

PhD in United Kingdom

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General Requirements:

- A Masters degree, or its international equivalent.
- In some exceptional cases, students can apply directly after Undergraduate Degree (option available in STEM usually).
- Generally, the minimum requirement is an upper second class (typically 60 to 69%) Masters/Bachelors Degree.
- A language test is required if the PhD is not conducted in the native language.

M.Phil



Ph.D.

- The Master of Philosophy (MPhil) is an advanced postgraduate degree.
- An MPhil typically includes a taught portion and a significant research portion, during which a thesis project is conducted under supervision.
- Mostly the university require a PhD students to register for the degree of MPhil.
- The student is required to produce a thesis at the end of the first year in order to get promoted to a PhD.
- An informal internal examination is also possible in some cases.

There are four types of PhDs available in UK, namely:

- Integrated PhD.
- Professional Doctorate.
- PhD by Publication.
- Distance Learning PhD.

- Four-year qualification.
- Involves:
 - One year Research Masters Degree (MRes).
 - Three year PhD.
- More research oriented.
- Also known as New Route PhD.

There are two type of integrated PhDs in UK, namely:

- Studentships
 - are part of funded research projects.
 - position is a job at the university as a part of the research group.
 - relatively easier to get.
 - less or no control over research project.
- Yet-to-be-funded PhDs
 - student has to propose the project to the professor.
 - no funding in place.
 - difficult to arrange.
 - more control over the project.

- Designed for people planning to opt for specific professions, other than academia (for eg., engineers, architects, etc.).
- Significant taught element.
- Less research oriented.
- Could take anywhere between two to eight years to complete.
- Commons titles include:
 - Doctor of Business Administration (DBA)
 - Doctor of Education (EdD)
 - Doctor of Medicine (MD)
 - Doctor of Engineering (EngD)

- Often taken by mid-career academics.
- This routes involves submitting previously published work.
- Original contribution in a specific field is required to prove.
- Generally, a minimum of five to eight published works are required.
- Last degree should be obtained before at least 7 years to be eligible for the program.

- Based on independent research.
- No coursework and teaching responsibilities.
- Need to visit the institute for around two to four weeks per year for necessary training and evaluation.
- All meetings with the supervisor are done via phone, video conferencing and mails.

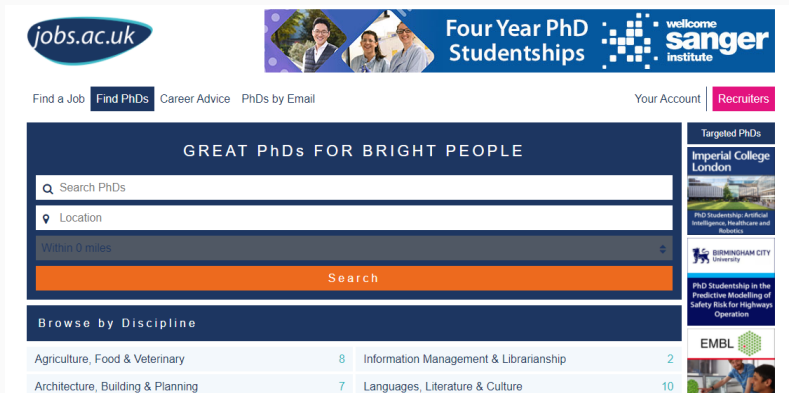
How to apply for a PhD?

- No central system to apply.
- Personal emails to the potential supervisor.
- University application portals.

Advertisements about the PhD positions can be found at:

<https://www.jobs.ac.uk/phd>

How to apply for PhD



The screenshot shows the 'jobs.ac.uk' website interface. At the top, there are logos for 'jobs.ac.uk', 'Four Year PhD Studentships' (with a photo of three students), and 'wellcome sanger institute'. Below the logos are navigation links: 'Find a Job', 'Find PhDs' (highlighted), 'Career Advice', and 'PhDs by Email'. On the right, there are links for 'Your Account' and 'Recruiters'.

The main content area features a dark blue header with the text 'GREAT PhDs FOR BRIGHT PEOPLE'. Below this is a search filter section with the following elements:

- A search bar with the placeholder text 'Search PhDs'.
- A location filter with a location pin icon and the text 'Location'.
- A distance filter with the text 'Within 0 miles' and a dropdown arrow.
- An orange 'Search' button.

