



# RESEARCH DEGREES

at the University of Worcester



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Welcome to the University of Worcester.

Postgraduate research is a high priority at the University. We place great importance on research excellence which ensures that our research students are trained, supported and challenged to produce research of the highest standard. For our latest research publication and highlights please visit:  
[www.worcester.ac.uk/research](http://www.worcester.ac.uk/research)







Undertaking a research degree at Worcester means you will become part of a thriving community of research degree students, based within the University's Research School.

At Worcester, we currently offer four categories of research degree: PhD (Doctor of Philosophy), Professional Doctorate, MPhil (Master of Philosophy) and in some subject areas an MRes (Masters by Research). All are available full-time or part-time. Separate booklets are available for all Professional Doctorate and Masters by Research courses. Please refer to those for more detailed information on these specific programmes.

For more information please contact: [research@worc.ac.uk](mailto:research@worc.ac.uk)

## PROGRAMME OF STUDY

The research degree programme aims to equip you with the skills to design, research and write either a MRes, MPhil or Doctorate to the standard expected by the University of Worcester.

A Doctorate normally requires 3-4 years of full-time or 5-6 years of part-time study. Your work must make an original contribution to knowledge in your field of study. You will be expected to show evidence of systematic study and of independent, critical and original thinking while your thesis should be worthy of publication in whole or part.

An MPhil normally requires 2 years of full-time or 4 years of part-time study. Your MPhil should demonstrate your ability to undertake an appropriate research programme and to produce a critical analysis of existing knowledge in your field of study.

An MRes normally requires 2 years full-time or 4 years part-time study.

## RESEARCH SUPERVISION AREAS

We are able to supervise in the following areas.

- Allied Health Professions including Nursing, Midwifery and Occupational Therapy
- Archaeology
- Art & Design and Creative Digital Media
- Atmospheric Science
- Biochemistry
- Biology including Animal, Human and Plant Biology
- Business
- Computing
- Criminology
- Dementia Studies
- Drama & Performance
- Ecology
- Education
- English Language and Literature
- Environmental Science
- Film Studies
- Geography
- History
- Media & Cultural Studies
- Psychology
- Social Work and Social Policy
- Sociology & Politics
- Sport & Exercise Science

# SUPERVISION

The single most important aspect of the support available to you as a research degree student is the supervisory team. Between them, the members of the team will have both subject expertise and experience of supervision. These are the people who will oversee the research and support your development as a researcher.

Although in many universities a research degree student has only one supervisor, here at Worcester we use a team of two or more where each member of the team will be expected to bring a specific strength to the project. At least one of the team will be a member of staff at Worcester, i.e. an 'internal supervisor'. The internal supervisor(s) will provide the bulk of the supervision and for this reason are expected to have some prior experience of supervising MRes, MPhil or doctoral students. It is common, however, for one or occasionally more of the supervisory team to be external to the University. It may be that this 'external supervisor' is attached to another University or perhaps to an organisation or business involved in research and development or is a highly-respected retired academic.

One of the team will be designated as the person who will guide you through the various stages of the research degree process. This nominated supervisor, known as the Director of Studies (DoS) will usually be a member of staff at Worcester.

## RESEARCHER DEVELOPMENT

All research students must engage with the Researcher Development Programme (RDP), a core curriculum of training and development which provides them with the general and subject-specific knowledge, skills and behaviours to support them in the completion of their research degree.

At the beginning of an MPhil/PhD degree, you will be allocated to one of two pathways depending on your experience and knowledge as a researcher. This will determine which elements of the programme are core and which are optional.

At the beginning of the programme you will be required to complete a Training Needs Analysis (TNA) in conjunction with your Director of Studies. This identifies the training that you will need to undertake, in addition to the mandatory elements of RDP, in order to complete the programme and to become an effective researcher. This TNA is revisited at the beginning of each subsequent academic year.

All students are offered a wide range of optional training workshops throughout the programme focused around the following themes:

- Developing and Managing Your Research
- Dissemination, Impact, Engagement
- Completing Your Research Degree
- Research Methodology Master classes
- Data Analysis
- Research Funding
- Wellbeing and Personal Effectiveness
- Careers and Employability
- Enterprise and Entrepreneurship

## THE RESEARCH SCHOOL

The Research School offers day-to-day support and assistance for research students and supervisors. The School's principal role in the research degree process is to facilitate and monitor a research student's training and progress through registration, transfer and examination and, if necessary, to assist with changes in a supervisory team, etc. The Research School is situated in the heart of Worcester City Centre in the newly refurbished Jenny Lind Building and within a 3 minute walk of Worcester Foregate Street train station and The Hive, the University's award-winning library. A bright, modern and quiet workspace equipped with computing facilities is located in the Research School and has been created for the exclusive use of research students.



# ENTRY QUALIFICATIONS

## For MPhil:

- First or Upper Second Class Honours Degree or an approved equivalent award;
- or
- Research or professional experience which has resulted in appropriate evidence of achievement.

## For PhD:

- Postgraduate Masters Degree in a discipline which is appropriate to the proposed programme of study;
- or
- First or Upper Second Class Honours Degree or equivalent award in an appropriate discipline;
- or
- Research or professional experience at postgraduate level which has resulted in published work, written reports or other appropriate evidence of achievement.

International applicants will be required to demonstrate that they have the appropriate level of written and spoken English. For MPhil/PhD this is an IELTS score of 7.0 with a minimum score of 7.0 in Written English.

# ADMISSIONS PROCEDURES

All applications are submitted to the Research School and passed to the relevant Research Degrees Co-ordinator for consideration. In the application form you are required to outline a research proposal for your intended thesis. If the application has potential, an interview is scheduled by a panel comprising at least two members of academic staff. Completion of an interview checklist allows for a thorough and rigorous evaluation of your strengths at interview. It also means that details about the offer conditions are passed back to the Research School, enabling a comprehensive offer letter and contract to be produced.

Applications from those with international qualifications are checked by the Research School against NARIC and copies of all certificates are required before an unconditional offer is made to the student. All international applicants are checked for their competency in English language. When it is felt that the applicant does not possess the appropriate level of English language, an in house English language course may be recommended before the student embarks on their Research Degree Programme. Information about all offers made to international students is passed back to the relevant personnel in Student Services who can provide the student with additional support and guidance (for example, to obtain a visa, accommodation etc).

# RECOGNITION OF PRIOR LEARNING

Students with relevant previous study at postgraduate level or with extensive experience may be considered eligible for recognition of prior learning for elements of the programme.

Please contact the Research School for further information or guidance on 01905 542182.

## ADMISSIONS/SELECTION CRITERIA

An offer of a place on an MRes, MPhil or PhD will be made when the following conditions are satisfied:

- Applicant meets the specified entry requirements.
- The Institute has the supervisory capacity and expertise to support the research project outlined in the application form.
- The proposal outlined has the potential to become a viable research project at MRes, MPhil or Doctoral level.

## HOW TO APPLY

All applicants must complete the online application form found on the relevant course page. We have two entry points each year. The first is in October, and the second in late January/February. Applications must be received at least 8 weeks before entry in order to allow enough time to process your application. More time is required for international students who require a visa. Please contact the Research School for more information on application deadlines.

[www.worcester.ac.uk/apply](http://www.worcester.ac.uk/apply) - then follow the link to 'Research applications'

## FEES

The current tuition fees can be found at: [www.worcester.ac.uk/fees](http://www.worcester.ac.uk/fees)



**For further details**

email: [research@worc.ac.uk](mailto:research@worc.ac.uk)



[www.worcester.ac.uk](http://www.worcester.ac.uk)