Arts & Humanities; Social Sciences

POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH DEGREES: HOW THEY ARE FUNDED AND WHERE TO FIND THEM

DR JANA DANKOVIČOVÁ
UCL CAREERS
2015
What we will cover

- Varieties of PhD studentships
- Who funds PhDs
- Where to find PhDs: reactive and proactive methods
Possible scenarios in general

- Fully-funded PhD with a research topic and supervisor(s) given
  [most common in sciences]

- Fully-funded / partially-funded PhD in certain thematic and disciplinary areas
  - Research proposal
  - Search potential supervisor(s)

- PhD in own chosen area / discipline / topic
  [more common in A&H / Social Sciences]
  - Find the right university
  - Search potential supervisor(s)
  - Apply for PhD place and a scholarship at the target university / investigate other funding sources
  - Research proposal
Doctoral studentships: Varieties on offer
Collaborative Doctoral Studentships

- PhD studentship projects, based in UK universities
- Carried out in collaboration with non-academic institutions, e.g. museums, libraries, galleries, city councils, FCO, etc.
- These contribute resources and/or intellectual support and mentoring for the project and/or student
Collaborative Doctoral Studentships in the UK

Under various names:

CASE awards / Collaborative Doctoral Awards (CDAs) / Collaborative Doctoral Partnerships (CDPs)

- Funded by Research Councils UK (e.g. ESRC, AHRC, NERC)
- Research topic and supervisor(s) given
- Applications to relevant university departments
New Route PhD

www.newroutePhd.ac.uk

- Integrates in-depth research with research training & high level professional skills (e.g. leadership and management skills)
- 4 years duration (some variation)
- For both academic & non-academic careers
- Open to UK and non-UK students
- Apply via participating university (individual criteria)

Research areas covered include: Anthropology, Social Sciences, Maths, Physical Sciences, Business, Computer Science, Engineering, Biosciences, Human Sciences

Offered by a consortium of about 30 universities, e.g. Birkbeck, Brunel, Herriot Watt, Kent, Newcastle, Portsmouth
Doctoral Training Centres (DTCs) / Centres for Doctoral Training (CDTs) / Doctoral Training Partnerships (DTP)

- Institutional and consortia level centres
- Funded by Research Councils (e.g. ESRC, AHRC, NERC)
- Normally focus on a particular research area / disciplinary pathways
Examples of DTCs / CDT in Arts & Humanities and Social Sciences at UCL

Arts and Humanities Research Council - funded (AHRC)

CEELBAS - Centre for Doctoral Training in Russian, Slavonic and East European Languages and Culture (with Cambridge, Manchester and Oxford)
http://www.ceelbas.ac.uk/

LAHP - London Arts and Humanities Partnership (with King’s College London and the School of Advanced Study)
http://www.lahp.ac.uk/
Economic and Social Research Council - funded (ESRC)

- Social sciences
- For discipline pathways, see http://www.ucl.ac.uk/shs/esrc

1+3 awards

- 4-year funding for applicants who have (or are completing) an undergraduate degree but do not have Masters
- During the first year the applicant will pursue a course of study leading to the award of an MRes
- Then move onto the MPhil/PhD programme (3 years)

+3 awards

- 3-year funding for applicants who have (or are completing) a Masters degree
PhD study abroad

General information
www.prospects.ac.uk/studying_abroad.htm
www.findaphd.com/study-abroad

Databases
www.hotcoursesabroad.com
Covers: USA, Australia, Malaysia, Singapore, New Zealand, Ireland, Netherlands, Sweden, Hong Kong

www.petersons.com/
-> ‘Grad School Bound’ - US-specific

www.studiesinaustralia.com
Australia-specific

Germany
www.research-in-germany.de
• 2 routes: Traditional (3 – 5 yrs), Structured Programme (3 yrs)
Postgraduate research degrees in the US

Key difference to UK: all degrees include research & taught components

**Academic / Research Master’s Degree**
- 2 years
- Complete a thesis
- Can lead to doctoral study

**Doctoral Degree**
- 4 – 6 years (subject & funding dependent)
- 2 years course work – oral & written qualifying exams
- Doctoral Candidacy – 2/3 years dissertation research
- At end, dissertation & oral exam ‘Defense’

**www.fulbright.org.uk**
- Online resources, e.g. webinar
- Scholarships – see website for deadlines
- **USA Grad School Day – Oct 2015**
  - Choosing Degree
  - Making applications
  - Admissions exams
  - Funding etc.
Doctoral studentships: How they are funded
UK Research funding councils (umbrella org. = www/rcuk.ac.uk): ESRC, AHRC, NERC, MRC, BBSRC, EPSRC, STFC

