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Phd AHRC OPEN studentships 2025-26 ENTRY

RESEARCH DEGREE STUDENT APPLICATION FORM

This is the application form for the University of the Highlands and Islands PhD studentship, funded through the AHRC Doctoral Training Partnership Open Studentship Competition.

**Please complete each section of this form and return by Monday 28 October 2024, Midday GMT to:** [**gradresearch@uhi.ac.uk**](mailto:gradresearch@uhi.ac.uk)

Please ensure you submit this form – with the following supporting documentation – as one single pdf file (references excluded if not available at the time of submission – however applicants are responsible for ensuring their referees submit the references by the deadline):

* Copies of all official qualification certificates and transcripts. If your official certificates/transcripts are not in English, they must be accompanied by a full certified translation provided by a professional translator/translation company
* If English is not your native language, an English language test certificate is required - IELTS or equivalent - with overall score of 6.5 and no element below 6.0. **Please note that English language tests need to have been taken no more than two years prior to the start date of the PhD**.
* If you are not a UK national, a copy of the photo page of your passport, also include any pages which indicate a right of abode in the UK. If you have EU pre-settled or settled status and are shortlisted for interview, we will ask you to provide us with a share code so we can confirm your EU Settlement Status.
* 2 academic references (see 1.9). Continuing PhD students should obtain up-to-date references from their current supervisors.

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| **1. APPLICANT INFORMATION** |

**1.1 PERSONAL DETAILS**

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| **FIRST NAME(S)** |  | | | | |
| **SURNAME/FAMILY NAME** |  | | | | |
| **PREFERRED FIRST NAME** |  | | | | |
| **COUNTRY OF BIRTH** |  | | **NATIONALITY** |  | |
|  |  | |  | |  |
| **EMAIL ADDRESS** |  | | | | |
| **CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBER** |  | | | | |
| **SKYPE (IF AVAILABLE)** |  | | | | |
|  | | | | | |
| **ADDRESS (UK)** | | | **ADDRESS IN HOME COUNTRY (IF NOT UK)** | | |
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| **DO YOU REQUIRE A STUDENT VISA? If yes, please complete section 3.1**  **If no, please provide detail in the free text box below on what will be your visa status in the UK**  **I GIVE CONSENT to the University to check directly, if necessary, on my immigration history and/or current immigration status with UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI).** | | Choose an item.  Choose an item. | | | |
| ***Free text box, if required.*** | | | | | |

**1.2 RESEARCH DISCIPLINE**

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| **TO WHICH RESEARCH DISCIPLINE ARE YOU APPLYING?**  **Please place a cross (click) in the relevant box** | **ARCHAEOLOGY** |  |
| **GAELIC LANGUAGE/CELTIC STUDIES** |  |
| **HISTORY** |  |
| **NORTHERN STUDIES** |  |
| **THEOLOGY** |  |

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| **HAVE YOU CONTACTED AN ACADEMIC ABOUT YOUR APPLICATION? If yes, please provide name:** |  |
| **HOW DO YOU INTEND TO STUDY** | **FULL TIME  PART TIME** |
| **IF YOU ARE A CONTINUING PHD STUDENT, WHEN DID YOU START YOUR PHD?** |  |

**1.3 EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS -** Please give the exact titles of qualifications, including any non UK qualifications (in the language awarded - please **do not** give English equivalencies). Please note that qualifications gained outside of the UK will be checked by the international admissions team to ensure UK equivalency.

Please give the name of the awarding body if different from university/college attended.

Please note that applicants for this studentship should normally have, or be studying for, a Masters degree or equivalent - although applicants with First Class (Hons) undergraduate degrees or relevant professional experience may also be considered. Please see ‘Relevant Professional Experience’ below.

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| **FROM**  **(Month/Year)** | **TO**  **(Month/Year)** | **UNIVERSITY/COLLEGE ATTENDED** | **FT/PT** | **SUBJECT** | **QUALIFICATION** | **DATE & CLASS OF AWARD/MARK OBTAINED** |
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If any of your qualifications were obtained under a different name from the one given in Section 1.1, please enter the name here (and indicate which qualifications were obtained under this name)

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| **QUALIFICATION** | **TITLE** | **FIRST NAME(S)** | **SURNAME/FAMILY NAME** |
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**1.4 ENGLISH LANGUAGE QUALIFICATIONS -** All applicants for whom English is not their native language will be required to provide evidence of English language proficiency, usually in the form of an IELTS test, gained within the two years prior to their registration date (unless the student has a prior UK degree). For more information on English language requirements, please see **www.uhi.ac.uk/en/studying-at-uhi/international/how-to-apply-to-uhi/english-language-requirements**

