

Doctoral researcher person specification

Job description

Faculty and academic unit

- Faculty of Medicine
 - All AUs
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Post title

- Doctoral Student – All MPhil/PhD programmes
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Posts responsible to (and Level)

- Doctoral Supervisory Team,
- Doctoral Programme Director,
- Director of Faculty Graduate School

Overview

To undertake original academic research towards the award of a doctoral degree. For the doctoral award, research students must have demonstrated:

- the creation and interpretation of new knowledge through original research or other advanced scholarship, or of a quality to satisfy peer review, extend the forefront of the discipline and merit publication;
- a systematic acquisition and understanding of a substantial body of knowledge which is at the forefront of an academic discipline or an area of professional practice;
- the general ability to conceptualise, design and implement a project for the generation of new knowledge, applications or understanding at the forefront of the discipline, and to adjust the project design in the light of unforeseen problems;
- a detailed understanding of applicable techniques for research and advanced academic enquiry.

Typically, holders of the qualification will be able to:

- make informed judgements on complex issues in specialist fields, often in the absence of complete data, and be able to communicate their ideas and conclusions clearly and effectively to specialist and non-specialist audiences;
- continue to undertake pure and/or applied research and development at an advanced level, contributing substantially to the development of new techniques, ideas or approaches.

And holders will have:

- the qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring the exercise of personal responsibility and largely autonomous initiative in complex and unpredictable situations, in professional or equivalent environments.

Programme specific additional roles (where relevant):

The successful candidate will be encouraged to undertake fundraising activities on behalf of the charitable trusts/funders as well as actively participate in patient and public engagement events.

Key accountabilities/primary responsibilities

Responsibilities to the Faculty of Medicine and the University

- Carrying out research towards a doctoral degree.
- Participating in theoretical and/or empirical research in the relevant areas.
- Publishing results in the appropriate media.
- Presenting findings at conferences and seminars.
- Active involvement in academic and professional development.
- To comply with the Regulations governing the degree programme as laid out in [Section V of the University Calendar](#).
- To comply with the [Code of Practice for Research Candidature & Supervision](#) (PDF).

Person specification

Criteria listed below are essential unless otherwise noted as desirable

Qualifications, knowledge and experience:

For doctoral research, students will normally be expected to have one or more of the following:

- a degree, normally with at least class 2(i) or equivalent, in a relevant subject. (How to be assessed: Application)
- a relevant master's qualification or equivalent. (How to be assessed: Application);
- evidence of prior professional practice or learning that meets the University's or Accredited Institution's criteria and good practice guidelines for accreditation of prior experiential and/or certificated learning. The University's guidance on AP[E/C]L can be found in the [University's Recognition of Prior Learning policy](#). (How to be assessed: Application).

Research students whose first language is not English will also be required to demonstrate an adequate knowledge of English as defined in the University Calendar's [Section IV - Regulations for Admission to Degree Programmes \(PDF\)](#), Appendix 2 and in the [University's Admission Policy on English Language Proficiency](#). (Criteria: essential where relevant. How to be assessed: Application)

Compliance with Section IV of the University Calendar: [Admissions to Degree Programme](#) (How to be assessed: Application)

Aptitude for research programme:

- The programme is within the applicant's capabilities. (How to be assessed: Application, interview and reference)
- The applicant is capable of sustaining research at doctoral level. (How to be assessed: Application, interview and reference)
- The applicant is capable of completing a higher degree within the required length of candidature. (How to be assessed: Application, interview and reference)
- Evidence of motivation for and understanding of the proposed area of study. (Criteria: Desirable. How to be assessed: Application, interview and reference)
- Preliminary knowledge of research techniques (Criteria: Desirable. How to be assessed: Application, interview and reference)

Problem solving and initiative:

- Ability to develop understanding of complex problems and apply in-depth knowledge to address them. (How to be assessed: Application, interview and references)
- Potential to develop expertise in new areas of the subject. (Criteria: Desirable. How to be assessed: Application, interview and reference)

Management and teamwork:

- Ability to work effectively with others to achieve research goals (where relevant). (Criteria: Desirable. How to be assessed: Application, interview and reference)

Communicating and influencing:

- Ability to communicate complex information effectively, both verbally and in writing, engaging the interest and enthusiasm of the target audience. (Criteria: Desirable. How to be assessed: Application, interview and reference)

Other skills and behaviours:

- Previous experience in cell biology and/or molecular biology techniques in a laboratory setting will be advantageous. (Criteria: Desirable. How to be assessed: Application, interview and reference)

Special requirements:

- On occasion, the student may have to be present in the laboratory during weekends (for brief periods) to maintain cell cultures. (Criteria: Desirable. How to be assessed: Application, interview and reference)