD journey is a long and demanding one
 - You have to make things happen
 - Research is a very different experience from taught courses
- **Typical reasons**
 - Intellectual curiosity
 - Inspiration from your undergraduate days for further study
 - Wanting to become an academic
 - Needing specialist skills for a particular future career

Whatever your reasons.....

.....think carefully before embarking upon a PhD

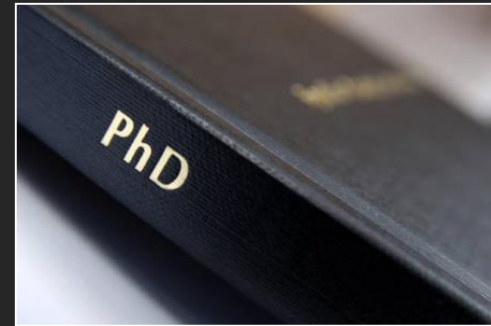
Types of research degrees

- PhD – Doctor of Philosophy
- MPhil – Master of Philosophy
- DBA – Doctorate of Business Administration
- DPharm – Doctorate of Pharmacy
- MD – Doctorate of Medicine



The PhD process

- Unlike most Masters courses (or all undergraduate programmes), a PhD is usually a pure research degree.
- Whereas the second or third year of a taught degree look quite a lot like the first (with more modules and coursework at a higher level) a PhD moves through a series of stages.
- **A typical PhD normally involves:**
 - Carrying out a **literature review** (a survey of current scholarship in your field).
 - Conducting **original research** and collecting your **results**.
 - Producing a **thesis** that presents your conclusions.
 - **Writing up** your thesis and submitting it as a **dissertation**.
 - **Defending** your thesis in an oral **viva voce** exam.
- These stages vary a little between subjects and universities, but they tend to fall into the same sequence over the three years of a typical full-time PhD.



The PhD marathon

- The PhD is a marathon not a sprint
- You need endurance and stamina
- There will be moments of crisis
- Personal motivation is essential
- Long planning and strategy greatly assists



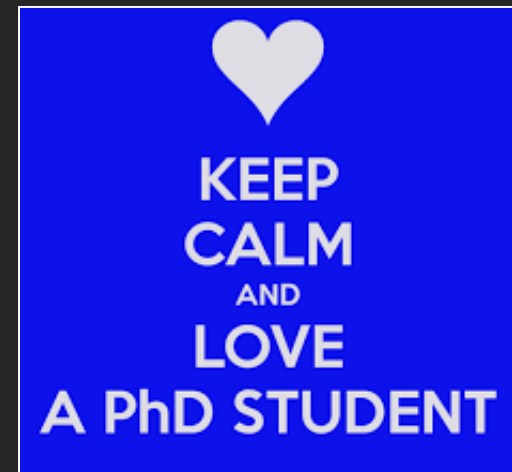
Choosing a University for PhD study

- The UK has the second largest number of world ranked research focused Universities after the United States
- While many Universities may offer similar undergraduate and MSc courses, at PhD level, each tends to have specialist areas of research.
- The websites and postgraduate prospectus of each University will indicate their research focus and areas of expertise
- At PhD level there is a greater differentiation between “research active” universities and those that are mainly focused on teaching
- You may get a better PhD experience applying to a University where there is clear evidence of a strong “culture” of research in your area
- Studying where there are a good number of PhD students engaged in research also helps with the exchange of ideas and providing mutual support



What makes a good PhD student

- Highly motivated and focused
- Analytical and reasoning skills
- Open minded
- Interested in their subject
- Good organisational abilities
- Able to work independently
- Effective time management skills



While at undergraduate and MSc level, you had a timetable to provide structure to your studies and the camaraderie of your fellow students, at PhD level you have to study much more on your own and plan your own work priorities

The first year of a PhD



- The beginning of a PhD is all about finding your feet as a researcher and getting a solid grounding in the current scholarship that relates to your topic.
- You'll have initial meetings with your supervisor and discuss a plan of action based on your research proposal.
- The first step in this will almost certainly be carrying out your literature review.
 - With the guidance of your supervisor you will begin surveying and evaluating existing scholarship. This will help situate your research and ensure your work is original.
- Your literature review will provide a logical jumping off point for the beginning of your own research and the gathering of results.
 - This could involve designing and implementing experiments or working with primary sources of data.
- The first year may end with an MPhil upgrade.
 - This occurs when PhD students are initially registered for an MPhil degree and then 'upgraded' to PhD candidates upon making sufficient progress.

