At the University of Liverpool there is a large group of active researchers engaged in pursuing fundamental, strategic and applied research, addressing many of the grand challenges that confront society and our planet. Our research activity attracted around £144 million in research project funding in 2015/16. Our stimulating environment provides excellent research opportunities for postgraduate researchers which is enhanced by the training and development support offered by the Liverpool Doctoral College. I can assure you that if you decide to undertake postgraduate study at the University of Liverpool you will be joining a globally connected academic community in which the ambitions of postgraduate students are realised.

Professor 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 www.liverpool.ac.uk/study/postgraduate-research
About the University of Liverpool

Top 1%
Ranked in the top 1% of universities worldwide.

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

Original
We are the original redbrick university.

Russell Group
Member of the Russell Group.

£144 million
In research project funding in 2015/16.

Best Students' Union
Awarded best Students' Union at the NUS Awards 2016.

20th
1 in the UK’s Research Excellence Framework (REF), with seven subjects in the top 10.

Nobel Laureates
Associated with nine Nobel Laureates.

33,000
33,000 students; 7,500 of whom travel from all over the world to study here.

Global links
We have a campus in London, are the largest provider of online degree programmes in Europe and we are the first UK university to establish a joint venture university in China.

Affordable
Based in the 2nd most affordable UK city for students.

£600 million
£600 million invested in our campus.

2,000+
Active interdisciplinary research staff across three faculties.

UK leader
In social mobility.

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

See www.liverpool.ac.uk/about
The University of Liverpool

We are one of the UK’s leading research institutions with an annual turnover of £480 million, including £102 million for research.

Ranked in the top 1% of higher education institutions worldwide, Liverpool is a member of the prestigious Russell Group of the UK’s leading research universities.

The University has 33,000 students, 7,500 of whom travel from all over the world to study here, and 219,000 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.

Our researchers are engaged in pursuing fundamental, strategic and applied research, addressing many of the grand challenges that confront society and our planet.

We have globally recognised strengths in Advanced Materials, Personalised Health, and Infection Diseases and emerging strengths in Digital, Heritage, Energy, Healthy Living/Ageing, and Genome to Biological Systems.

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.

The research environment at Liverpool 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.
The Liverpool Advantage

Since 1881 our world-leading researchers have been advancing knowledge to improve lives globally.
Research with real-world impact

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.

Personalised health
Liverpool is at the forefront of developing new treatments and methods to create a personalised approach to healthcare. Using our knowledge of clinical pharmacology, genomics and our understanding of diseases, our aim is for every patient to receive the right drugs at optimal doses, maximising efficacy and tolerability, and pre-empting and managing adverse drug reactions. Our research has enabled us to show that personalising the dose to individual patients, based on their genes, age and body weight, can accurately inform dosage and reduce both risk and the time it takes for the medicine to become effective.

Infectious disease
Liverpool has been pioneering research into infection and global health challenges for over 100 years. We have the expertise to respond to emerging global threats, such as the Ebola and Zika viruses. A key part of our success is our interdisciplinary approach which brings together medical and veterinary science in a seamless way to focus on emerging infectious diseases; new medicines for children; tackling HIV disease in developing countries; providing the latest technologies in genome analysis; enhancing food safety and security; and developing diagnostics, treatments and vaccines for both humans and animals.

Advanced materials
Liverpool is leading in the design of functional materials and changing the perception of what is possible in this field. Through a series of first-in-class Science and Nature papers we have introduced new classes of materials such as porous organic polymers and molecular organic crystals with high levels of porosity. Porous materials are extremely important for society, finding large-scale uses both in industry and in consumer products, underpinning applications as diverse as catalysis, molecular separations, filtration, adsorption of pollutants, energy storage, battery and fuel cell technology.
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.

Why postgraduate research at the University of Liverpool?

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 maintaining 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 £144 million in research project funding in 2015/16. 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.
The Liverpool Doctoral College 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. [www.liverpool.ac.uk/study/postgraduate-research/liverpool-doctoral-college](http://www.liverpool.ac.uk/study/postgraduate-research/liverpool-doctoral-college)
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. www.liverpool.ac.uk/study/postgraduate-research/liverpool-doctoral-college/placement-scheme

My placement allowed me to get experience of reviewing a healthcare organisation and provided me with a bridge towards my future career. I would recommend the placement scheme to all postgraduate researchers.

Elsa-Gayle Zekeng
Institute of Infectious Disease and Global Health, PhD student

Engaging the community
Elizabeth DeYoung, Institute of Irish Studies, PhD student

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. I will now be able to refer to this report on my CV and hopefully it will lead to more opportunities.

