

*Making sense of the world.*  
Postgraduate research in  
physical & human geography





# Doing a PhD can lead onto exciting job opportunities. Doctoral students go on to work in a range of areas including industry, government and academia.

The aims of PhD study are to acquire expert knowledge in your field of interest, training in research methods, and the ability to design, implement and report to the highest standards on an independent research project. The doctoral training programme involves training in key research skills and individual study under the close guidance of an academic supervisor, leading to submission of a thesis and an oral examination.

## What do you need to do a PhD?

- Enthusiasm and curiosity for understanding the world around you, often coupled with a desire to make a difference.
- Self motivation, and ability to work hard, and a commitment to drive forward scientifically informed ideas.
- Appropriate qualifications – a 1st or 2:1 in the sciences (natural and social), humanities and engineering.
- Funding – either personal or from a variety of funding sources

[www.southampton.ac.uk/postgraduate/feesandfunding/](http://www.southampton.ac.uk/postgraduate/feesandfunding/)

The Academic Unit prides itself on being one of the leading research and teaching geography departments in the UK, and aspires to be among the best in the world. We are a large community, comprising over 60 staff and 90 postgraduate students.

## We have five Research Groups:

- Earth Surface Dynamics
- Palaeoenvironments (Palaeoecology Laboratory at University of Southampton - PLUS)
- Global Environmental Change and Earth Observation
- Population, Health and Wellbeing
- Economy, Society and Space

[www.pgwelcome.southampton.ac.uk](http://www.pgwelcome.southampton.ac.uk)

## Graduate School

The Geography and Environment Graduate School has a culture of research that seeks to define the direction of the discipline through undertaking leading-edge research and world-leading scholarship. Geography and Environment has a vibrant and eclectic community of over 140 graduates on both Masters

and Doctoral training programmes. Our Mission is to recruit, inspire and to graduate some of the very best postgraduate students, both Masters and Doctoral, in geographical research. We do this through a wide ranging postgraduate programme, with research that covers the full range of the discipline and recruiting students with backgrounds in the sciences (natural and social), humanities and engineering. It is supported by a community of scholars, a resource framework that is comparable with other leading centre's of geographical learning and a wide range of funding sources for both UK/EU (e.g. Research Council) and overseas scholarships.

## Postgraduate Entry Requirements Qualifications

The normal qualification for admission is a good Honours degree, although other qualifications may be accepted. The minimum period of study for a Masters degree (by instruction or research) is 12 months full-time and 24 months part-time and for a PhD 24 months full-time and 36 months part-time. Usually, however, research degrees take longer than the minimum and in practice an MPhil normally takes two years and a PhD three years of full-time study.

Fees for the programmes are at standard university rates. Full details are available at:

[www.southampton.ac.uk/postgraduate/feesandfunding/](http://www.southampton.ac.uk/postgraduate/feesandfunding/)

## Sources of Grants for Research Students and Application Procedure

The main support for UK-based postgraduate research comes from Research Councils. Awards for human geography are offered by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) and in physical geography by the Natural Environment Research

Council DTP(NERC-SPITFIRE) and the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC). The University of Southampton (in conjunction with Charitable Trusts, Government Agencies and Commerce and Industry) also offers a large number of Scholarships. Enquiries about research work are also welcomed from suitably qualified students who are able to finance themselves (either totally or partially). The University also has a few Advanced Course and Research Scholarships for tuition fees and/or maintenance. It is advisable to make initial enquiries in the previous December, if you wish to begin a course in October. International students may also contact the International Officers: [global@southampton.ac.uk](mailto:global@southampton.ac.uk)

## Accommodation

Accommodation in a University Hall of Residence is available for at least one year to all single postgraduates who wish to live in Halls.

[www.southampton.ac.uk/accommodation/](http://www.southampton.ac.uk/accommodation/)

## International Students

Geography and Environment welcomes applications from international students. The University welfare services pay particular attention to your needs and there are a number of international student societies in the Students' Union. The Students' Union has a special officer to advise international students. There are also two Academic Advisors to international students. They provide you with an information pack about welfare and other services before you arrive and run an orientation programme prior to the start of the academic year to help you make friends and settle into the University.

[www.southampton.ac.uk/international/](http://www.southampton.ac.uk/international/)

## English Language Requirement

We need to ensure that you can benefit from your course so, if your first language is not English, you will be required to reach an acceptable standard in an approved test. You should have taken the appropriate test within the last three years and the scores required will vary according to your choice of course.

**The following are minimum requirements; some may set higher requirements.**

For research degrees in the Faculty of Social and Human Sciences, you will need a minimum IELTS score of 6.5. If you do not meet these requirements, you can still be admitted providing you satisfactorily complete a pre-sessional Language course. [www.southampton.ac.uk/cis](http://www.southampton.ac.uk/cis)

## About the University of Southampton & City

The University of Southampton is already one of the top 10 research universities in the UK and has achieved consistently high scores for its teaching and learning activities.

The city of Southampton is one of the most lively and dynamic cities in the south of England. It offers a vibrant and varied nightlife, numerous leisure facilities, superb heritage attractions, bustling marinas, beautiful parks and great places to eat and drink. There really is something for everyone.

Southampton is one of the UK's greenest cities with several large parks situated throughout the centre. Four of our campuses are next to Southampton Common – 326 acres of managed woodland – perfect for walking, jogging or a spontaneous game of football.



## For more information and details of specific projects offered please contact:

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[www.southampton.ac.uk/geography/postgrad](http://www.southampton.ac.uk/geography/postgrad)  
To apply online please follow this link and complete the on-line application form: -  
[www.southampton.ac.uk/postgraduate/pgstudy/howdoiapplypg.html](http://www.southampton.ac.uk/postgraduate/pgstudy/howdoiapplypg.html)

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