PhD Opportunities
Welcome to the University of Liverpool

Our diverse and multidisciplinary research community creates global solutions aiming to improve health, create wealth and ensure social justice.

We provide an enabling and stimulating research environment which gives every postgraduate researcher the opportunity to achieve their potential.

In undertaking postgraduate study at the University of Liverpool you will be joining a globally connected academic community in which the research ambitions of postgraduate students are supported and nurtured.

Professor Dame Janet Beer
Vice-Chancellor

About this Guide
This Guide introduces you to the University of Liverpool, explores why you should undertake a PhD here and details the outstanding support you will receive from us as a postgraduate researcher and a Liverpool graduate.

To find out more about postgraduate research at the University please visit liverpool.ac.uk/study/postgraduate-research

Terms and Conditions
For further details please see liverpool.ac.uk/student-administration/student-administration-centre/student-record/terms-and-conditions

Contents

Welcome to the University of Liverpool 01
About the University of Liverpool 02
Our story began in 1881 04
Liverpool pioneers 06
Nearly 140 years later, we are still as original as ever 08
Improving health, creating wealth and ensuring social justice 10
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences 14
Faculty of Science and Engineering 16
Faculty of Health and Life Sciences 18
The University of Liverpool 20
Why postgraduate research at the University of Liverpool? 22
Liverpool Doctoral College 24
Liverpool Doctoral College Placement Scheme 26
Support for your development 28
A supported student community 30
Accommodation 34
Get to where you want to be 36
We welcome people from every walk of life 38
Alumni Community 40
Helping our students forge their own path 42
Research degrees 44
How to fund your PhD 46
How to apply 50
Meet us 52
About the University of Liverpool

Original
We are the original redbrick university.

1881
Established in 1881: in this year Queen Victoria reigned over Great Britain and the UK had its first street lit with electric light.

Russell Group
Member of the Russell Group.

Top 200
Ranked in the top 200 universities worldwide (THE 2017/18, QS 2017/18, ARWU 2017).

£95.6 million
in funding to support research projects in 2017/18.

2,700
More than 2,700 research collaborations worldwide.

Nobel Laureates
Associated with nine Nobel Laureates.

35,000
students, 8,000 of whom travel from all over the world to study here.

Global links
We have a campus in London, and we were the first UK university to establish a joint venture university in China.

81%
of our research is ranked ‘world-leading’ and ‘internationally excellent’ in the latest Research Excellence Framework (REF).

800 million
invested in our campus.

2,000+
active interdisciplinary research staff across three Faculties.

228,000
A global network of 228,000 alumni in 171 countries.
Our story began in 1881

We became one of the first civic universities.

The original redbrick.
Liverpool pioneers

Liverpool graduates have become pioneers in every field and we are associated with nine Nobel Prize winners.

Professor Sir James Chadwick
1935; discovery of the neutron.

Dame Rose Heilbron
The first female judge to sit at the Old Bailey.

Professor Sir Robert Robinson
1947; investigation into alkaloids and other plant products.

Dame Stella Rimington
The first female Director-General of MI5.

Sir Ronald Ross
1902; discovery of mode of spread of malaria.

Professor Har Gobind Khorana
1968; genetic code of protein synthesis.

Professor Rodney Robert Porter
1972; structure of antibodies.

Professor Charles Glover Barkla
1917; discovery of the electromagnetic properties of x-rays.

Professor Sir Charles Sherrington
1932; functional analysis of motor unit in a muscle.

Ronald H. Coase
1991; work in Economics for research into institutional structure and functioning of the economy.

Professor Sir Joseph Rotblat
1995; work to diminish the role of nuclear arms in international politics.
Nearly 140 years later, we are still as original as ever

Still advancing learning and ennobling life, just like we always have.
And uncovering world firsts through our pioneering research.
Infectious Diseases

Our extensive expertise and pioneering track record in infectious diseases research puts us at the forefront of tackling global health problems.

With over a century of discovery and translational research in infectious diseases, the University of Liverpool is a recognised leader in this field. Our work covers both global health problems plus national and local issues. The depth and breadth of our clinical expertise in infectious diseases, capability in translational science and facilities for undertaking preclinical work and clinical trials exemplify the Liverpool Advantage in this field of research.

Digital

From transforming medical surgery with virtual reality to managing population change with big data, digital now spans the breadth of our research influence.

Research in Digital at the University of Liverpool is enabling the transformation of society and industry through the generation, communication and application of data. We are tackling some of the world’s greatest challenges by harnessing the digital revolution to help deliver better health, social justice and industrial competitiveness. Our digital expertise underpins discovery and applications across the sciences and humanities at the University, by improving research and analysis techniques and broadening research and innovation possibilities.

Advanced Materials

Our leading research delivers advanced materials design, influencing developments in fields such as industrial manufacturing and healthcare.

Liverpool leads the design of functional materials and is breaking new ground in this field. Supported by our dynamic Materials Innovation Factory, we are actively looking for new materials that can have large-scale applications in industrial manufacturing, healthcare and consumer products. Our leading research in the field of advanced materials influences developments in a wide range of fields from catalysis, filtration and absorption of pollutants to battery and fuel cell technology.

Improving health, creating wealth and ensuring social justice

The University’s research themes focus on interdisciplinary research areas with a breadth and critical mass of research excellence.