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 www.liverpool.ac.uk/study/postgraduate-research/liverpool-doctoral-college/placement-scheme/
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 development programme**
Working with your academic supervisor and the University’s Liverpool Doctoral College Development professionals, you will design a personal development programme. This will prepare you to be an effective researcher as well as providing you with the tools to build the knowledge and attributes that employers demand. Our professional partnerships ensure we can offer high-profile placements in international, national and local companies. We offer networking opportunities with industrial, public sector and charitable partners, alumni and fellow postgraduate researchers beyond your discipline. Postgraduate researchers can also benefit from training opportunities within the University’s research community.

**Skills for professional development**
Our in-house development programmes develop the skills essential for your future via on-campus events and workshops, online options and self-selected activities. Our development aims link closely with those of VITAE, the dedicated organisation that works to realise the potential of researchers through transforming their professional and career development.

**Your induction**
Your induction will advise you on what opportunities you can expect at the University such as your personal Development Needs Analysis. Induction will help by fostering a supportive environment and giving you opportunities to meet a range of contacts, which can include other postgraduate researchers, supervisors and professional services staff.

Your induction will take many forms. It will consist of an introduction to the research environment by your supervisor, or supervisory team. Schools, Institutes and Faculties will introduce you to their research themes and let you know what opportunities are available within your department.

**Liverpool Doctoral College Postgraduate Researcher Week**
The Liverpool Doctoral College Postgraduate Researcher Week will enhance your induction by delivering a range of events designed to help you settle into the University and research life. Liverpool Doctoral College Postgraduate Researcher Week is repeated across the academic year so that all postgraduate researchers, regardless of their start date are able to benefit. Liverpool Doctoral College Postgraduate Researcher Week is not just for first year doctoral students; sessions are available to established postgraduate researchers too with opportunities to network, receive information on University services and be supported through the initial stages of completing a Development Needs Analysis.

**Open Languages**
Learning a foreign language develops your cultural awareness, opens up new career fields and makes you stand out in a competitive global economy. Open Languages is a University-wide scheme that allows our students to learn a foreign language as an extra curricular option for a fee of £150 per module. For postgraduate researchers where a language module is identified as a training need by your supervisor, that fee will be waived.

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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, 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 1.9 million books and 620,000 electronic books
- 85,200 electronic journals
- Special collections including the largest Science Fiction collection in Europe and rare books and manuscripts
- 2,400 PCs across campus
- High speed Wi-Fi
- 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 www.liverpool.ac.uk/library. For more information on our computing services, please visit www.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
Our role is to 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 www.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 well-being that can help you with the other, more demanding aspects of University life. For more information, please visit www.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. The Guild is led by students, and makes sure you’re at the heart of everything they do. For more information, please visit www.liverpoolguild.org

Our alumni include...
...the first female Director of MI5
Accommodation
We are fortunate in Liverpool to have a wide variety of accommodation for our postgraduate students, with good facilities and at reasonable prices.

The University’s postgraduate accommodation is located on campus at our Vine Court Residences and is offered on a self-catering basis with single-occupancy private rooms (some en-suite).

Vine Court, the University’s £44 million eco-residences, are a model of sustainable building and include solar heating, air source heat pumps, rainwater harvesting and systems to monitor energy consumption by room. These features ensure that, in addition to providing you with first class living accommodation, Vine Court is among the most energy efficient, sustainable university residences in the country.

For more information please visit www.liverpool.ac.uk/accommodation/about-us/postgraduate

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 you start to look for a suitable place.

For information regarding private housing in Liverpool please visit the Liverpool Student Homes website at www.liverpoolstudenthomes.org

Residential Adviser opportunities
By becoming one of our Residential Advisers you can enhance your CV and save a minimum of £4,000 per year on accommodation.

For more information on Residential Adviser opportunities please visit www.liverpool.ac.uk/accommodation/support/residential-adviser-team
Get to where you want to be

Many of our doctoral students continue into academic careers. However, nearly half of UK doctoral graduates move into careers outside of higher education. We equip our postgraduate researchers with the skills and acumen they need to achieve their career aspirations.

Careers & Employability
Whether you’d like to develop personally or choose a career in the corporate or public sector, the Careers & Employability Service is here to support you in achieving your aspirations.

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

Through a range of career management inputs, personal and professional development and access to industry experts and speakers, our aim is to match your needs and ambitions as they develop.

As well as face-to-face guidance and on-site sessions we also offer online support, webinars and guidance. All our activities are supported by a state-of-the-art interactive website, CareerHub.

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.

