POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH DEGREES

The Faculty of Environment at the University of Leeds is ranked in the top 5 UK institutions for research power, a measure of both quality and volume in the latest Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2014.

The Faculty includes:
School of Earth and Environment
School of Geography
Institute for Transport Studies

Each of our departments was recognised as carrying out world-leading and internationally excellent research (REF 2014).

There are over 400 postgraduate researchers (PGRs) in the Faculty, from over 40 countries, creating a strong and integrated research community. As a PGR you’ll contribute to the Faculty’s work at all levels including internal seminar series, departmental and faculty meetings, the University PGR conference, and national and international conferences and meetings.

We offer 3 project-based research degrees:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Research degree</th>
<th>Typical length of study</th>
<th>Thesis word limit</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)</td>
<td>3 years full-time or 5 years part-time* ‡</td>
<td>100,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Master of Philosophy (MPhil)</td>
<td>2 years full-time or 4 years part-time*</td>
<td>60,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>MA/MSc (by Research)</td>
<td>1 year full-time or 2 years part-time</td>
<td>30,000</td>
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*also has an optional ‘overtime’ period of 12 months for full-time and 24 months for part-time study.
‡ also the length of programme for the Leeds split-site degrees.

As an early-career researcher you will:
• Access all the facilities you would expect from a top-rated UK research institute. We continue to invest in the research infrastructure to ensure our facilities remain world class.
• Benefit from our strong industrial connections with major collaborations both in the UK and overseas. The University participates in the Worldwide Universities Network (WUN), and is a member of the UK’s prestigious research-intensive Russell Group of universities.
• Build a broad programme of skills training and professional development to help you complete your research effectively.
• Succeed in future employment – stay at the cutting edge of developments in learning and teaching, innovation, enterprise and knowledge transfer.
• Develop contacts and collaborate with researchers in the Faculty and in related disciplines elsewhere in the University.
• Choose an MA or MSc by Research, MPhil or PhD, which is the most internationally recognised research qualification and commonly pursued research degree at Leeds.
• Study full-time, part-time (normally UK candidates only), or split-site (PhDs only for EU and International PhD candidatures).
• Focus on research in a particular area under the supervision of a primary supervisor and co-supervisor(s).
• Carry out a needs assessment with your supervisors to identify suitable training, which will be reviewed at the beginning of each year of study.
• Run seminars and write papers for scientific journals and conferences.

To discover more about the research interests of staff and the wide range of supervisory expertise available, see page 5.

Important Information
Some of the key information in this brochure remains subject to confirmation. Please check for the latest information using the websites and other resources referred to before making any decisions.
RESEARCH AREAS

Our activity is wide-ranging and provides you with an ideal platform to carry out multidisciplinary research. Much of our research is coordinated through research clusters, which encourages you to share ideas, initiatives and take part in collaborative research.

As a PGR, you will join a research cluster that aligns to your interests. You’ll contribute to the cluster’s research output through publication, research seminars and discussion groups.

The research interests of individual staff and a list of proposed PhD research topics can be seen on the relevant departmental web page. If you have secured or intend to secure your own sponsorship you’ll normally propose your own research topic.

Alternatively, we welcome applications if you wish to do research degrees within or across the research clusters.

To discover more about the research interests of staff and the wide range of supervisory expertise available, visit the websites of our dedicated research clusters listed opposite.
### School of Earth and Environment
**see.leeds.ac.uk**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Academic Institute/Cluster</th>
<th>Research Area</th>
<th>Visit:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Earth Surface Science Institute</td>
<td>Sedimentology, Engineering and Hydrogeology, Palaeontology, Palaeoenvironments, and Palaeoclimates</td>
<td>see.leeds.ac.uk/research/essi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institute for Climate and Atmospheric Science</td>
<td>Climate Change and Impacts, Atmospheric Chemistry and Aerosols, Dynamics and Clouds</td>
<td>see.leeds.ac.uk/research/icas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institute of Geophysics and Tectonics</td>
<td>Applied geophysics, Geomechanics, Engineering and Petrophysics, Volcanology</td>
<td>see.leeds.ac.uk/research/igt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sustainability Research Institute</td>
<td>Business and Organisations for Sustainable Societies, Social and Political Dimensions of Sustainability, Environment and Development, Economics and Policy for Sustainability, Energy and Climate Change Mitigation</td>
<td>see.leeds.ac.uk/research/sri</td>
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<tr>
<th>School of Geography</th>
<th>geog.leeds.ac.uk</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Academic Institute/Cluster</td>
<td>Research Area</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ecology and Global Change</td>
<td>Tropical Ecology, Global environmental science, Palaeoecology, Palaeoclimate and Chronostratigraphy, Earth System Modelling, Biogeochemical Cycles, Ecosystems Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>River Basin Processes and Management</td>
<td>Biogeochemistry, Hydrology and Hydraulics, Aquatic Ecosystems, Peatlands, Geomorphology, Glaciology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Centre for Spatial Analysis and Policy</td>
<td>Population Dynamics, Agent-based Modelling, Education and Health, Spatial Interaction Models, Migration, Retailing, Demographic Estimation and Projection, Geodemographics, Microsimulation, AI Techniques, Applications of GIS, Crime, Big Data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Justice, Cities, Citizenship</td>
<td>Public Space and Consumption in the City, Migration, Development and Transnationalism, Citizenship, Nationalism and National Identities, Cultural and Arts Geographies, Cultural Policy and Urban Regeneration, Sustainable, Radical and Alternative Urban Futures, Neoliberal Urbanism and Urban Congestion, Spaces of Social Inclusion and Belonging, Geographies of Religion, Social Identities</td>
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<tr>
<th>Institute for Transport Studies</th>
<th>its.leeds.ac.uk</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research Cluster/Institute</td>
<td>Research Area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economics and Appraisal</td>
<td>Transport demand modelling, Regulation, pricing and incentives, Econometric modelling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social and Political Sciences</td>
<td>Social research methods, Social and health impact assessment, GIS and spatial analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spatial Modelling and Dynamics</td>
<td>Development of advanced spatial modelling tools, Design of methodologies for dynamic modelling, Traffic flow theory, network performance analysis and real-time traffic management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Factors and Safety</td>
<td>Design of Human-in-the-loop-simulation experiments, Software development – driving simulator, Study of user behaviour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Choice Modelling</td>
<td>Behaviour and choice modelling, Stated preference survey design, Novel methods of behavioural data collection</td>
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</table>
MAKING YOUR APPLICATION