To find out more please visit liverpool.ac.uk/research
Improving health, creating wealth and ensuring social justice

Personalised Health
Our world leading personalised health research paves the way for uniquely treating individuals based on their genetics and other health data.

Our vision is a world where every patient receives the right drugs at optimal doses, maximising tolerability, and pre-empting and managing adverse drug reactions. This personalised approach maximises the efficacy of treatment while improving patient quality of life.

Heritage
Our unique cross fertilisation of research from both the humanities and sciences means we can use lessons from history to solve the problems of today.

Here at the University of Liverpool, we believe a better understanding of the past helps create a more prosperous, fairer and healthier world for everyone. Our unique cross-fertilisation of research from the humanities and sciences across areas such as archaeology, architecture and sociology means we can use the lessons from history to solve the problems of today.

Starting well, living well, ageing well
Our three world-class Faculties have joined the forces of over 150 research staff to improve the health and wellbeing of babies and children and the adults they will become.

Enabling the best start possible in life for every person is not a dream but an obtainable, desirable and reachable goal. Fair and equal access to the benefits of world-leading research can reach everyone throughout their lives. Enshrined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child is stated: “All children have a right to the highest attainable standard of health.”

The University’s research themes focus on interdisciplinary research areas with a breadth and critical mass of research excellence.

To find out more please visit liverpool.ac.uk/research
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

We are culture to take in, and ideas to take forward.
A place where ambitions take shape, and visions are made real.
Study with us, and get immersed.

The Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences is made up of:

**School of the Arts**
- Architecture
- Communication and Media
- English
- Music
- Philosophy.

**School of Histories, Languages and Cultures**
- Archaeology, Classics and Egyptology
- History
- Irish Studies
- Modern Languages and Cultures
- Politics.

**School of Law and Social Justice**
- Law
- Sociology, Social Policy and Criminology.

**University of Liverpool Management School**

For opportunities in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences please visit liverpool.ac.uk/humanities-and-social-sciences

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**Spotlight on research**

**An alternative approach to tackling human trafficking and modern slavery**

Despite the difficulties in estimating what is largely a hidden crime, the latest figures suggest over 40 million people are currently suffering from slavery-like practices (including forced labour, human trafficking and forced marriage) while 152 million are in child labour.

The work of Dr Alex Balch and colleagues at the University of Liverpool’s Centre for the Study of International Slavery (CSIS), a joint centre run with Liverpool’s International Slavery Museum, answers a call from the United Nations that has put the eradication of modern slavery amongst its Sustainable Development Goals. He says we can’t legislate away the problems of exploitation, because it may be structural or culturally embedded in many countries and societies.

“You need to change people’s thinking rather than just putting individuals in prison and criminalising certain acts,” says Balch, adding that past evidence shows that a purely punitive approach has not worked. “The more human-focused arts and humanities can help in transforming and addressing these issues.”

Balch and colleagues look to build resilience in communities through education, arts-based methods, performance and the collection of voices and testimony from vulnerable communities, fully engaging them with the research and its design. High impact work has included evaluating the activities of organisations such as the City Hearts charity, which helps victims of slavery and trafficking to reintegrate into society in the longer term. Recommendations of this report were taken up by the City Hearts and since then the Cooperative Group subsequently launched the Bright Future project. This expands their work with City Hearts and offers paid work placements in their food business to people rescued from modern slavery. A second evaluation by Dr Balch is helping the group to scale up the programme to national level.

These successes have attracted £2 million investment from the UK’s Research Councils to extend these positive impacts to communities around the world.
Faculty of Science and Engineering

We are life-changing research and industry changing opinions. The search for the unknown, and the discovery of the new. Study with us, and create something for yourself.

The Faculty of Science and Engineering is made up of:

School of Electrical Engineering, Electronics and Computer Science
- Electrical Engineering and Electronics
- Computer Science.

School of Engineering

School of Environmental Sciences
- Earth, Ocean and Ecological Sciences
- Geography and Planning.

School of Physical Sciences
- Chemistry
- Mathematical Sciences
- Physics.

For opportunities in the Faculty of Science and Engineering please visit liverpool.ac.uk/science-and-engineering

Spotlight on research
Materials Innovation Factory

With our expertise in materials chemistry and computer-aided materials design we are pioneering the discovery of advanced materials. Using techniques underpinned by computer simulations and robotics, our work has applications in clean energy, sustainable living, manufacturing, healthcare, and consumer products. Our world-leading expertise, unique facilities and innovative attitude to interdisciplinary research will allow future research leaders to nurture their talent in this field.

Two key academic research groups, led by Professors Andy Cooper FRS and Matt Rosseinsky FRS, are creating innovative new materials with a range of uses; from porous molecular organic solids and liquids which can capture harmful pollutants to new materials for the harvesting, storage and conversion of low-carbon energy.

Our award-winning research expertise is backed by award-winning facilities. The Materials Innovation Factory (MIF) has won Development of the Year at the NW Business Inside Liverpool City Region Property Awards, where the judges also noted the role the MIF will have in supporting the Liverpool economy.

Find out more about Advanced Materials at liverpool.ac.uk/research/research-at-liverpool/research-themes/advanced-materials/
Faculty of Health and Life Sciences

We are projects that make headlines and discoveries that make history. Shared success and personal journeys. Study with us, and change your own world.