You will also benefit from our close links with industry. All our career and employability development activities are designed with considerable input from employers, and we hold key networking events throughout the year.

In recent years our Careers & Employability Service has won several prestigious national awards including the AGCAS International Award for demonstrating an outstanding commitment and contribution to working with students, relevant employers and promoting internationalisation.

We look forward to working with you and helping you achieve your career aspirations. For more information, visit www.liverpool.ac.uk/careers

The staff really engage with you and give you the opportunity to teach, write papers and feel like an active member of the department. It’s an excellent place to gain practical experience.

Maria Ángeles Martínez Serrano
School of Law and Social Justice, PhD student

Our alumni include...

...a Nobel Peace Prize winner

www.liverpool.ac.uk/study/postgraduate-research
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 access to central London office space, event invitations and our professional interest networks which offer professional development support.

With more than 219,000 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 e-networking platform, Liverpool Connect, created exclusively for University of Liverpool alumni.

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

Please visit www.liverpool.ac.uk/alumni to find out more.
We are a globally connected university

Liverpool
Liverpool, where it all began, is a vibrant, creative, and cosmopolitan city that has been voted the number one friendliest city by Rough Guides. It is also one of the most cost effective student cities in the UK and, according to a recent UK Statistics Authority report, one of the safest.

Liverpool’s impressive waterfront is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, we are home to The Beatles, The Grand National and Liverpool and Everton football clubs. We also have more museums, theatres, galleries and listed buildings than any other city in the UK other than London.

Study in China
Our global focus and pioneering approach led us to establish a University in the World Heritage city of Suzhou near Shanghai, in partnership with Xi’an Jiaotong University, a top 10 university in China. XJTLU was the first such higher education partnership in China.

Based in Suzhou Industrial Park, just 23 minutes from Shanghai, our campus is located in China’s ‘Silicon Valley’ – a hub of global business and innovation. It opened in 2006, with just 156 students and now has 8,000 students in computing, mathematics, engineering, architecture, biological and chemical sciences, business and civic design.

At XJTLU, you can study for a postgraduate programme leading to a master’s or doctoral degree from the University of Liverpool. These programmes are offered as part of our strategic collaboration with XJTLU and will provide you with a genuine international perspective to your chosen subject.

For more information please visit the Xi’an Jiaotong-Liverpool University website.

www.liverpool.ac.uk/xjtlu

My time as a PhD student at the University of Liverpool has been an incredible learning experience. I’ve done work placements with the Liverpool Doctoral College and at the Northern Ireland Assembly; completed months of fieldwork in North Belfast; published a journal article and book chapter; attended conferences all over Europe; visited the Irish Embassy in London; and become involved in several different research networks and committees.

Elizabeth DeYoung
Institute of Irish Studies, PhD student
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.
Liverpool pioneers

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

Our Nobel Prize winners:

- **Professor Sir James Chadwick**

- **Professor Sir Robert Robinson**
  - 1947: investigation into alkaloids and other plant products.

- **Professor Sir Charles Sherrington**

- **Professor Sir Joseph Rotblat**
  - 1995: work to diminish the role of nuclear arms in international politics.

- **Professor Sir Charles Glover Barkla**
  - 1917: discovery of the electromagnetic properties of x-rays.

- **Professor Har Gobind Khorana**

- **Professor Rodney Robert Porter**

- **Professor Sir Ronald Ross**
  - 1902: discovery of mode of spread of malaria.

- **Professor Sir James Chadwick**

- **Professor Sir James Chadwick**
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
- 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 (ie often 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 £3 billion 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 around 6,000 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.

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 or DTC) 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 www.liverpool.ac.uk/study/postgraduate-research/opportunities/funded 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.

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.

Residential Adviser opportunities
By becoming one of our Residential Advisers you can save a minimum of £4,000 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, including those living in our brand new £50 million Crown Place at the heart of the Liverpool campus. This support could involve dealing with anything from lost keys or illness to well-being 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.

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 visit www.liverpool.ac.uk/study/postgraduate-research/funding

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.

PhD loans
Government-backed, non-means-tested PhD loans for students who have lived in England for the last three years for a reason other than study will be available soon to help cover tuition fees and living expenses. Keep checking our website, www.liverpool.ac.uk/study/postgraduate-research/funding, for details.
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 www.liverpool.ac.uk/study/postgraduate-research/opportunities/funded 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 www.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 (XJTLU), 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 www.liverpool.ac.uk/study/postgraduate-research/how-to-apply for more information.