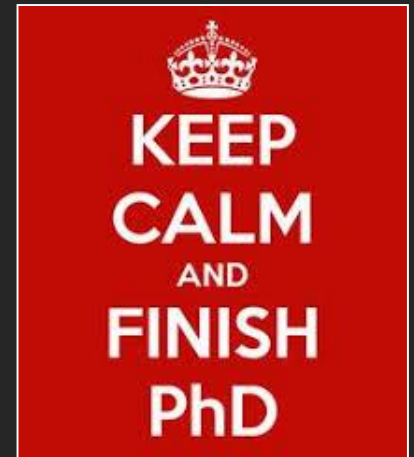
The second year of a PhD



- Your second year will probably be when you do most of your core research.
 - The process for this will vary depending on your field, but your main focus will be on gathering results from experiments, archival research, surveys or other means.
- As your research develops, so will the thesis (or argument) you base upon it.
 - You may even begin writing up chapters or other pieces that will eventually form part of your dissertation. The focus of your research can change significantly as you learn.
- You will still be having regular meetings with your supervisor.
 - They will usually check your progress, provide feedback on your ideas and probably read any drafts you produce.
- The second year is also an important stage for your development as a scholar.
 - You should now be well versed in current research and have begun to collect some important data or develop insights of your own.
- This part of your PhD is a good time to think about presenting your work at academic conferences, gaining teaching experience or perhaps even selecting some material for publication in an academic journal.

The third year of a PhD

- The third year of a PhD is sometimes referred to as the writing up phase.
- Traditionally, this is the final part of your doctorate, during which your main task will be pulling together your results and honing your thesis into a dissertation.
- It is not uncommon for final year PhD students to still be fine-tuning experiments, collecting results or chasing up a few extra sources.
- Some students need all or part of a fourth year to complete their dissertation.
 - Whether you are able to do this will depend on the terms of your enrolment and your PhD funding
- Eventually though, you are going to be faced with writing up your thesis and submitting your dissertation.
- Your supervisor will be very involved in this process.
 - They will read through your final draft and let you know when they think your PhD is ready for submission.
- All the final assessment is the viva voce oral exam.
 - This is a formal discussion and defence of your thesis involving at least one internal and external examiner. It is normally the only assessment procedure for a PhD.



Working with your supervisor



- All PhD projects are completed with the guidance of at least one academic supervisor. They will be your main point of contact and support throughout the PhD.
- Your supervisor will be an expert in your general area of research, but they will not have researched on your exact topic
- It is better to think of your supervisor as a mentor, rather than a teacher.
- Your supervisor will know what is involved in managing an advanced research project over several years and are aware of the issues that can arise
- The supervisor is someone with the time and expertise to listen to your ideas and help provide feedback and encouragement as you develop your thesis.
- Exact supervision arrangements vary between universities and between projects:
- In Science and Technology projects it is common for a supervisor to be the lead investigator on a wider research project, with responsibility for a laboratory or workshop that includes several PhD students and other researchers.
- It is also becoming increasingly common for PhD students to have two supervisors.

Funding a PhD



- Gaining the funding for PhD study is usually a challenge
- Sources of funding vary internationally and often change
- Some universities will offer specific PhD projects with funding attached
- Industrial sponsorship can be possible with relevant research topics
- Government awards – many offer a limited a number of scholarships
- Commonwealth and Chevening scholarships
- Personal and family funding
- **Having a well developed research proposal with clear and relevant deliverable outcomes and help a lot in gaining funding**