The Faculty of Health and Life Sciences is structured to bring together areas including Biological Sciences, Medicine, Psychology and Veterinary Science and to further promote the interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary approaches which are required for research excellence in the 21st century.

The Faculty is made up of eight institutes, five of which house research activities:

Institute of Ageing and Chronic Disease
Institute of Infection and Global Health
Institute of Integrative Biology
Institute of Psychology, Health and Society
Institute of Translational Medicine

And, three of which lead on teaching and learning, as follows:

Institute of Veterinary Sciences
Institute of Clinical Sciences
- School of Medicine
- School of Dentistry
- School of Health Sciences.

Institute of Life and Human Sciences
- School of Life Sciences
- School of Psychology.

For opportunities in the Faculty of Health and Life Sciences please visit liverpool.ac.uk/health-and-life-sciences

Spotlight on research
Maximising the Regional and Global Impact of Rotavirus Vaccination

For over 20 years, the University has led a collaborative global programme of research to address Rotavirus, a major cause of childhood illness and death. Our work in describing the rotavirus disease burden, epidemiology and the performance of rotavirus vaccines in Low and Middle Income Countries (LMIC) has provided crucial underpinning evidence to support the widespread introduction of rotavirus vaccines.

Through research in communities from Liverpool, to India, to Malawi, our Institute of Infection and Global Health is helping to improve understanding of the barriers and enablers to deploying the rotavirus vaccine at home and around the world.

Liverpool’s Professor Nigel Cunliffe leads a long-term programme of rotavirus research in Malawi, a country with high child mortality due to diarrhoea, with colleagues from the Malawi-Liverpool-Wellcome Trust Clinical Research Programme and the Malawi Ministry of Health.

He conducted the first clinical trial of a rotavirus vaccine in Africa, which informed a global vaccine recommendation by the World Health Organization in 2009 and the subsequent introduction of rotavirus vaccine into Malawi’s childhood immunisation schedule in 2012. Malawi has since developed a strong vaccination programme, rapidly scaling up coverage to over 90% for eligible infants.

This research provided the first population-level evidence from a low-income country that rotavirus vaccination saves lives. This data will help inform vaccination programmes and policies internationally.

Through the RoVi (Rotavirus Vaccine Immunogenicity) research project led by Professor Miren Iturriza-Gomara, we are investigating in communities in Liverpool, Malawi and India why rotavirus vaccines are less effective in babies in poorer areas.
The University of Liverpool

We are one of the UK’s leading research institutions with an annual turnover of £545.7 million, including £95.6 million for research.

The University has 35,000 students, 8,000 of whom travel from all over the world to study here, and over 228,000 alumni in 171 countries.

Research with impact
We engage in ground-breaking research that addresses some of the world’s toughest challenges. By joining a research-led university you will benefit from a high-quality education, learning from inspirational figures who will challenge and encourage you throughout your studies.

At the forefront of innovation and discovery we are advancing knowledge to improve lives. Our interdisciplinary research, unique model for collaborations and cutting-edge facilities, enable our research community to create global solutions aiming to improve health, create wealth and ensure social justice.

My Liverpool
Rachel Heah, School of Law and Social Justice, PhD student

I completed my undergraduate studies at the University of Liverpool and I really enjoyed studying here. I also loved Liverpool as a city – it has a particular character and vibrancy unlike any other city I have been to, and of course, the people here are warm and lovely! So when I was contemplating undertaking postgraduate studies, the University of Liverpool was really the only choice I considered.

Liverpool has world-leading experts and the research environment fosters creativity and diversity of thought, which are valuable to employers. Since starting my research, I have acquired problem-solving skills, and learned to be more critical of issues which I probably would have unquestioningly accepted before. I have attended many of the workshops and training sessions offered by the Liverpool Doctoral College, including sessions on writing and presentation skills, time-management, and careers. The sessions are tremendously beneficial, and they complement the advice and support that I receive from my supervisors.
Why postgraduate research at the University of Liverpool?

Here at Liverpool, we carry out ground-breaking research that addresses some of the toughest challenges that we as a society face today and challenges we may come to face in the future.

Russell Group status
As a member of the prestigious Russell Group of UK research-intensive institutions, you will become part of an institution that is renowned for conducting the very best research, an outstanding teaching and learning experience with unrivalled links with business and the public sector.

World-leading and internationally excellent status
We are committed to driving research excellence and innovation on a global scale. With 81% of our research ranked 'world-leading' and 'internationally excellent' in the latest Research Excellence Framework (REF), we are addressing some of the world's toughest challenges.

Internationally recognised academics
Our postgraduate researchers work alongside internationally recognised and renowned experts and research groups. Our research activity attracted around £95.6 million in 2017/18. We receive support from a range of national and multinational organisations; this activity involves innovative and pioneering collaboration across subject specialisms as well as collaboration with external, national and international partner institutions.

Our external partners provide us with an increased range of facilities and resources and ensure our researchers are involved in cutting-edge developments in their fields. Postgraduate researchers at Liverpool work at the forefront of their subject in well-supported research groups, harnessing the latest in laboratory equipment, archives, and fieldwork provision.

Support from the Liverpool Doctoral College
We attract exceptional students keen to become active members of our thriving and vibrant Liverpool Doctoral College research community and study at the heart of world-leading research. The Liverpool Doctoral College supports all our postgraduate researchers across the University to thrive in their doctoral programme with our dedicated team of esteemed supervisors, professional services staff and student peers ensuring our researchers succeed in their studies.

