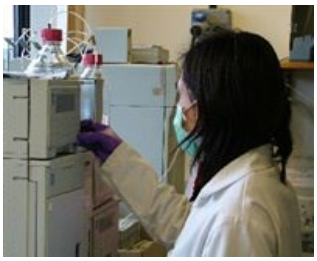
PhD research degrees

The School offers postgraduate research opportunities leading to PhD degrees across the whole range of its **research activities (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/schools/gees/research/index.aspx)** .

Funding comes from a variety of sources, including national research councils, internal scholarships and industry. **View current PhD project opportunities by research area (#currentprojects)** .



Postgraduate research (PGR) students joining the School benefit from a thriving research community, expert supervision and dedicated training programmes.

The School provides all PGR students with a dedicated workspace and access to excellent computing and laboratory facilities.

PhD research degrees are available in the following fields:

- **Atmospheric Sciences and Air Pollution PhD with Integrated Study (/postgraduate/courses/combined/gees/atmospheric-sciences-air-pollution.aspx)**
- **Earth Sciences PhD/MPhil (/postgraduate/courses/research/gees/earth-sciences.aspx)**
- **Environmental Health and Risk Management PhD/MPhil (/postgraduate/courses/research/gees/environmental-health-risk-mgt.aspx)**
- **Geography and Environmental Sciences PhD/MPhil (/postgraduate/courses/research/gees/geog-environ-sciences.aspx)**
- **Urban and Regional Studies (/postgraduate/courses/research/gees/Urban-and-Regional-Studies-PhD.aspx)**

Information on studying for a **PhD by Distance Learning can be found here (/university/colleges/les/distance-learning/dl-phd.aspx)** .

PhD scholarships

The School is the lead institution for the NERC-funded **CENTA Doctoral Training Centre (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/generic/centa/index.aspx)** , which funds between five and seven PhD UK/EU studentships at Birmingham each year.

A full list of projects within **Environmental Health Sciences (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/research/activity/environmental-health/index.aspx)** , **Geosystems (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/research/activity/geosystems/index.aspx)** and **Water Sciences (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/research/activity/water/index.aspx)** research groups eligible for CENTA funding can be found at **CENTA's PhD Opportunities page (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/generic/centa/phds/index.aspx)** .

GEES will put forward candidates for projects in the **Society, Economy and Environment (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/research/activity/hg/index.aspx)** and **Centre for Urban and Regional Studies (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/schools/gees/departments/curs/index.aspx)** research groups for **ESRC (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/postgraduate/dr-fees/ESRC-research-council.aspx)** and AHRC studentships as appropriate.

The School is also a participant in the NERC Oil and Gas Doctoral Training Centre, with one UK/EU Studentship per year. **See a list of NERC Oil and Gas DTC projects (http://www.nerc-cdt-oil-and-gas.ac.uk/scholarships.html)** .

Overseas international students with the potential for securing private, industrial or home-government scholarships are encouraged to contact potential supervisors directly.

Funding for Brazilian postgraduates - Science without Borders

The Science without Borders programme offers funding for Brazilian postgraduates to study in the UK.

Under the scheme students can study for a PhD in science, technology, engineering or mathematics subjects at a UK university for 3-4 years.

The scholarships cover:

- Full tuition fees
- Bench fees (the maximum amount available for tuition and bench fees combined is £20k per year)
- A generous stipend paid directly to the student

For information on applying visit the **Brazilian government's website (http://www.cienciasemfronteiras.gov.br/web/csf/pos-graduacao-doutorado)** .

Brazilian funding agencies no longer provide pre-sessional English courses for PhD students. However students can access a **free online English course (http://www.myenglishonline.com.br/)** .

Application deadlines

There will be three calls in 2015, covering PhDs that start between July 2015 and July 2016. It is important that students apply to the correct call for their proposed start date.

Call 1:

- Application deadline: 19 December 2014
- Results announced: 15 April 2015
- Start of scholarship: Between July and August 2015

Call 2:

- Application deadline: 23 April 2015
- Results announced: 14 August 2015
- Start of scholarship: Between January and February 2016

Call 3:

- Application deadline: 21 August 2015
- Results announced: 15 December 2015
- Start of scholarship: Between June and July 2016

Current PhD projects

View PhD projects by research grouping:

Environmental Health Sciences

Title	Principal contact
(CASE project) Chemical labelling for the development of safer engineered nanomaterial designs (/generic/centa/documents/UB1.pdf)	Prof Eva Valsami-Jones
(CASE project) Why do we observe iodine in the Antarctic atmosphere, but not in the Arctic? (/generic/centa/documents/UB2.pdf)	Dr Francis Pope
(CASE project) Feeling the heat: birds as bioindicators of flame retardant emissions from landfills (/generic/centa/documents/UB3.pdf)	Prof Stuart Harrad
(CASE project) A source of nitrous acid (HONO) in Antarctic snow – understanding the self-cleansing capacity of air above snow packs (/generic/centa/documents/UB4.pdf)	Dr William Bloss
Hazard Uncertainty and related damage potentials of extra-tropical cyclones (HURD-ETC) (/generic/centa/documents/UB9.pdf)	Dr GC Leckebusch
Atmospheric Behaviour of Ultrafine Particles Arising from Road Traffic (/generic/centa/documents/UB13.pdf)	Prof Roy Harrison
Assimilation of palaeoclimate proxy data into GCMs using downscaling techniques and forward models (/generic/centa/documents/UB25.pdf)	Dr. Martin Widmann

