

UNIVERSITY OF  
BIRMINGHAM



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# The University at a glance

- ❑ Founded in 1900
- ❑ Over 26,000 students
- ❑ Approximately 13,000 of which are postgraduate students
- ❑ International university – Universitas 21 and 150 different nationalities
- ❑ Excellent teaching and research standards



# Why choose Birmingham?

- Member of the Russell Group
- 12<sup>th</sup> in UK for research excellence (out of 159)
- Ranked 77<sup>th</sup> in the World (Top 15 UK) in the QS world rankings
- 90% of the University's research has global reach (2008 RAE)
- Birmingham was ranked in the top five for its research in Primary Care, Cancer Studies, Psychology, Sport and Exercise Sciences, Music, European Studies and Physics



# Why choose Birmingham?

- A tradition of excellence in research extending over a century
- A massive breadth of subjects
- Over 350 taught postgraduate programmes in a wide choice of subjects
- Outstanding research record in 19 schools spanning medicine, science, engineering, arts, business, law and the social sciences
- A research intensive learning community with over 13,000 postgraduates



# Why choose Birmingham?

- Purpose-built teaching and learning facilities
- One of the largest academic libraries in the country
- Consistently in the top three for sport in the UK (currently number two)
- Our own art gallery (the Barber Institute of Fine Arts), botanical gardens and museum
- Only UK university with its own train station!
- Campus in 243 acres of parkland
- Postgraduate-specific accommodation
- Our investment in buildings and facilities is around £1 million each week



# The city

- In the past 20 years, £9 billion has been spent on regenerating the city
- More than 500 restaurants offering a vast range of international cuisine
- The Bullring is the most visited shopping centre outside London's West End, with more than 150 shops inside the iconic £530 million complex
- The first city to be awarded National City of Sport status and host to top-level football, cricket, tennis and golf



# PG programmes

- Taught Masters – MSc, MA, MBA, etc
- Research Masters – MA by Research, MSc by Research
- Research – MPhil (two years), PhD (three-four years)
- Combined research and taught – MRes, PhD with Integrated Study
- PhDs are increasingly four years rather than three



# Why do a PG programme?

- Career progression?
- Want to stay in a university?
- Want to gain a new set of skills?
- Want to research a subject?
- Full time / part time?



# Choosing the right place

- Recognised Centre of Excellence – look at RAE scores
- Supportive structures for study
- Appropriate development of transferable / professional skills
- Respect the course leader or supervisor



# Make the best of today

- Meet with staff and students at the Postgraduate Study Fair in the Great Hall
- Careers Advice Lounge in the Great Hall
- General postgraduate information talks in Elgar Concert Hall and WG5 including postgraduate funding, accommodation and how to apply
- Subject-specific talks in schools/colleges
- Student-led campus tours from Aston Webb



# Make the best of today

- Get a feel for the place
- Learn about the subjects
- Explore the types of degree available
- Assess the people who would teach or supervise you
- Create a framework for helping yourself to make the right decision
- Good luck!