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| **WHAT IS YOUR NATIVE LANGUAGE?** | | | |  | | | | | |
| **IF NOT ENGLISH, DO YOU HAVE ANY OF THE FOLLOWING ENGLISH LANGUAGE QUALIFICATIONS?** | | | | | | | | | | |
| **IELTS** |  | | **Cambridge** | |  | | **GSCE** | |  | |
| **pearson** |  | | **toefl** | |  | | **none** | |  | |
| **OTHER (please specify):** | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Result (overall & by section)** | |  | | | | **Date achieved** | |  | | |

**1.5 EMPLOYMENT**

Please give details of your employment in the last five years (if applicable)

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| **FROM (Month/Year)** | **TO (Month/Year)** | **POSITION HELD & PLACE OF WORK** | **FT/PT** | **NAME AND ADDRESS OF EMPLOYER** |
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**1.6 RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE (300 words) -** ONLY TO BE COMPLETED WHERE:

* You do not have and are not studying towards a Masters degree or equivalent, or
* You are returning to Masters study after a considerable break in higher education, or
* You have gained a Masters degree more than five years previously, or
* Your Masters degree is not in a relevant subject,
* AND you have significant professional experience, which is relevant to your training proposal

You should use the section below to provide evidence that the training and development you have received is equivalent to that obtained through a relevant Masters course and, therefore, prepares you to continue to doctoral study.

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**1.7 REFEREES**

Please provide the details of two recent academic references. These should not be relatives. Applicants who have already embarked on a PhD programme should provide at least one up-to-date reference from a current supervisor. **NOTE:** It is the applicant’s responsibility to send the Applicant Reference Request Form to each referee.

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|  | | | **REFEREE 1** | **REFEREE 2** | | |
| **NAME** | | |  |  | | |
| **POSITION & RELATIONSHIP TO APPLICANT** | | |  |  | | |
| **ORGANISATION & ADDRESS** | | |  |  | | |
| **CONTACT EMAIL** | | |  |  | | |
| |  | | --- | |  |   **2. SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS**  **2.1 APPLICANTS WHO REQUIRE A STUDENT ROUTE VISA – PLEASE COMPLETE**   |  |  | | --- | --- | | **NAME AS SEEN ON PASSPORT** |  | | **PASSPORT NUMBER** |  | | **PASSPORT EXPIRY DATE** |  | | **PASSPORT COUNTRY OF ISSUE** |  | | **HAVE YOU EVER BEEN REFUSED A VISA FOR ANY COUNTRY, INCLUDING THE UK, IN THE LAST 10 YEARS?** | Choose an item. | | **IF YES, PLEASE PROVIDE FULL DETAILS AND ATTACH A COPY OF YOUR VISA REFUSAL DOCUMENTS** |  | | **COUNTRY OF RESIDENCE OVER LAST THREE YEARS AND PURPOSE OF THAT RESIDENCE, e.g. permanent, education, employment** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **HAVE YOU PREVIOUSLY STUDIED IN THE UK? (If yes, complete table below)** | | | Choose an item. | | | | | FROM (Month/Year) | TO (Month/Year) | UNIVERSITY/COLLEGE ATTENDED | | SUBJECT | QUALIFICATION | DATE & CLASS OF AWARD/ MARK OBTAINED | |  |  |  | |  |  |  | |  |  |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | **HAVE YOU PREVIOUSLY HAD A STUDENT VISA,**  **i.e. TIER 4?** | Choose an item. | | **HAVE YOU EVER VISITED THE UK BEFORE? If Yes, please give details below on the visa type(s) and provide a copy of this with your application.** | Choose an item. | |  | |   **2.2 ALL APPLICANTS**  The information below is not used in the selection process but is required for statistical purposes. Additionally, information regarding Health or Medical Conditions is gathered to enable us to work with you as early as possible to identify support needs you may have. We welcome applications from students with additional needs and are committed to supporting disabled students. We understand that being a disabled postgraduate researcher could raise some complex issues and we aim to meet a wide range of individual needs, where we reasonably can.  **HEALTH OR MEDICAL CONDITIONS –** Please click or ‘x’ box below as relevant:   |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  | No disability | | | | |  | I have a social/communication impairment such as Asperger’s syndrome/other autistic spectrum disorder | | | | |  | I am blind or have a serious visual impairment uncorrected by glasses | | | | |  | I am deaf or have a serious hearing impairment | | | | |  | I have a long-standing illness or health condition such as cancer, HIV, diabetes, chronic heart disease, or epilepsy | | | | |  | I have a mental health condition, such as depression, schizophrenia or anxiety disorder | | | | |  | I have a specific learning difficulty such as dyslexia, dyspraxia or AD(H)D | | | | |  | I have physical impairment or mobility issues, such as difficulty using my arms or using a wheelchair or crutches | | | | |  | I have a disability, impairment or medical condition that is not listed above | | | | |  | I have two or more impairments and/or disabling medical conditions | | | | |  | Information refused | | | | | I have personal care support | |  | I carry medicines which are time critical in their application (e.g. Epi-pen) |  | | Please describe any additional support requirements you may have: | | | | |   **AGE**- Please click or ‘x’ box below as relevant  0 – 24  25 – 29  30 – 34  35 – 39  40 – 44  45 – 49  50 – 54  55 – 59  60 – 64  65 +  Prefer to not disclose  **GENDER** - Please click or ‘x’ box below as relevant  Male  Female  Other  Prefer to not disclose  **ETHNICITY** - Please click or ‘x’ box below as relevant  Asian British  Asian other  Black British  Black other  Mixed/multiple ethnic groups  Other  White British  White other  Prefer to not disclose | | | | |
| **3. ABOUT THE RESEARCH PROJECT – please note maximum word limits** | | |
| ***Project title -*** provide a straightforward, descriptive and informative title for your proposed PhD project: | | |
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| **Research summary (maximum 100 words) –** provide a summary of your proposed research project that will be comprehensible to non-specialists. |
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| **Research proposal (maximum 1,000 words) –** describe your proposal, which should be well-written, original, innovative, cogent and coherent. The proposal should include:  Methodology - should be demonstrably appropriate and the whole proposal well-grounded in current literature and/or practice. Full bibliographic referencing is not required.  Research question(s)/problem – research context, methods and sources, originality/innovation and contribution to knowledge/academic impact.  Knowledge exchange, public engagement and research impact **–** who might be interested or involved in delivering or experiencing the change that may happen as a result of your findings? Why would these communities be interested? How might they benefit? How will you engage/communicate/network with these communities?  Be realisted in your proposed plans and ensure that your plans are ethical. - more information on the AHRC’s approach to impact can be found [here](https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/ukgwa/20220204183205/https:/ahrc.ukri.org/research/impact/) please also see Applicant Guidance Notes. |
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| **4. PREPAREDNESS FOR PROPOSAL DOCTORAL PROJECT (maximum 300 WORDS)** |

