

Electronic, Electrical and Computer Engineering PhD (Emerging Device Technology specialism)

Postgraduate doctoral research degree in Electronic, Electrical and Computer Engineering PhD/MSc by Research (Emerging Device Technology specialism):

Our interests are the science and applications of materials, primarily in the area of microwave and RF engineering. The materials studied most are superconductors and semiconductors, although we also have interesting projects on magnetic, ferroelectric and dielectric materials. In addition, we have substantial work on micromachined components.

One of our strengths is our interdisciplinary nature, with physicists and engineers working closely together. There is also a very strong interaction with other University departments, including joint work with groups in Physics and Astronomy, Chemistry, Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering, and Metallurgy and Materials.

[Study here and find out why the University of Birmingham has been awarded The Times and The Sunday Times University of the Year 2013-14 \(http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/news/latest/2013/09/20-sep-Birmingham-announced-as-University-of-the-Year.aspx\)](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/news/latest/2013/09/20-sep-Birmingham-announced-as-University-of-the-Year.aspx)

Course fact file

Study Options: Full time

Duration: PhD - 3 years full-time; MSc by Research - 1 year full-time, 2 years part-time

Start date: Registration for PhD and MSc by Research study can take place at the beginning of any month

Related courses

[Postgraduate doctoral research programmes - Electronic, Electrical and Computer Engineering \(/schools/eece/postgraduate/research.aspx\)](/schools/eece/postgraduate/research.aspx)

Contact

Admissions Tutor: Professor Michael Lancaster

[Contact us online \(http://bham.hobsons.co.uk/ask.aspx?cid=1223&did=24\)](http://bham.hobsons.co.uk/ask.aspx?cid=1223&did=24) or at +44 (0)121 414 4317.

[School of Electronic, Electrical and Systems Engineering \(/schools/eece/index.aspx\)](/schools/eece/index.aspx)

Details

Our interests are the science and applications of materials with a strong interest in the application area of Microwave and RF Engineering. The materials studied most are superconductors and semiconductors, although we also have interesting projects on magnetic, ferroelectric and dielectric materials. In addition, we have substantial work on micromachined components.

One of our strengths is our interdisciplinary nature, with physicists and engineers working closely together. There is also a very strong interaction with other University departments, including joint work with groups in Physics and Astronomy, Chemistry, Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering, and Metallurgy and Materials.

A large proportion of both the science and the application work is at microwave frequencies, making results of many of the projects applicable to communications and radar systems. We do extensive analytical and numerical modeling, ranging from fundamental studies of electron transport in semiconductors to numerical analysis of new types of microwave filter.

Facilities

The EDT group laboratory houses an extensive range of modern research equipment for all of its projects. The equipment ranges from a microwave probe station to investigate the performance of microwave circuits down to a temperature of four Kelvin and up to a frequency of 50GHz to a £1 million clean room for the producing and processing of thin film materials. The group also has an extensive range of computing equipment with a large range of commercial software including most of the microwave computer-aided design suites. Details of the facilities available are on the group website.

Current projects

Some project areas are:

- Superconducting microwave filters for radio astronomy and communications
- Switchable and frequency agile microwave filters using superconducting and ferroelectric materials
- Deposition, characterisation and application of new types of thin film materials using sputtering, evaporation and laser ablation
- Passive micromachined microwave components for terahertz applications
- Microwave properties of materials including superconductors, dielectrics, ferrites and ferroelectrics
- Modelling of hot-carrier effects in semiconductors and nano devices
- Josephson devices
- Neuro electronic interfaces

Related links

[School of Electronic, Electrical and Computer Engineering \(/schools/eece/index.aspx\)](/schools/eece/index.aspx)

[Emerging device technologies \(/research/activity/eece/systems-devices/edt/index.aspx\)](/research/activity/eece/systems-devices/edt/index.aspx)

Why study this course

Our research and teaching stretches from materials, devices and systems - with close links with physics - through the generation and distribution of electrical energy, the railway network, communications and applied computing, to activities in serious games and human interaction technologies, which border on applied psychology.

With 30 academic staff and nearly 40 support staff, it's likely that we will be active in whichever aspect of Electrical and Computer Engineering is of interest to you. Our turnover on research is around £3 million per year, which comes from a variety of sources including UK government and industry as well as the EU. We are keen to welcome new students who have ability, enthusiasm and commitment.

Over 25 years, the Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET) has recognised our taught programmes as the first step towards professional chartered engineer status, and accreditation of our courses was confirmed by the IET in 2008.

In the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise, 85% of our research was judged to be of international standing while 60% was internationally leading. Our aim is to maintain and improve on this high quality in all aspects of our work.

