Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) for prospective Research/PhD Applicants

I am interested in applying for a PhD study place at the University of Chichester, should I discuss my research idea with a prospective supervisor before applying?

We encourage all applicants to have an informal conversation with a prospective supervisor before applying to check whether we have appropriate expertise to supervise the PhD project (although this is not a mandatory requirement before you apply).

You can find further information about PhD supervisors at:
https://www.chi.ac.uk/research/phd-and-mphil-degrees/

I am interested in applying for a PhD study place, shall I email my CV and research idea?

Due to the volume of enquiries we receive, we can only consider applications submitted on a completed PhD application form. Please do not email CVs or email project ideas without a completed application form to apply for a PhD study place.

You can find a copy of the PhD application form at:
https://www.chi.ac.uk/research/phd-and-mphil-degrees/

I'd like to apply for a PhD study place, but my research idea doesn't fit any of the research areas advertised on the website?

Unfortunately, we can only offer PhD places in the research areas advertised on the University's website at: https://www.chi.ac.uk/research/phd-and-mphil-degrees/ . If your research idea doesn't fit one of these broad themes, then regrettably we are unable to consider your application.

Can I submit an incomplete PhD application and provide other documents later?

No. Applications are only considered once they have been submitted through the University's PhD application process using the required application form and including all supporting documentation. Applicants should ensure that all required materials are provided at the point of application and incomplete applications will be rejected.

What are the deadlines for making an application to study for a PhD place?

We do not operate any deadlines for our PhD applications and you can apply at anytime throughout the year to study for a PhD. We typically start and enrol new PhD projects at the beginning of October and February of each year.

If you are an international student, we encourage you to apply at least 6 months before your anticipated start date to enable separate applications to be made for any necessary student VISA to be issued.

How will my application to study for a PhD place be assessed?

Your PhD application will be considered by a discipline specific Research Degree Coordinator and applications are assessed on several factors. These include: Academic qualifications and preparedness for doctoral study; The quality and feasibility of the research proposal; The availability of suitable supervision and subject expertise and compliance with admissions and visa requirements (where applicable).

Meeting the minimum entry requirements does not automatically guarantee admission, as all applications are considered on their individual merit.

What English language qualifications are accepted for PhD application?

Applicants whose first language is not English are required to provide evidence of English language proficiency through an IELTS (or equivalent) qualification with an overall score of 7.

Further information concerning English Language requirements for international PhD students can be found at: https://www.chi.ac.uk/study/international/english-language-requirements/

If you hold another English language qualification and are unsure whether it will be accepted, you should consult the admissions team using the email address Global@chi.ac.uk

---

I am an international student but have a UK Masters level qualification, do I still need to provide evidence of English Language proficiency through an IELTS test?

Yes, for PhD application purposes we still require evidence of English Language proficiency through an IELTS score of 7 overall (or equivalent).

You can find further information concerning our English Language requirements for international PhD students at: https://www.chi.ac.uk/study/international/english-language-requirements/

I am an international student, and I have an offer to study for a PhD place at the University, how do I obtain a Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS)?

International applicants will be asked to pay a deposit of 50% of their first-year tuition fees before the University of Chichester will issue a Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS), which you will need to apply for the Student Route visa.

Our Admissions team will provide details of how to pay in their emails to you and you can find further information at: https://www.chi.ac.uk/study/international/study-and-apply/how-to-apply/

What financial evidence is required for a UK Student Visa and can I bring my family if I am enrolled on a PhD?

International students should consult the UK Government's official guidance regarding financial requirements for a Student Visa at: https://www.gov.uk/student-visa/money. You may be eligible to bring dependents with you for postgraduate study and you should consult guidance at: https://www.gov.uk/student-visa/family-members.

Any scholarships, sponsorships, or other funding arrangements used to support a visa application must meet the relevant UK visa requirements and be acceptable under current UK immigration regulations.

Are there any scholarships, doctoral studentships, international research awards, fee discounts, or other funding opportunities available?

The University occasionally offers collaborative PhD studentships in partnership with external organisations. Where these opportunities include funding or sponsorship, they are advertised separately through the University's website and recruitment channels.

Please note that offers of admission for PhD study are made on the basis of full tuition fees being payable. Any fee waiver schemes do not apply automatically to existing offers and applicants should not assume that they will be eligible for future fee waiver opportunities if such schemes reopen. Helpful guidance on PhD funding is available at: https://www.gov.uk/funding-for-postgraduate-study

The University publishes its current tuition fees on the website, and fees are reviewed annually.

Current tuition fee information:
https://www.chi.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/fees-finance/tuition-fees/

Can I apply for a doctoral loan to support me while I study?

You may be eligible for a Postgraduate Doctoral Loan from Student Finance England to help with the cost of your doctoral study. Eligibility depends on a number of factors, including your course, age, nationality or residency status, and any other funding you receive. You can check the full eligibility criteria on the Student Finance England website.

Further information can be found here:

https://www.gov.uk/doctoral-loan

Can PhD students undertake paid teaching or research work while studying at Chichester?

Yes. In principle, PhD students may be eligible to undertake paid work such as: Teaching Assistant roles or Demonstrator positions. International students may also be eligible, provided that their student visa conditions permit employment and they meet the requirements of the specific role.

Opportunities vary by department. Prospective students are encouraged to discuss potential opportunities with their proposed supervisor or relevant academic school after enrolment.

What are the entry requirements? Do I need a Master's degree?

Not necessarily. A Master's degree is not a mandatory requirement for entry either to the MPhil or PhD route. Applicants with a good honours degree may be considered for admission, subject to academic assessment and the suitability of their qualifications, research proposal and other professional experience.

All applications are assessed on an individual merit basis.
