

PhD Studentships in the Arts and Humanities

AHRC Open-Oxford-Cambridge Doctoral Training Partnership

The Open University

FURTHER PARTICULARS

AHRC Open-Oxford-Cambridge DTP Funding

The Open University is a member of the Open-Oxford-Cambridge Doctoral Training Partnership (DTP), which is offering up to 77 PhD studentships across the consortium for entry in October 2022. Applications for studentships are welcome in any of the AHRC discipline areas at The Open University: Art History, Classical Studies, Creative Writing, Cultural Geography, Digital Humanities (Information and Knowledge Management), Design, Development Studies, English Literature, History, Languages and Applied Linguistics, Law and Legal Studies, Music, Religious Studies, Philosophy.

Please click on the [statement](#) from AHRC and ESRC to determine which remit your research fits best with.

The deadline for applications for studentships to commence in October 2022 is noon, 11 January 2022.

Any prospective doctoral student wishing to study at a UK research organisation is eligible for studentship funding from UK Research and Innovation (UKRI), including the Arts and Humanities Research Council. Awards to international students are limited, however, and will not normally exceed 30% of the total awards in any one year.

All UKRI-funded doctoral students are eligible for a full award, comprising a stipend to support living costs (at least £15,609 p.a.) and fees up to the home rate. The DTP partners will cover the gap between the home and overseas fee rates for international students.

All successful applicants will also have access to a Research Training and Support Grant.

Candidates are strongly advised to make informal contact with potential supervisors at The Open University prior to making a formal application. A full list of subject level contacts for pre-application enquiries can be found at the end of this document under 'How to Apply'. Open-Oxford-Cambridge applicants should go through the standard Open University application process as well as complete the OOC DTP Application at the same time, with submission of the application forms no later than 11 January 2022. Early application is strongly encouraged.

Please indicate on the OU application form under Funding No. 25 “how are you intending to finance your studies” that you wish to be considered for Open-Oxford-Cambridge studentship funding. For general information about the Open-Oxford-Cambridge DTP, please visit: <http://www.oocdtp.ac.uk>.

Arts and Humanities Research at The Open University

Open University research engages with some of the major issues facing contemporary society. Via our presence in the nations and regions, augmented by our close links with the BBC and other media outlets, our research informs public opinion and policy, and promotes debate and engagement with key questions of the day. The Open University offers an intellectually exciting research environment at its Walton Hall campus in Milton Keynes, where the main University facilities are sited. This central research environment is supported by a network of national offices and a Virtual Research Environment bringing together PhD students from across the country.

The Open University's freely-accessible repository of research publications, Open Research Online, is now one of the largest university repositories of its kind in the UK. It averages more than 40,000 individual site visits per month and has had more than 1.6 million visitors (from 200 countries) since 2006. It includes more than 15,275 Open University research outputs. The University's iTunesU site was launched in 2008 and includes research content. There have been more than 58 million discrete content downloads from that site, while OU content on YouTube has reached more than 6.7 million visitors.

A large part of the university's Arts & Humanities research takes place within the internationally-recognised Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS). The Faculty has a vibrant and broad-based research culture. Our work includes rich historical perspectives on subjects such as classical Greek poetry, Byzantine art, the First World War, and experiences of reading and listening to music alongside engagement with very contemporary issues such as migration, Brexit, community divisions in Northern Ireland, sexual citizenship and the challenges faced by LGBT people.

In the 2014 Research Excellence Framework well over 65% of our Arts and Humanities research was classified as 'world leading' or 'internationally excellent', rising to more than three quarters in Art and Design, English, History, Geography and Music (which secured an exceptional 94% in the 'world leading' and 'internationally excellent' categories). Our research has also been recognized by numerous grants from funders including the Arts and Humanities Research Council, the British Academy, the Economic and Social Research Council, the European Commission, and the Leverhulme Trust. The Faculty supervises nearly 200 PhD students, including full-time students in Milton Keynes, many of them funded through our prestigious doctoral training partnerships

Other Faculties within the university also conduct excellent research focussed on AHRC subject areas. The Design Group, within the Faculty of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), is distinctive in being focussed on the creative, technical and social dimensions of design and innovation, which are generic across domains. Its research draws on multi-disciplinary views of design across product design, architecture, engineering, fashion, transport, education, health and services. Design Research at the Open University is of the highest quality. In the 2014 REF, 86% of the outputs we submitted to the Art and Design panel were rated as world-leading or internationally excellent, and OU research was ranked 6th out of 84 institutions.