Fees and funding

[Standard fees \(/postgraduate/dr-fees/tuition.aspx\)](/postgraduate/dr-fees/tuition.aspx) apply.

Learn more about [fees and funding \(/postgraduate/dr-fees/index.aspx\)](/postgraduate/dr-fees/index.aspx)

Scholarships and studentships

For home/EU applicants, full funding from EPSRC or from other sources can usually be arranged through us; the closing date for EPSRC studentships is late June, please contact the School directly for more information. Alternatively email financialsupport@bham.ac.uk (<mailto:financialsupport@bham.ac.uk>).

International students can often gain funding through Commonwealth scholarships or their home government.

Entry requirements

The normal entrance requirements for MSc by Research or PhD study are a first degree of at least good UK upper second-class Honours standard, an appropriate standard of English and adequate financial support. The requirements also allow for entry based on comparable ability, as indicated by a good UK MSc performance or a lower first degree performance plus substantial relevant experience.

Learn more about [entry requirements \(/postgraduate/requirements-dr/step1.aspx\)](/postgraduate/requirements-dr/step1.aspx).

International students

We accept a range of qualifications from different countries – learn more about [international entry requirements \(/postgraduate/requirements-dr/step1.aspx\)](/postgraduate/requirements-dr/step1.aspx).

[Standard English language requirements \(/postgraduate/requirements-pgt/international/index.aspx\)](/postgraduate/requirements-pgt/international/index.aspx) apply.

How to apply

Learn more about [applying \(/postgraduate/requirements-dr/index.aspx\)](/postgraduate/requirements-dr/index.aspx)

[Apply now \(https://pga.bham.ac.uk/lpages/EPSo19.htm\)](https://pga.bham.ac.uk/lpages/EPSo19.htm)

When clicking on the Apply Now button you will be directed to an application specifically designed for the programme you wish to apply for where you will create an account with the University application system and submit your application and supporting documents online. Further information regarding how to apply online can be found on the [How to apply pages](#) (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/courses/postgraduate/apply-pg/index.aspx>)

[Apply now \(https://pga.bham.ac.uk/lpages/EPSo19.htm\)](https://pga.bham.ac.uk/lpages/EPSo19.htm)

Related links

[Postgraduate degree courses - Electronic, Electrical and Computer Engineering \(/schools/eece/postgraduate/index.aspx\)](/schools/eece/postgraduate/index.aspx)

Learning and teaching

We offer research for the MSc by Research and PhD degrees in the mainstream areas of signal processing, virtual reality and artificial life, educational technology, human factors, speech technologies, multimodal interaction, computer engineering, communications, control engineering, digital systems, power and solid-state devices and also in specialist areas such as acoustics and sonar, image processing, and high-critical-temperature superconductivity.

Research interests of staff

The School of Electronic, Electrical and Computer Engineering (EECE) at the University of Birmingham employs some 30 full-time academic staff and approximately 60 research assistants, and has a population of around 100 Doctoral Researchers. EECE has an annual income of around ?3 million. Research is supported through grants from the European Union, UK Research Councils, the Ministry of Defence, and UK Industry.

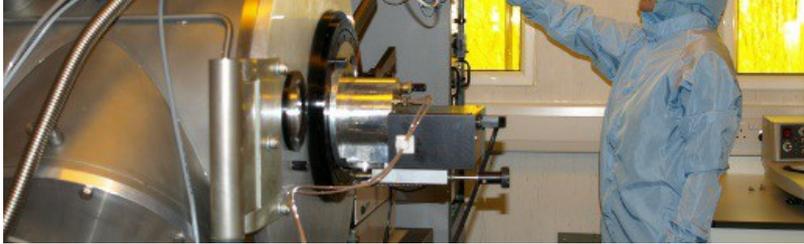


EECE has a long-standing international reputation in research related to **Microwave Engineering and Radar Systems** and to **Power and Control**, particularly in **Rail Systems**. Over the past decade, it has been investing in, and growing, research in areas related to **Computer Systems Engineering**.

Research themes

Microwave systems and devices

(<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/research/activity/eece/systems->



[devices/index.aspx](#))

The primary (but not only) concern of this research centre is the development of devices and systems for communications and radar. The centre's research covers both basic science and applications. An example of basic science is the work on materials such as dielectrics, ferroelectrics and superconductors. This basic work is complemented by the development of devices such as new, passive and active microwave circuits for real world applications. In addition there is significant work on radar and communication systems.

Birmingham Centre for Railway Research and Education
<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/research/activity/railway/index.aspx>)

The Birmingham Centre for Railway Research and Education brings together a multidisciplinary team from across the University to tackle fundamental railway engineering problems. The team actively engage with industry, other universities through Rail Research UK-A, and international partners. The centre also delivers the MSc postgraduate programme in Railway Systems Engineering and Integration.