As a doctoral student at Liverpool, you can expect innovative doctoral training tailored to your own personal development plan, the support of a thriving global community and a focus on employability and entrepreneurship, all delivered by the Liverpool Doctoral College.

HEFCE recognised success rates
The University of Liverpool is recognised by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) as having one of England’s highest success rates in supervising students through to their doctoral award. We highly value the active role our postgraduate researchers play in contributing to our success.

Liverpool is a great place to be a student, it offers a wide array of attractions, as well as being very affordable to live in. The quality of life offered by the city was certainly a significant factor in my decision to return after completing my undergraduate degree.

Dean Farquhar
Institute of Irish Studies, PhD student
The Liverpool Doctoral College (LDC) is the home for all doctoral training and development across the University.

We support all postgraduate researchers across the University to thrive in their doctoral programme with our dedicated team of esteemed supervisors, professional services staff and student peers ensuring our postgraduate researchers succeed in their studies.
liverpool.ac.uk/study/postgraduate-research/liverpool-doctoral-college
Liverpool Doctoral College Placement Scheme

All postgraduate researchers at Liverpool have the opportunity to undertake a 15 day placement, outside of academia, taken consecutively or over several weeks, and receive a £500 bursary.

The Liverpool Doctoral College Placement Scheme facilitates placements in a wide variety of organisations in the public, private and charity sectors. Whether your career plans involve remaining in academia, or elsewhere, a placement holds the potential for you to develop skills, experience and contacts that will enhance your employability. liverpool.ac.uk/study/postgraduate-research/liverpool-doctoral-college/placement-scheme

The placement improved my communication skills and strengthened my confidence in terms of the rationale of my own research. The LDC also provided great support throughout my placement.

Zhuozhang Li
School of Architecture, PhD student

Engaging the community

Dr Elizabeth DeYoung, Institute of Irish Studies, Graduate

My experience of being commissioned to write a report for an organisation as a professional researcher was invaluable and it made me feel that this is something I could do as a career.

Writing and researching is one thing – but working on the ground on a daily basis, dealing with challenges head-on and working to engage community residents is another thing entirely.

To find out more and to hear more from our postgraduate researchers on their placements please visit liverpool.ac.uk/study/postgraduate-research/liverpool-doctoral-college/placement-scheme/
Support for your development

We provide a range of development activities to support you throughout your research degree and make sure that you’re prepared for your future career.

Personal and professional development
Throughout the process of your PhD at Liverpool, you will develop professionally to become an effective researcher and acquire the knowledge, skills, attributes and experience for your ongoing career, whether that is in or out of academia. The Liverpool Doctoral College works with the Faculties and Departments to provide an extensive training and development programme that serves the needs of all PhD researchers in the University. Each year, you will work with your supervisor to complete a personal Development Needs Analysis and to identify the opportunities that meet your personal aspirations.

Your induction
Our induction fosters a supportive environment and provides opportunities to meet a range of contacts, which can include other postgraduate researchers, supervisors and professional services staff. Your induction will include an introduction to the research environment by your supervisor, or supervisory team. Schools, Institutes and Faculties will also introduce you to their research themes and provide advice on the opportunities available within your department.

LDC Development Programme
Our development programme aligns with the national organisation VITAE and provides support throughout the PhD, from sessions to help your transition to the PhD through to preparation for your ongoing career. An extensive webinar programme provides further support for those based off-campus or who are limited by research arrangements.

The programme includes sessions focusing on essential communication and organisational skills, to help you progress in your research project and complete your thesis. Our workshops use creative approaches in experiential learning and design thinking, which also help build your confidence and promote your own wellbeing.

Preparing for your career
To prepare for your ongoing career we offer PhD specific advice on career management and opportunities throughout your degree. The LDC also offers high-profile placements in international, national and local companies and networking opportunities with industrial, public sector and charitable partners and alumni.

Subject training
The LDC provides access to training across all University Faculties and brings together many parts of the University to help you acquire the relevant skills for your research, to help you work with the literature, develop the necessary computational skills, relevant English language skills and more.

LDC Postgraduate Researcher Week
The LDC Postgraduate Researcher Weeks will enhance your induction by delivering a range of events designed to help you settle into the University and research life and the opportunity to network.

My PhD and the publications that came from it have really helped me progress my career. I am now working as a Postdoctoral Research Associate in the University’s Institute of Translational Medicine, and putting into practice, and building on, the skills that I learnt while studying for my PhD.

Dr James Austin
Institute of Integrative Biology, Graduate
A supported student community

Our postgraduate researchers are valued members of our student community who are supported through our professional services teams and encouraged to become active members of the Liverpool Guild of Students.
English language support
The English Language Centre (ELC) is the University's specialist English language facility for international students.

If you need to improve your English before you start your programme we offer specially designed Pre-sessional courses ranging from short intensive courses to all year round study. We also provide a free comprehensive programme of In-sessional English support to run alongside your programme. These programmes can be discipline specific, focusing on relevant language used in particular subject areas, or general academic English suitable for all international students.

ELC is also a registered IELTS testing centre running over 20 tests a year and provides IELTS training year round.

Learning resources
We have impressive on campus learning resources available to all our postgraduate researchers from our designated postgraduate study space, impressive libraries and high-tech computer services.