Supporting documents for making a PhD application

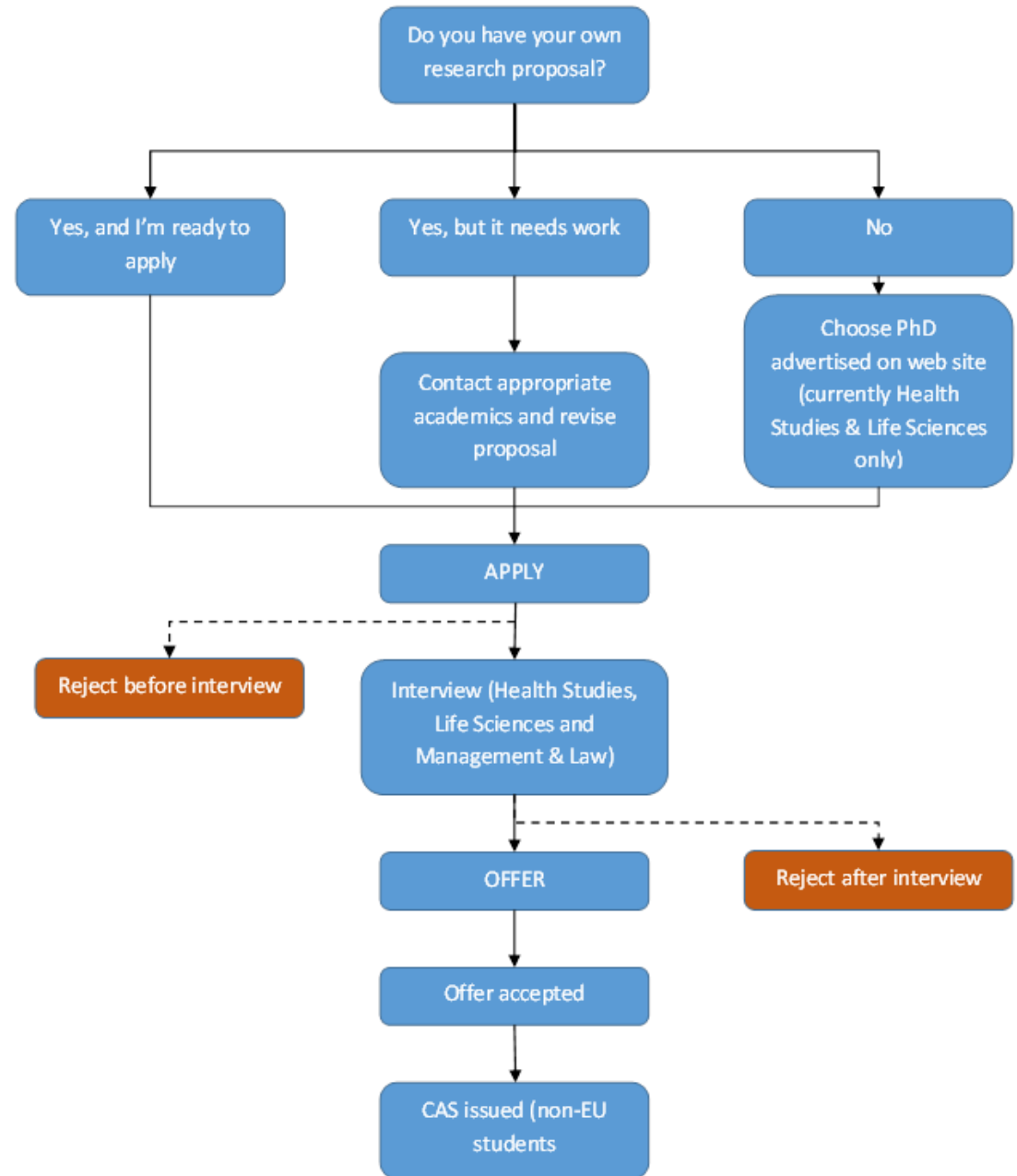
You will need to complete/supply the following:

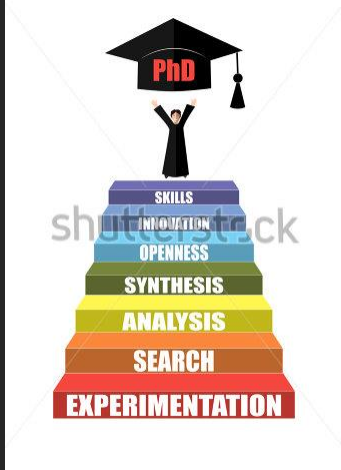
- Application form
- Qualifications (certificates and transcripts)
- English language proficiency (e.g. IELTS)
- CV or resumé
- Passport
- Two references
- Personal statement
- Research proposal



phd admission
requirements 

PhD admissions procedure





<input type="checkbox"/>	Miss
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mrs.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ms.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dr.

Despite all the challenges you will have to overcome, gaining a PhD can be a greatly rewarding experience !!



Questions



Great moments in Indonesian football – Jakarta, March 2017
The team I played for lostbut at least I scored a goal !