Law and Legal Studies research rests primarily within the Open University Law School (OULS). OULS academics engage in research under six research clusters. The Belonging research cluster invites interdisciplinary explorations informing legal questions relating to matters of belonging, identity, community, and citizenship. Pursuing an interdisciplinary and trans-faculty approach, the aim of the Blockchain, Technology and Law research cluster is to critically examine these affects and inform related domestic and international thinking. Academics researching within the Law and Neuroscience cluster are examining the use and potential use of evidence from neuroscience and associated brain sciences within the justice

system. Much of OULS research has an International Law focus, with colleagues researching in areas such as cultural property, gender and human rights as well as asylum. A particular focus of research within OULS is on the teaching of ethics within Law programmes under the futures of legal education and practice research cluster.

Within the Faculty of Wellbeing, Education and Language Studies (WELS), there is significant research expertise in English Language, and Languages and Applied Linguistics. WELS research has a strong multidisciplinary focus and a distinctive record of developing innovative methodological approaches to research. Through engagement with practitioners, policy-makers, service users and the wider academy, WELS research activity is at the heart of our core mission: to transform lives and enable social mobility and justice by inspiring professionals to apply learning gained in an academic context.

Details on how to find out more about all these subject areas, and their provision for doctoral students, is given at the end of this document under 'How to Apply'.

Doctoral Studies at The Open University

The Open University has an extensive doctoral studies programme, with c. 621 current postgraduate research students (c.308 studying full-time, the rest studying part-time and combining research degrees with work). The University has therefore developed a rigorous yet flexible portfolio of skills training for postgraduate research students. The programme has a clear focus on transferable skills. There are currently c. 155 Arts & Humanities postgraduate research students, registered either for a PhD or for an MPhil prior to doctoral study. Of these about a third are registered for full-time study and the rest are part-time.

The Open University Graduate School provides an induction programme for new research students and a training programme for all stages of the student journey. The student will receive training in (for example): bibliographical databases and other IT skills and in managing a research project through its different stages. The Faculty then provides additional study skills training days focussed on the particular needs of arts students. Students will also get access to the Open University's world-class library with particular strength in online resources. As outlined below under 'The Open-Oxford-Cambridge DTP', PhD students will also have access to training world-class provided by the DTP, and access to the resources and facilities of the constituent members of the consortium.

For further information about research degrees at The Open University, and to request a prospectus, visit <http://www.open.ac.uk/research/degrees>.

The Open-Oxford-Cambridge DTP

The Open-Oxford-Cambridge is an exciting new doctoral training partnership, funded by the AHRC. The three participating universities share extensive expertise in delivering successful doctoral training, developed in collaboration with our students and a wide range of non-HEI partners. We believe that the exceptional breadth, depth, diversity, and, above all, quality of our arts and humanities provision creates a unique environment for creative collaboration and innovation that will promote exciting, ambitious doctoral research and training for the twenty-first century.

The Open-Oxford-Cambridge DTP is underpinned by world-class research and training environments, supported by integrated strategic partnerships with the BBC World Service, the National Trust and BT. The consortium is national and international in mindset and determined to take a leading role in shaping the future of doctoral training in the UK.

As an Open-Oxford-Cambridge PhD student you will have the opportunity to gain profound expertise within your field(s), learn to communicate your research to a variety of academic and public audiences and to collaborate across disciplinary and national boundaries. This will enable you to produce rigorous, distinctive doctoral theses and graduate with an exceptional range of skills. Whatever your chosen career, whether within or outside of the academy, you will be able to bring the critical and creative skill-set of the humanities doctorate and the insights it provides into human society, past, present and future

In addition to funding stipends and tuition fees, the DTP will offer considerable additional funding for training and project-related costs and will also offer a programme of work-placements and internships for students wishing to develop their potential with partner organisations.