Please demonstrate how your previous study (UG/MA) and/or professional experience have prepared you for this particular doctoral project – e.g. referencing your previous programmes of study, dissertation topics, specific and appropriate methodological training and/or expertise, (e.g. proficiency in a relevant language, particular IT skills etc), work-based learning or employment in a relevant occupation etc.

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| **5. TRAINING NEEDS (maximum 300 WORDS)** |

Please identify your training needs – what skills will you need to develop to ensure that you are able to complete your research project successfully? We also aim to support your future career aspirations – what skills will you seek to develop for professional development purposes?

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# **6.STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

a) I confirm that I wish to apply to register for a research degree at the University of the Highlands and Islands on the basis of UHI’s [research degree award regulations and policies](https://www.uhi.ac.uk/en/about-uhi/governance/policies-and-regulations/regulations/) (Section 14b) and the [Terms and conditions for applicants and students](https://www.uhi.ac.uk/en/about-uhi/governance/policies-and-regulations/policies/).

b) I understand the value of the award and that this is subject to the availability of funding.

c) I understand that the university reserves the right to withdraw registration made on the basis of information that proves to be untrue or misleading.

d) I understand that [Intellectual Property Rights](https://www.uhi.ac.uk/en/research-enterprise/res-policies/intellectual-property/) are automatically assigned to the University, but that an application can be made to opt out of this default position and my Director of Studies will provide further guidance on this, if required.

e) Processing of personal data - I confirm that I have read and understood the following statement: *The University of the Highlands and Islands and Academic Partners are registered under the Data Protection Act 2018. By signing this form you consent to these bodies holding and processing your personal data for all purposes connected with our statutory and business requirements. Where required, your information may be supplied to other official agencies e.g. Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA), Scottish Funding Councils for Further and Higher Education. The information may also be: aggregated with other information and used for our own or other research purposes; used for the purposes of providing references, if we are asked to so do; and information on your progress may be disclosed to an organisation providing you with financial support.*

Please see our Privacy Notice [here](https://www.uhi.ac.uk/en/research-enterprise/grad-school/code-of-practice/) or visit [www.uhi.ac.uk/gradschool](http://www.uhi.ac.uk/gradschool) Note: this information is supplementary to the University’s HE admissions and enrolment privacy notices. Please note: you will be asked to provide a digital photograph during the enrolment process.

I confirm to the best of my knowledge that the information I have given on this form is correct.

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| **SIGNATURE** | **DATE** |