- 24 hour term-time opening
- Over 2 million books and 680,000 electronic books
- 65,000 electronic journals
- Special collections including the largest Science Fiction collection in Europe and rare books and manuscripts
- 2,400 PCs across campus
- Laptop loan service
- High speed wifi
- Access to our services online wherever you are
- 24 hour service desk
- Free email, file space and software
- Access course materials, submit assessments, contribute to discussions and group assignments through our virtual learning environment 'VITAL'.

For more information on our library services, please visit liverpool.ac.uk/library. For more information on our computing services, please visit liverpool.ac.uk/csd.

Student Services Centre
We offer comprehensive support and welfare services to students through two teams: Student Welfare Advice and Guidance, and the Counselling and Mental Health Services.

Student Welfare Advice and Guidance
The team can offer you advice, support and information on a wide range of non-academic issues including finance, disability, issues relating to your general welfare and support for international students.

Counselling and Mental Health Services
The Counselling Service is here to help you address personal or emotional problems that get in the way of realising your full academic and personal potential. The service offers free and confidential advice to all students.

For more information on all of the advice and guidance available to you as a postgraduate researcher, please visit liverpool.ac.uk/studentsupport.

Sport Liverpool
Whether you take part in organised activities or independent exercise, our sports services provide a great way to meet people, get connected and achieve a level of fitness and general wellbeing that can help you with the other, more demanding aspects of University life. For more information, please visit liverpool.ac.uk/sports.

Liverpool Guild of Students
As soon as you join the University of Liverpool, you automatically become a member of the Liverpool Guild of Students and from your first day as a student and throughout your university years, the Guild will make sure you enjoy your time at Liverpool.

You can also become a member of the Postgrad Society – run by postgraduates for postgraduates, the society aims to nurture an environment where students can feel both supported and encouraged in order to increase postgraduate wellbeing and engagement across the University.

For more information, please visit liverpoolguild.org.

Continuing Education
Continuing Education provides short courses, lectures, and events during the academic year. You can learn new skills, a new language, or simply learn for fun. Our flexible start times mean you can easily fit a Continuing Education course in around your study.

For more information, visit liverpool.ac.uk/continuing-education or follow us on Twitter @livuniCE.
Accommodation

We are fortunate in Liverpool to have a wide variety of accommodation for our postgraduate students, with good facilities and at reasonable prices.

University accommodation
Postgraduate students can apply to stay at any of the University’s accommodation. However, for your convenience and comfort, we endeavour to house all postgraduate students together, typically at our Philharmonic Court residences.

Philharmonic Court offers self-catered en-suite rooms all with double beds arranged around a central courtyard. It has its own social space, on site laundry and study rooms. Rooms are all fully furnished, broadband-connected and finished to a high standard. The residence itself is gated with a private central courtyard, 24hr reception and on-site residential adviser team. The University campus and city centre are just a short walk away.

For more information, please visit liverpool.ac.uk/accommodation

Privately rented accommodation
Liverpool is a large city with a wide variety of rented accommodation available. Type and standard of accommodation in Liverpool varies considerably – and so does the cost. If possible, you should come to Liverpool a few weeks before your programme starts to look for a suitable place.

For information regarding private housing in Liverpool please visit Liverpool Student Homes at liverpoolstudenthomes.org/

Residential adviser opportunities
You can live at the heart of both our award winning campus and amazing city by becoming one of our Residential Advisers and save a minimum of £4,750 per year on accommodation! You’ll provide support and guidance to our undergraduate students, from dealing with anything from lost keys or illness to wellbeing concerns or news of a family bereavement. We will provide you with the necessary training and you will have 24/7 back-up from our professional student support teams. In return we can offer you accommodation at a reduced rate as well as the opportunity to gain some valuable experience to benefit your future career.

For more information, please visit liverpool.ac.uk/accommodation

This past year as a residential adviser has been a transformative experience. The role has allowed me to build on my communication and leadership skills as well as allowing me to help students.

Serat E-Ali
Institute of Molecular and Clinical Pharmacology, PhD student
Get to where you want to be

Whatever your motivation for studying a PhD, our Careers and Employability team are here to support you in achieving your aspirations.

Careers and Employability

We offer high-quality employability support during and after your time studying with us, blending advice and guidance with practical training that utilises the expertise we have developed as one of the UK's leading careers services.

You will have full access to up-to-date resources and support in our Careers Studio in the heart of the campus.

Our careers support is focused on three themes, helping you to Apply, Connect, and Explore. Our Career Studio provides a welcoming space to work on job applications with our Career Coaches, meet leading employers, and to plan your career and discover the latest opportunities.

You will have access to a comprehensive programme of careers related seminars, workshops, fairs and recruitment events. As well as on-campus activities, we also offer online support, webinars, resources, and guidance.

We can help you with:
- Career planning
- Understanding the job market
- Making effective applications through CVs, letters and application forms
- Preparing for and attending job interviews
- Performing effectively at Assessment Centres
- Strengthening your networking skills, including digital networking
- Industry networking opportunities.

We have won several prestigious awards, most recently the University Career Service Best Practice award at the Global University Careers Development Conference 2019.

For more information please visit liverpool.ac.uk/careers

Our alumni include... ...

...a Nobel Peace Prize winner

I believe the University of Liverpool has what it takes to help me become a leading researcher.

Hammed Badmos
Institute of Integrative Biology, PhD student

liverpool.ac.uk/study/postgraduate-research
We have a global network of 228,000 alumni in 171 countries.