How to apply
Please refer to the relevant departmental website, under the heading ‘Research Degrees’ or ‘PhDs’ and select ‘How to Apply’. A range of criteria will be used when we consider your application:

• The quality of the research proposal
• The level and relevance of previous academic qualifications
• Fulfilment of English language requirements (if appropriate)
• References
• Evidence of potential to plan and work independently as a researcher
• Prior research experience and training.

If you are successful you will be made an offer of a study place (only); the University will send you a letter of acceptance, setting out any relevant conditions. Please note that any scholarship applications that you make will be handled separately.

Entry requirements
We would normally expect you to have achieved one of the following in a subject relevant to the proposed research:

• A First Class or good Upper Second Class Honours degree (or equivalent from an overseas university)
• A good performance on a Masters course.

We also recognise relevant industrial and academic experience.

English Language Requirements
If your first language is not English you must provide evidence that your English language is sufficient to meet the specific demands of your study. You will normally be expected to have obtained either the British Council IELTS or TOEFL. Specific details of qualifications and minimum scores are listed on each departmental website.

FUNDING

Before considering research study, you are encouraged to consider the financial implications carefully and investigate funding opportunities as early as possible. The funding environment is ever-changing and opportunities can become available at relatively short notice, so please visit our website and University scholarship web pages for regular updates. Please note that a study application would need to be made before we can issue a letter to you to support a scholarship application.

Scholarships
The funding sources available to you will vary according to your nationality and your chosen area of research. If you have already secured funding when you apply, please send confirmation of your funding with your application.

Funding for PhD studies comes from a variety of sources. Sometimes it can be attached to a particular project, but more often you will need to apply for a scholarship funded by the University, one of the UK Research Councils or an external government or organisation. University and UK Research Council scholarships are normally advertised in November with application deadlines between January and April. To maximise your chances of success, you should apply to as many funding sources as possible. A full list of funding sources can be found on the University’s Postgraduate Scholarship website: scholarships.leeds.ac.uk

Fees
If you are self-funded you will need to make arrangements to pay tuition fees and have adequate resources for living expenses. You may also need to cover research costs such as fieldwork, laboratory or conference attendance if your funding does not include these. Current tuition fees and indicative living costs are listed on the University website.

Contact us
For further information about research degrees, please visit:
The Faculty of Environment Graduate School
environment.leeds.ac.uk/study/graduate-school
or for advice about suitability or any other aspect of studying with us, please contact the relevant department:

School of Earth and Environment
Email: apply-phd@leeds.ac.uk

School of Geography
Email: geo-rpg-enq@leeds.ac.uk

Institute for Transport Studies
Email: phd@its.leeds.ac.uk
WHY CHOOSE LEEDS?

- **University of the Year** (The Times and The Sunday Times’ Good University Guide 2017)
- **Top 10 university for research in the UK** (REF 2014)
- **Top 100 university in the world** (QS world university rankings 2014)
- Established in 1904, we are part of the prestigious Russell Group — the 24 leading research universities in the UK
- 1 Campus, 10 minutes walk from the city centre
- Over 2,000 postgraduate researchers from over 130 countries

Leeds is a fantastic place to live and learn; it’s a multi-cultural and cosmopolitan city with over 200,000 students, all enjoying the safe, friendly environment.

Leeds is renowned as one of the major shopping destinations in the country and centre for entertainment, nightlife, the arts and leisure. The city boasts over two miles of traffic free shopping and beautiful Victorian and Edwardian arcades filled with shops of every kind. The city also offers an extensive choice of places to eat and drink whatever your culinary tastes or budgets. Nightlife in and around the city is known for its diversity and popularity, and offers a range of music to suit all tastes.

Located at the heart of the UK, Leeds is midway between Edinburgh and London making it an ideal centre from which to visit other parts of the country. Leeds can be reached easily by train from any part of the UK, and is served by Leeds/Bradford International Airport, with train connections from Manchester and London International Airports.

For further information on the University of Leeds visit: [leeds.ac.uk](http://leeds.ac.uk)

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**International Students**
The University of Leeds is one of the most popular destinations in the UK for high-quality international students. If you’re an international student, you can benefit from our services:

- You can obtain advice about the application process and pre-departure information from offices in several countries
- Meet and greet schemes at local stations
- Welcome programmes on arrival
- Guaranteed accommodation* if you return your accommodation application form and deposit before the relevant deadlines
- Make friends and get guidance, information and support from our active International Centre which brings together the international community
- If your first language is not English you can get support from the University’s Language Centre to improve your language skills (once you have met the University’s requirements for entry onto your study programme).

*For full terms, visit [accommodation.leeds.ac.uk](http://accommodation.leeds.ac.uk)