PhD in United Kingdom

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Am I eligible?

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.
PhD or MPhil?

- 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.
Types of PhDs

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

- Integrated PhD.
- Professional Doctorate.
- PhD by Publication.
- Distance Learning PhD.
Integrated 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 types of integrated PhDs in the UK, namely:

- **Studentships**
  - are part of funded research projects.
  - position is a job at the university as 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.
Professional Doctorate

- 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.
- Common titles include:
  - Doctor of Business Administration (DBA)
  - Doctor of Education (EdD)
  - Doctor of Medicine (MD)
  - Doctor of Engineering (EngD)
PhD by Publication

- Often taken by mid-career academics.
- This route 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.
Distance Learning PhD

• 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

GREAT PhDs FOR BRIGHT PEOPLE

Search PhDs

Location

Within 0 miles

Search

Browse by Discipline

Agriculture, Food & Veterinary  8  Information Management & Librarianship  2
Architecture, Building & Planning  7  Languages, Literature & Culture  10
• 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]
# UK Research Councils

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Research Councils</th>
<th>Website</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arts and Humanities Research Council</td>
<td>AHRC Website</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council</td>
<td>BBSRC website</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council</td>
<td>EPSRC website</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic and Social Research Council</td>
<td>ESRC website</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical Research Council</td>
<td>MRC website</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural Environment Research Council</td>
<td>NERC website</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science and Technology Facilities Council</td>
<td>STFC website</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Higher Education Funding Bodies (UK Funding Councils)

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funding Body</th>
<th>Website</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Higher Education Funding Council for England</td>
<td>HEFCE Website</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Higher Education Funding Council for Wales</td>
<td>HEFCW website</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scottish Funding Council</td>
<td>SFC website</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department for Employment and Learning, Northern Ireland</td>
<td>DELNI website</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Funding

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PhD Student Funding</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Self Funding</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HE Institution</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Councils</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overseas</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Government</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UK Industry</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charity or British Council</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Where to apply?

- 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]
After PhD

- 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.
Where do PhDs work?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of work</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Science professionals</td>
<td>28.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education professionals</td>
<td>23.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legal, social and welfare professionals</td>
<td>9.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other professionals, associate professionals and technicians</td>
<td>7.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business, HR and finance professionals</td>
<td>7.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table: PhD graduate destinations. [2]
Start applying now!
A simple introduction to PhD Funding.  

Your PhD, what next?  
https://www.prospects.ac.uk/postgraduate-study/phd-study/your-phd-what-next.

Phd in UK.  
https://www.postgrad.com/study-in-uk/phd-in-uk/.

4 routes to getting a Doctorate.  
https://www.prospects.ac.uk/postgraduate-study/phd-study/4-routes-to-getting-a-doctorate.

Best universities in the UK 2021.  
How to Get PhD Funding. 

Haldane principle. 

Research funding in the United Kingdom. 

Top Ten Universities in the UK for 2020. 