We welcome people from every walk of life.
Alumni Community

Globally connected for life
Your journey and relationship with the University doesn’t end once you graduate; quite the opposite! As a University of Liverpool graduate you will have access to a wide range of benefits and services including event invitations and our professional interest networks which offer professional development support. With more than 228,000 graduates located all over the world, the University of Liverpool boasts a thriving alumni community which will be invaluable throughout your university journey and beyond.

As a graduate you can:
CONNECT with alumni around the world by joining one of our professional, academic, and social networks or by attending one of our many events.
LEARN new skills through discounted CPD study, free online journal access, and webinars.
DEVELOP your career by joining our new global eNetworking platform, Liverpool Connect, created exclusively for University of Liverpool alumni.

Liverpool Connect
Through Liverpool Connect you can benefit from the insight of our alumni community by networking and sharing professional experience. This online space allows you to network with other current students and graduates and share ‘insider’ information on job roles and career areas. If you’re looking for a contact in a particular industry or sector, or thinking of changing careers, our online eNetworking platform lists the details of many University of Liverpool alumni, locally, nationally and internationally, so that you can find the contact you need to advance your career or develop your business.

We are enormously proud of our global alumni family and are confident that your University of Liverpool degree will be of great benefit throughout your career.

To find out more, please visit liverpool.ac.uk/alumni

Liverpool graduates have become pioneers in every field and we are associated with nine Nobel Prize winners.

Other notable graduates include...

...the first female Director-General of MI5
...the first female judge to sit at the Old Bailey
...the first Chief executive of Hong Kong
...the founder of the Stirling prize for Architecture

Other notable graduates include...
Helping our students forge their own path

Our leading academics are passionate experts in their field. They help our postgraduate researchers to develop the skills they need to excel in a globally competitive workplace. Their passion for what we do here at Liverpool will spark extra enthusiasm in you, enabling you to realise just how far you can go and equipping you to get there.
Research degrees

We offer a wide range of research opportunities within the following broad areas below. If you can't see your area of interest, then please get in touch on ldc@liverpool.ac.uk and we will see if we can accommodate your research interests.

To find out more about the areas please visit liverpool.ac.uk/study/postgraduate-research/degrees/

Faculty of Health and Life Sciences
Institute of Ageing and Chronic Disease
- Eye and Vision Sciences MPhil/PhD/MD
- Musculoskeletal Biology (Medicine) MPhil/PhD/MD
- Musculoskeletal Biology (Veterinary) MPhil/PhD/MD
- Obesity and Endocrinology (Medicine) MPhil/PhD/MD
- Obesity and Endocrinology (Veterinary) MPhil/PhD/MD

Institute of Clinical Sciences
- Medical Education MPhil/PhD/MD

Institute of Integrative Biology
- Biological Sciences (Biochemistry) MPhil/PhD
- Biological Sciences (Evolution, Ecology and Behaviour) MPhil/PhD
- Biological Sciences (Functional and Comparative Genomics) MPhil/PhD

Institute of Infection and Global Health
- Critical Care MPhil/PhD/MD
- Epidemiology and Population Health MPhil/PhD/MD
- Food Security MPhil/PhD
- Immunology MPhil/PhD/MD
- Infection and Global Health (Medical) MPhil/PhD/MD
- Infection and Global Health (Veterinary) MPhil/PhD/MD
- Infectious Diseases MPhil/PhD/MD
- Medical Microbiology MPhil/PhD/MD
- Medical Parasitology MPhil/PhD/MD
- Neurological Science MPhil/PhD/MD
- One Health MPhil/PhD/MD
- Vaccinology MPhil/PhD/MD
- Veterinary Epidemiology MPhil/PhD
- Veterinary Microbiology MPhil/PhD
- Veterinary Parasitology MPhil/PhD
- Veterinary Pathology MPhil/PhD
- Veterinary Virology MPhil/PhD
- Virology MPhil/PhD/MD

Institute of Population Health Sciences
- Clinical Psychology MPhil/PhD
- Health Services Research MPhil/PhD/MD
- Primary Care MPhil/PhD/MD
- Psychiatry MPhil/PhD/MD
- Psychology MPhil/PhD
- Public Health PhD

Institute of Translational Medicine
- Applied Health Research MPhil/PhD/MD
- Biomedical Imaging and Biosensing MPhil/PhD/MD
- Biostatistics MPhil/PhD/MD
- Cancer Biology MPhil/PhD/MD
- Cancer Medicine MPhil/PhD/MD
- Cell Biology MPhil/PhD/MD
- Cellular and Molecular Physiology MPhil/PhD/MD
- Child Health MPhil/PhD/MD
- Gastroenterology MPhil/PhD/MD
- Haematology and Leukaemia MPhil/PhD/MD
- Neurobiology and Neurodegeneration MPhil/PhD/MD
- Ocular Oncology MPhil/PhD/MD
- Orthopaedic Biology MPhil/PhD/MD
- Palliative Care MPhil/PhD/MD
- Pancreatology MPhil/PhD/MD
- Pathology MPhil/PhD/MD
- Pharmacology MPhil/PhD/MD
- Radiobiology and Radiotherapy MPhil/PhD/MD
- Stem Cell and Regenerative Medicine MPhil/PhD/MD
- Surgery and Oncology MPhil/PhD/MD
- Women's Health MPhil/PhD/MD