Human computer interaction (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/research/activity/ecece/human-computer/index.aspx>)

Research at the HCI Centre includes intelligent interaction, natural interaction, utilizing speech, gesture, activity and emotion, social computing, digital economy, future digital technologies, fusing physical and virtual domains, mobile and ubiquitous computing, and the psychology of interaction.

Related research

- **Emerging device technologies - Electronic, Electrical and Computer Engineering research** (</research/activity/ecece/systems-devices/edt/index.aspx>)
- **Electronic, Electrical and Computer Engineering Research** (</research/activity/ecece/index.aspx>)

Related staff

Professor Michael Lancaster (</staff/profiles/ecece/lancaster-michael.aspx>)

Employability

About ten per cent of our higher degree students work externally, employed full-time. We have particularly strong links with BT, the Defence Research Agency, London Underground Ltd and Kodak Ltd. Our research is funded roughly 50:50 by the EPSRC and industry/EU.

University Careers Network

Preparation for your career should be one of the first things you think about as you start university. Whether you have a clear idea of where your future aspirations lie or want to consider the broad range of opportunities available once you have a Birmingham degree, our Careers Network can help you achieve your goal.

Our unique careers guidance service is tailored to your academic subject area, offering a specialised team (in each of the five academic colleges) who can give you expert advice. Our team source exclusive work experience opportunities to help you stand out amongst the competition, with mentoring, global internships and placements available to you. Once you have a career in your sights, one-to-one support with CVs and job applications will help give you the edge.

If you make the most of the **wide range of services** (<https://intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/as/employability/careers/college/eps/index.aspx>) you will be able to develop your career from the moment you arrive.

Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education (DLHE) 2011/12 (postgraduate taught graduates)

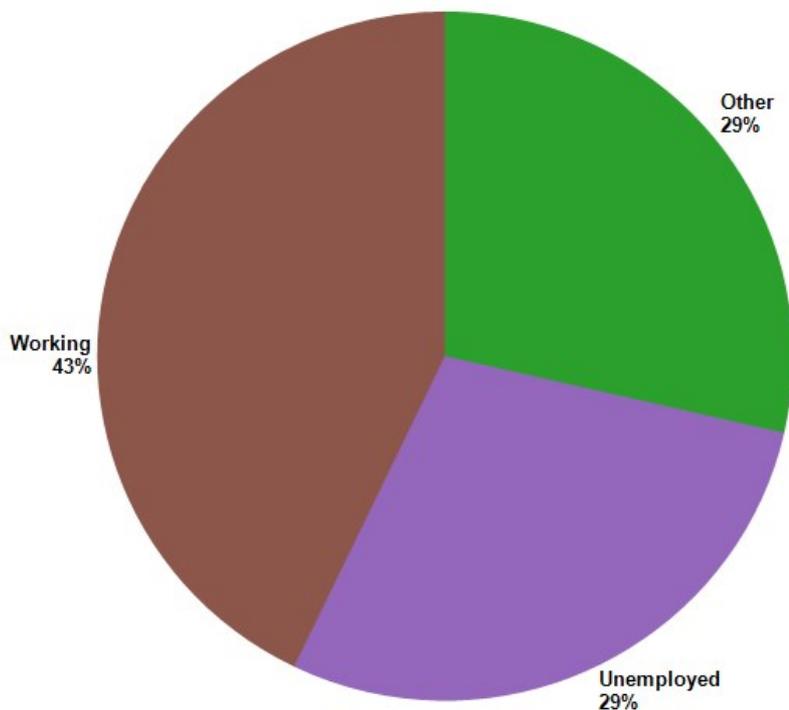
The DLHE survey is conducted 6 months after graduation.

Examples of employers

- Aero Engine Controls
- Jaguar Land Rover
- Ministry of Defence
- Price Waterhouse Coopers
- Ernst and Young
- Arup
- Glaxo SmithKline
- NHS
- Talk Talk
- Autologic

Examples of occupations

- Electronic Engineer
- Applications Engineer
- Communications (Electronic) Engineer - Officer
- Optimisation Consultant
- Manufacturing Engineer
- Junior Business Analyst
- Test Engineer
- Service Specialist
- IT Analyst
- Development Engineer



- MSc Project Management

- MSc Radio Frequency and Microwave Engineering
- MSc Electronic and Computer Engineering
- MSc Physics and Technology
- Postgraduate Certificate in Education - teaching
- AAT accountancy

Visit the **Careers section of the University website** (<https://intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/as/employability/careers/college/eps.aspx>) for further information.