Open University Admission Requirements

It is essential that the candidate has:

- Good academic qualifications in an arts and humanities subject (i.e. a 1st or 2:1 degree from a UK institution or equivalent from a non-UK institution and/or a relevant Master's degree)
- Demonstrable ability to produce high-level academic writing
- Evidence of the self-discipline and organizational skills required to complete a major academic project in three years
- Willingness to participate in the broader intellectual community of The Open University (and, if selected, Open-Oxford-Cambridge DTP community as well)

How to Apply

Prior to formal application, you are strongly advised first to consult someone with relevant interests in the department with which you wish to be affiliated. Potential supervisors expect to exchange ideas with applicants to help develop the research proposal before submission of the application. You can find out more about our arts and humanities subject areas via their website and via the postgraduate research degrees pages (<http://www.open.ac.uk/research/degrees>). If you require advice on locating a potential supervisor, a list of initial, subject level contacts for pre-application enquiries can be found below. Please note that final applications must be emailed to FASS-PhD-Applications@open.ac.uk

Art History

Susie West - susie.west@open.ac.uk

Classical Studies

Jasmine Hunter Evans - jasmin.hunter-evans@open.ac.uk

Creative Writing

Molly Ziegler - Molly.ziegler@open.ac.uk

Cultural Geography

Carry.Van-Lieshout carry.van-lieshout@open.ac.uk

Design

Emma Dewberry - emma.dewberry@open.ac.uk

Development Studies

Mark Lamont mark.lamont@open.ac.uk

Jan Draper (WELS) - jan.draper@open.ac.uk

Digital Humanities (Information and Knowledge Management)

Francesca Benatti - francesca.benatti@open.ac.uk

English Literature

Molly Ziegler – Molly.ziegler@open.ac.uk

English Language, Languages & Applied Linguistics

Ursula Stickler - Ursula.Stickler@open.ac.uk

Rosina Marquez-Reiter- Rosina.Marquez-Reiter@open.ac.uk

History

Luc Brunet - luc-andre.brunet@open.ac.uk

Law and Legal Studies

Anne Wesemann - anne.wesemann@open.ac.uk

Music

Helen Barlow - helen.barlow@open.ac.uk

Religious Studies

Graham Harvey - graham.harvey@open.ac.uk

Philosophy

Dan.Cavedon-Taylor dan.cavedon-taylor@open.ac.uk

A key part of any PhD application is the research proposal. When framing a research proposal, you should initially conduct a survey of existing work in your chosen field. When writing your proposal, there is no set format, although the proposal itself should not be longer than 1,000 words at most. You should also make sure that you include:

1. The title of your project
2. A clear summary of the proposed research. Drawing on your own review of the literature already existing in your field, you need to set out the questions you wish to pose and answer. Your summary should also cover the following points:
 - Why is this an important subject? (A thesis needs to add something to the sum of our knowledge — how would yours do this?)
 - What is new about your thesis (this could be new questions posed, new sources previously not used, a new approach etc.)
 - How does your thesis relate to other publications in the field? Do you plan to confirm certain points of view, or to refute them?
 - What sources might you need to use?

- Can you give an indication of the methodology and time frame you will propose for your research?

A brief bibliography. Given the word limit, you do not need to list all the primary and secondary sources you have identified. However, you should include brief details of key works (particularly any you have quoted from) and should give an indication of major sources available. Once you have finalised a research proposal, ideally under advice from your potential supervisor(s), please apply on the standard research degree application form (which can be downloaded from the Research Degrees Prospectus available online at <http://www.open.ac.uk/postgraduate/research-degrees/how-to-apply/mphil-and-phd-application-process>).

Completed applications should be emailed to FASS-PhD-Applications@open.ac.uk indicating your subject area in the title of your email.

For specific information about AHRC terms and conditions, including eligibility rules, please see: <https://ahrc.ukri.org/skills/phdstudents/>.

For advice on the practical aspects of OU applications, please contact the Research Degrees Team FASS-PhD-Applications@open.ac.uk.

CLOSING DATE FOR ALL APPLICATIONS: NOON 11 JANUARY 2022

Equal Opportunity is University Policy.