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
School of the Arts
- Architecture MPhil/PhD
- Communication and Media MPhil/PhD
- Creative Writing PhD
- English MPhil/PhD
- Music MPhil/PhD
- Philosophy MPhil/PhD

School of Environmental Sciences
- Earth and Ocean Sciences MPhil/PhD
- Ecology MPhil/PhD
- Geography MPhil/PhD
- Planning MPhil/PhD

School of Engineering
- Engineering MPhil/PhD

School of Electrical Engineering, Electronic and Computer Science
- Computer Science MPhil/PhD
- Electrical Engineering and Electronics MPhil/PhD

School of Physical Sciences
- Chemistry MPhil/PhD
- Mathematical Sciences MPhil/PhD
- Physics MPhil/PhD

School of History, Languages and Cultures
- Archaeology MPhil/PhD
- Archives and Records Management MPhil/PhD
- Classics and Ancient History MPhil/PhD
- Egyptology MPhil/PhD
- Film Studies PhD
- French PhD
- German PhD
- Hispanic Studies PhD
How to fund your PhD

The costs of studying for a PhD can be met in several different ways.

These include:
- Funded research degrees, commonly known as studentships, which cover the cost of your degree and often provide a stipend to cover living expenses
- Self-funding your PhD, covering the costs yourself or through other sources
- Applying for scholarships, grants and bursaries, which may cover all or part of your fees and help towards other expenses
- Postgraduate Doctoral Loan
- Working while you study.

Securing funding can be complex and time consuming so it's important that you start your search early.

Funded doctoral training opportunities

Funding bodies support postgraduate researchers in different ways; some will pay programme fees and also a stipend (e.g., a tax-free fixed sum of money to cover your living costs and expenses), some will only pay programme fees and others simply make a one-off award of some kind. Each funding body will have its own criteria for eligibility.

Research Councils – UK students

Research Councils are funded by the Government and invest billions in academic research each year. There are seven Research Councils in the UK:
- Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC)
- Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC)
- Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC)
- Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC)
- Medical Research Council (MRC)
- Natural Environment Research Council (NERC)
- Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC).

Each year, the Research Councils allocate training grants, commonly known as studentships, to selected universities and departments. Please note, the Research Councils don't fund postgraduate researchers directly.

Researchers funded by the UK Research Councils or other research funders, such as the Wellcome Trust, are likely to experience a structured doctoral training programme.

The main structured doctoral programmes in the UK are Doctoral Training Partnerships (DTP), which usually involve a consortium of institutions and research institutions, and Centres for Doctoral Training (CDT), which are focused on a particular research area, often located within one institution. The UK Research Councils normally fund UK students.

Research Councils/Government Sponsorship – EU and International students

Funding may be available for EU students through research council-funded Doctoral Training Partnerships. Please consult the guidance offered by each partnership for more information. EU and international students can also look for funding through a Research Council in the country you normally reside in, or your local (or nearest) office of the British Council.

Studentships/Doctoral Training Partnerships at Liverpool

The University of Liverpool continues to be successful in securing funding from a variety of research councils for Centres for Doctoral Training (CDT) and Doctoral Training Partnerships (DTP) ensuring access to this increasingly influential model for providing postgraduate research studentships.

These initiatives provide researchers with the skill sets required to tackle both current and future challenges as part of supportive and innovative interdisciplinary environments.

As well as funding studentship places, they also provide community and training opportunities that benefit students funded from other sources.

We recommend that you look for specific studentships on our website via the studentship search tool at liverpool.ac.uk/study/postgraduate-research/studentships/ and on our School, Institute and Department sites.
Trusts and charities

A large number of trusts and charities offer funding to students at university level, some of which is available to intending postgraduate students, and some to students who have already started their course (this is more common for PhDs and other doctoral study).

Funding is usually awarded on the basis of two main criteria: either academic excellence, economic hardship, or both. Individual charities may well have additional criteria which relates to the work of the charity itself, and there are sometimes other strict eligibility requirements based on subject or place of residence. The funds provided normally relate to the amount of money a particular charity or trust may have, and can vary in amount from a few hundred pounds to several thousand. They are frequently intended to be partial funding only, so you may find you need to apply to more than one source if you need funds to cover all your studies.

Self-funding

You can fund your postgraduate research yourself if you have access to funds such as personal savings. Other ways to help fund your research include working alongside your studies, tutoring, and helping undergraduate students by becoming a Residential Adviser.

Postgraduate Doctoral Loan

The Postgraduate Doctoral Loan of up to £25,700* can help with course fees and living costs while you study a postgraduate doctoral course. The amount you will get is not based on you or your family’s income.

You will have to repay your Postgraduate Doctoral Loan at the same time as any other student loans you have. The loan will be paid directly to you and you will receive the first payment after your course start date, once your University registration has been confirmed. The loan will be divided equally across each year of your course.

*This figure and eligibility criteria may change.

Part-time tutoring

Postgraduate researchers occasionally supplement their main source of support (within limits set by the Research Councils or other funding sources) by earning payments from the University. Responsibilities can include:

- Teaching and demonstrating work in the departments (for up to 15 hours a week)
- Exam invigilation
- Administrative duties.

You can also speak with your supervisor to find out what opportunities are available.