Below the search filters is a section titled 'Browse by Discipline' which contains a table of disciplines and their corresponding counts:

Agriculture, Food & Veterinary	8	Information Management & Librarianship	2
Architecture, Building & Planning	7	Languages, Literature & Culture	10

On the right side of the page, there is a 'Targeted PhDs' section with three featured listings:

- Imperial College London: PhD Studentship: Artificial Intelligence, Healthcare and Robotics.
- BIRMINGHAM CITY University: PhD Studentship in the Predictive Modelling of Safety Risk for Highways Operation.
- EMBL: (Logo visible)

- Being a self-funded PhD student could be expensive.
- Annual tuition bill may cost up to:
 - £3,000 to £6,000 (about US\$3,800-7,670) for domestic students.
 - up to £18,000 (\$23,000) for international students.
- Funding available from university and research councils in most cases to cover expenses.

Research funding in UK is divided among two non government organizations, namely:

- UK Research Councils
- Higher Education Funding Bodies

UK research funding follows '**Haldane Principle**'.

Haldane Principle

In British research policy, the Haldane principle is the idea that decisions about what to spend research funds on should be made by researchers rather than politicians. [7]

Table: Different research councils in UK and their websites.[8]

Research Councils	Website
Arts and Humanities Research Council	AHRC Website
Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council	BBSRC website
Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council	EPSRC website
Economic and Social Research Council	ESRC website
Medical Research Council	MRC website
Natural Environment Research Council	NERC website
Science and Technology Facilities Council	STFC website

Higher Education Funding Bodies (UK Funding Councils)

Table: Different Higher Education Funding Bodies in UK and their websites.[8]

Funding Body	Website
Higher Education Funding Council for England	HEFCE Website
Higher Education Funding Council for Wales	HEFCW website
Scottish Funding Council	SFC website
Department for Employment and Learning, Northern Ireland	DELNI website

PhD Student Funding	Percentage
Self Funding	38%
HE Institution	21%
Research Councils	15%
Overseas	7%
Other Government	5%
UK Industry	4%
Charity or British Council	4%
Other	6%

Figure: Breakdown of funding in the UK during the year 2012-2013. [3]

- Eleven Universities in Top 100 as per THE rankings. [5]
- University of Oxford and University of Cambridge among the Top 10 in the world. [5]
- University of Edinburgh has one of the most renowned NLP lab in UK. Check 'edinburghnlp.inf.ed.ac.uk'.

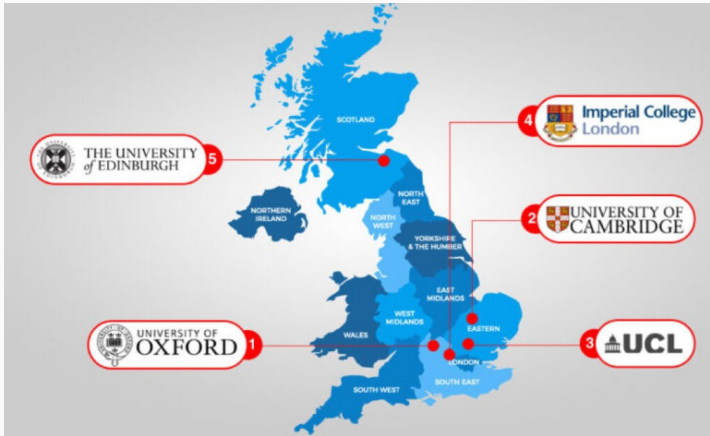


Figure: Top Five Universities in the UK, as per QS world university ranking 2020. [9]

- Entry level salaries may not be considerably higher than master's graduates.
- Long term prospects are strong.
- Faster career and pay-scale advancement.
- Can switch between academia and corporate.
- Entrepreneurship is a viable option given the self sustainable skill sets acquired during the PhD.

Type of work	Percentage
Science professionals	28.9
Education professionals	23.1
Legal, social and welfare professionals	9.1
Other professionals, associate professionals and technicians	7.8
Business, HR and finance professionals	7.0

Table: PhD graduate destinations. [2]

Start applying now!

- [1] Findaphd.com.
A simple introduction to PhD Funding.
<https://www.findaphd.com/funding/guides/phd-funding-guide.aspx>.
- [2] Daniel Higginbotham.
Your PhD, what next?
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<https://www.prospects.ac.uk/postgraduate-study/phd-study/4-routes-to-getting-a-doctorate>.
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- [6] Topuniversities.com.
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