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.
Visiting the University

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

Postgraduate Open Days
The University hosts Postgraduate Open Days each year where you can hear from speakers on practical topics such as fees and finance, applying, and accommodation, as well as aspirational talks on managing your career and employability and becoming globally connected for life through our ongoing support and networks around the globe. These events showcase all of our academic departments and you can chat to staff and current students about your specific course details as well as professional services staff about the support available to you as a postgraduate researcher and beyond.

Departmental Open Days
Many of our Schools and Departments host smaller information events throughout the year too. Keep checking www.liverpool.ac.uk/study/postgraduate-research/meet-us for the latest dates.

Personalised visits
We offer personalised visits to our campus, on an individual or small group basis, so you can get the answers to your specific questions and see the facilities and buildings that are important to you.

To arrange a visit please go to www.liverpool.ac.uk/study/postgraduate-research/meet-us/visit-us

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. www.liverpool.ac.uk/virtual-open-day

In your city
We attend a number of postgraduate fairs across the UK throughout the year where you can speak to a University of Liverpool representative about our programmes and opportunities. www.liverpool.ac.uk/study/postgraduate-research/meet-us

In your country
Each year our recruitment teams attend events across the globe to talk to prospective students about our exciting study options. If we’re at an event near you, we’d love to see you there. Search ‘International Students – University of Liverpool’ on Facebook.

We also have local representatives in a number of countries who can provide you with more information about our postgraduate programmes. www.liverpool.ac.uk/study/postgraduate-research/meet-us

Our alumni include...

...the first Chief executive of Hong Kong
Challenging our world view

The Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences is an important influencer in the social, political and cultural life of the city region and the UK, and makes a significant contribution to enhancing the University’s research profile.

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 [www.liverpool.ac.uk/humanities-and-social-sciences](http://www.liverpool.ac.uk/humanities-and-social-sciences)

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Research by the University’s Centre for Architecture and the Visual Arts, and its cultural partners, is investigating the role of digitality (such as computer-aided design, audio-visual quality of space or moving image visualisations) on the design of contemporary urban spaces.

Using a range of methods and techniques, including mapping, filming, projecting, 3D animations and augmented reality, the aim is to provide insight into the representation of, and engagement with, architectural and urban forms, narratives and practices.
The Faculty of Science and Engineering connects research strengths, technologies and experts from a unique, broad mix of disciplines. This allows us to develop innovative solutions and approaches to tackle many of today’s complex social, economic and environmental challenges.

The University of Liverpool and Unilever have a long-standing and successful partnership of product and process innovation which has led to strategic investment in the Centre for Materials Discovery (CMD), the High Throughput Formulation Centre (HTFC) and the MicroBioRefinery (MBR).

The latest collaboration is the development of the Materials Innovation Factory (MIF), an 11,600m² facility able to accommodate 300 researchers from any academic and industrial background. Built with support from Unilever and HEFCE’s UKRPf, the £68M MIF is a key asset for the University of Liverpool and Liverpool’s growing Knowledge Quarter and responds to a key component of the UK’s current industrial strategy – advanced manufacturing.

With a vision to be the world leader in Computer Aided Material Science (CAMS) by 2020, the MIF project recognises that future global economic competitiveness will need to be underpinned by the ability to innovate: in new materials, in systems and in technologies applicable to a wide range of manufacturing sectors. Industrial clients and researchers will be able to take advantage of world-class materials science, leading-edge robotics and data interpretation supported by a dedicated team of highly trained technicians and academic staff.
Unrivalled expertise

The Faculty of Health and Life Sciences ranks among the top 100 universities in the world for clinical, pre-clinical and health subjects.

The Faculty 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 and three lead on teaching and learning, as follows:

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

**Institute of Veterinary Sciences**

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

**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**

For opportunities in the Faculty of Health and Life Sciences please visit [www.liverpool.ac.uk/health-and-life-sciences](http://www.liverpool.ac.uk/health-and-life-sciences)

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Investing over £400 million in our estate including:

**£35 million**
Investment in the William Henry Duncan Building to provide state-of-the-art facilities to help create a unique research and industry environment to help maintain the University’s position as a world leader in medical research. It accommodates the Liverpool Bio Innovation Hub (LBIH), which provides a space for small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) working in the biomedical sector and is home to researchers, clinicians and postgraduate students alongside valuable resources such as a large, purpose-built biobank.

**£27 million**
A new biomedical research facility, the Ronald Ross Building, providing state-of-the-art containment level two and three laboratories and a Biomedical Services Unit. Home to around 200 scientists at the forefront of research into pneumococcus, diarrheal disease and emerging infections, it brings together the brightest minds from medicine, biomedicine, veterinary health, and biological sciences.