Grants, bursaries and scholarships

Grants, bursaries and scholarships may cover all or part of your fees or provide you with contributions towards your living expenses and other costs such as travel and equipment. For details of awards available at the University please visit liverpool.ac.uk/study/postgraduate-research/fees-and-funding/scholarships-and-awards/

Employee sponsorship

Obtaining employee sponsorship can be mutually beneficial for both you and the organisation involved in the arrangement, as it can give you financial support throughout your period of study, while at the same time ensuring that meaningful, relevant research is being carried out for the organisation.

We recommend that you approach your line manager, HR or Training and Development team with a proposal of how postgraduate research can improve your skill set and benefit the organisation. If your proposal is approved you will then need to agree the terms and conditions of the sponsorship including the amount they are willing to sponsor you, working and study hours, the amount of time to complete the research and any allowance for learning materials. We then recommend you contact us with the proposal you have agreed with your organisation.

Residential Adviser opportunities

By becoming one of our Residential Advisers you can save over £4,750 per year on accommodation, which can be used towards other costs relating to your studies. These important roles involve you providing support and guidance to our undergraduate students. This support could involve dealing with anything from lost keys or illness to wellbeing concerns or news of a family bereavement.

We will provide you with the necessary training and you will have 24/7 back-up from our professional student support teams. In return we can offer you accommodation at a reduced rate as well as the opportunity to gain some valuable experience to benefit your future career.
How to apply

How you’ll apply for your PhD will depend on how it’s funded. If you want to pursue a self-funded research degree, you’ll need to identify a supervisor, develop a research proposal and source your own funding. Funded studentships and research projects have separate application processes.

Funded studentships and research projects
The University of Liverpool provides access to many funded studentships and funded research opportunities. Each opportunity describes the required application process. Visit liverpool.ac.uk/study/postgraduate-research/studentships/ for details.

Self-funded and externally funded research degrees
To apply for a self-funded or externally funded research degree:
1. Find a research opportunity on our website which matches your research interests
2. Identify potential supervisors for your research project. You can do this by contacting the Institute or School’s postgraduate research student support team and by viewing the staff and research pages of their website. This isn’t obligatory, but you are encouraged to indicate your preferred supervisor(s) in your application. It’s also a good idea to contact potential supervisors before making an application. They may indicate an interest in your research proposal, but this does not guarantee entry to the programme
3. Finalise a research proposal to outline the research you would like to undertake. You will need this for your application and may also need it for funding applications
4. Explore and apply for funding opportunities such as scholarships, grants and bursaries
5. Register and apply online, at liverpool.ac.uk/study/postgraduate-research/how-to-apply

If you’re considering applying for a University of Liverpool PhD based at Xi’an Jiaotong-Liverpool University (XJTU), China, you should contact their Graduate School Office at E: postgraduate@xjtlu.edu.cn

Making your application
Applying online for a self-funded postgraduate degree is fast and easy. You’ll need to submit a full application with all supporting documentation, including how you intend to fund your research degree.
To complete the online application, you’ll need:
- School or college transcripts/certificates
- University transcripts
- Degree certificates
- English language certificates (EU/International applicants only)
- Personal statement
- Two references, signed and on letterheaded paper (these should be academic references if you have been in full-time education in the last three years)
- Research proposal (may be tested for plagiarism, collusion and other irregularities).

Visit liverpool.ac.uk/study/postgraduate-research/how-to-apply for more information.

Applications are assessed primarily on the basis of prior and predicted academic achievement, so you should complete the application form without any omissions. If you wish to apply for a degree under a collaborative agreement with another institution, you must state this in your application.

Life changing research
Lucy McAreavey, Department of Physics, PhD student

I studied for my undergraduate degree in Physics with Medical Applications at the University of Liverpool. I am now studying Molecular Radiotherapy (MRT), a cancer treatment technique that involves a radioactive isotope being injected or ingested by a patient, which then accumulates in an organ of interest and delivers a high radiation dose to tumour tissue, with minimal damage to surrounding healthy tissue. The aim of the project is to develop a new camera system that can image the body and, in real time, quantify the radiation dose the patient has received, and allow subsequent quantities of radiation administered to be adjusted accordingly. This system is targeted at personalised cancer treatment plans and in turn will improve quality of life and reduce costs.

I have learnt a wide breadth of skills, built a wider knowledge of the field I am interested in and grown my professional network by engaging with people from different industries that will hopefully allow quicker career progression than if I hadn’t done postgraduate research.
Meet us

There are many ways to meet us to discuss the postgraduate opportunities we have on offer at the University of Liverpool.

Postgraduate Open Evenings
Join us at one of our Open Evenings to learn more about studying for a PhD at Liverpool.

For more information and to register, please visit liverpool.ac.uk/pg/openday

Virtual Open Day
If you are unable to visit the campus, our Virtual Open Day is an ideal way for you to explore the facilities we offer from wherever you are in the world.

To take a look, please visit liverpool.ac.uk/virtual-open-day

Meet us where you are
We attend a number of postgraduate fairs and events both in the UK and across the globe throughout the year where you can speak to a University of Liverpool representative about our programmes and opportunities.

For details, please visit liverpool.ac.uk/study/postgraduate-research/meet-us

Our alumni include...

...the first Chief executive of Hong Kong

Photography: Mark McNulty, McCoy Wynne, James Tye, The Roundhouse.
We are life-changing research and industry changing opinions. The search for the unknown, and the discovery of the new. Study with us, and create something for yourself.