UK-based research charities

Trans-national agencies & charities, e.g. EU, WHO, Gates Foundation (see ‘The Grants Register’)

Overseas funding bodies

Universities – research scholarships & awards

Supervisor’s or host department’s research budget

Self funders (e.g. part time work / PhD – e.g. some Research Assistant roles)
UK Research Councils – Key issues

- Don’t apply to councils

- RCUK fund PhDs indirectly, via research organisations (e.g. Collaborative Doctoral Studentships, DTCs)
- Enquiries and applications direct to department / institute / DTC

- RCUK ‘Terms & Conditions for Training Grants’
  - Fees & stipend for UK citizens or resident 3 years
  - EU resident - fees only
  - Internationals do not usually qualify for either

- Key portal Research Councils UK website [www.rcuk.ac.uk](http://www.rcuk.ac.uk)
Where to look for funding

- HE Institutional & Departmental Research Scholarships (e.g. www.ucl.ac.uk/prospective-students/scholarships/)
- www.scholarship-search.org.uk
- www.gov.uk/funding-for-postgraduate-study
- The Grants Register (annually)
- Alternative Guide to Postgraduate Funding www.postgraduate-funding.com/gateway (NB: UCL has a subscription)
- Research Professional www.researchprofessional.com (NB: UCL has a subscription)
International students funding opportunities

KEY ADVICE: Check your home country funding bodies & charities

• British Council Fellowships Programme
• Commonwealth Scholarships Plan
• British Marshall Scholarships – US citizens
• Fulbright Scholarships
• JASON – Australian nationals
• Overseas Research Scholarships
• CORDIS – EU

ERASMUS MUNDUS PROGRAMME
http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus_mundus/
Example scholarships open to internationals at UCL

www.ucl.ac.uk/prospective-students/scholarships

Currently total of 68 graduate research scholarships available

• UCL Overseas Research Scholarships (40) – reduce tuition fee level to equivalent of UK/EU student
• UCL Graduate Research Scholarships (up to 20 annually) – cover fees & maintenance
• Frederick Bonnart Braunthal Scholarships (£25,000 per year) – for any prospective students

NOTE: UCL Funding deadlines normally run from Jan to April

Country / region-specific (e.g. African Graduate Scholarship)
International scholarships and research intensive institutions: some examples

**King’s College PhD Internat. Scholarships**
- Searchable database – university wide scholarships
- Search by subject, country of domicile

**Cambridge International Scholarships Scheme**
- Approx. 80 places available
- Covers fees & maintenance
- For 3 yrs PhDs
- Must be registered for PhD or ‘probationary’
- Early Dec deadline

**Funding & Scholarships**
- Searchable database – university wide scholarships
- Lists funding by global regions
- College – specific scholarships
Doctoral studentships: How to find them
Advertised opportunities

- [www.findaphd.com/](http://www.findaphd.com/) (includes professional doctorates)
- [www.postgraduatestudentships.co.uk/](http://www.postgraduatestudentships.co.uk/) (includes funders)
- [www.prospects.ac.uk](http://www.prospects.ac.uk) (postgrad. section - type ‘PhD’ as keyword)
- [www.ukpass.ac.uk/students/coursesearch](http://www.ukpass.ac.uk/students/coursesearch)
  Select ‘Research’ for study type. Search by institution

Includes Research Councils funding opportunities:

- [www.jobs.ac.uk/employers/research-councils](http://www.jobs.ac.uk/employers/research-councils)
UCL Research degree opportunities

UCL Database of Research Opportunities:  
www.ucl.ac.uk/prospective-students/graduate/research/subject-areas

Degrees that have been offered include:

- Wolfson Scholarship (History, Literature, Languages)
- Faculty of Laws Research Scholarship (Law)
- AHRC DTP Awards (Arts & Humanities)
- ESRC DTC 1+3 and +3 Awards (Social Sciences)
Proactive Applications for Research Studentships, e.g. UCL

www.ucl.ac.uk/prospective-students/graduate/research/application

1. Check entry requirements

2. Do your homework
   Subject index, research departments

3. Enquire before you apply
   • Specific academic or graduate tutor
   • Self funded or need funding
   • Download guidance document – how to write proposal
   • Contact potential supervisor

4. Submit formal application
Useful resources


- [www.ucl.ac.uk/careers](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/careers)