Geosystems

Title	Principal contact
(CASE project) Glacial, hydrological and landscape change in a deglaciating catchment: Virkisjokull, Iceland (/generic/centa/documents/UB10.pdf)	Dr Nicholas Barrand
(CASE project) Investigating the role of oceanic plateaus in early continental growth (/generic/centa/documents/UB15.pdf)	Dr Alan Hastie
(CASE project) Cenozoic evolution of the Asian Monsoon: tectonic-climate interactions (/generic/centa/documents/UB16.pdf)	Dr James Bendle
Mantle unroofing during continental breakup and slow seafloor spreading (/generic/centa/documents/UB24.pdf) (/generic/centa/documents/UB24.pdf)	Tim Reston
(CASE project) Macroevolution of the Paleogene calcareous phytoplankton (/generic/centa/documents/UB18.pdf)	Dr Tom Dunkley Jones
Molecular networks controlling spore germination in plants and algae (/generic/centa/documents/UB19.pdf)	Dr Juliet Coates /Dr Jason Hilton
Floral and faunal patterns in Pennsylvanian (late Carboniferous) biome evolution (/generic/centa/documents/UB21.pdf)	Dr Jason Hilton

Human Geography/Centre for Urban and Regional Studies

Title	Principal contact

Big Data, Geocomputation and cities (/Documents/college-les/gees/postgraduate-opportunities-2015/Arribas%20bel%20ad.pdf)	Dr Daniel Arribas-Bel
The changing role and future prospects for Internal Drainage Boards in the emerging governance context of Natural Flood Management in England (/Documents/college-les/gees/postgraduate-opportunities-2015/Emery%20ad.pdf)	Dr Steven Emery, Dr Chris Bradley
Changing urban environments in the majority world – children and young people's everyday life (/Documents/college-les/gees/postgraduate-opportunities-2015/Hadfield-Hill%20ad.pdf)	Dr. Sophie Hadfield-Hill
'Zoopticon' and 'Panopticon' – linking the prison and the zoo through animal and carceral geographies. (/Documents/college-les/gees/postgraduate-opportunities-2015/Moran%20ad.pdf)	Dr Dominique Moran
Mediating development geographies: towards new transnational relationalities (/Documents/college-les/gees/postgraduate-opportunities-2015/Noxolo%20ad.pdf)	Dr Patricia Noxolo
Legacies of the 'Arab Spring' (/Documents/college-les/gees/postgraduate-opportunities-2015/Ramadan%20ad.pdf)	Dr Adam Ramadan
Urban and Environmental Economic Implications of Planning and Real Estate Development from Climate Change (/Documents/college-les/gees/postgraduate-opportunities-2015/Squires%201%20ad.pdf)	Dr Graham Squires
Financing Cities – International Comparative Finance for Planning and Real Estate Development (/Documents/college-les/gees/postgraduate-opportunities-2015/Squires%202%20ad.pdf)	Dr Graham Squires
Digital economy, geoweb, cities and urban networks (/Documents/college-les/gees/postgraduate-opportunities-2015/Tranos%20ad.pdf)	Dr Emmanouil Tranos

Water Sciences

Title	Principal contact
(CASE project) Emerging contaminant fate at the transient groundwater – surface-water interface (/generic/centa/documents/UB7.pdf)	Dr Michael Rivett
(CASE project) Rare earth elements are essential for green technologies but are they damaging human andenvironmental health? (/generic/centa/documents/UB23.pdf)	Dr Stephanie Handley-Sidhu
The geomorphology of sandy braided rivers (/generic/centa/documents/UB14.pdf)	Dr Greg Sambrook Smith
(CASE project) Avian productivity and climatic extremes in an urbanizing world (/generic/centa/documents/UB5.pdf)	Prof Jon Sadler
(CASE project) Emerging contaminant fate at the transient groundwater – surface-water interface (/generic/centa/documents/UB7.pdf)	Dr Michael Rivett
Climate change effects on drought in cold regions (/generic/centa/documents/UB11.pdf)	Dr Anne F. Van Loon
Vulnerability of globally important carbon stores to climate change examined through novel geophysical imaging (/generic/centa/documents/UB12.pdf)	Dr Nick Kettridge
EXtreme summer flooding and STREAM ecosystem processes in Glacier Bay, Alaska (EXSTREAM) (/generic/centa/documents/UB8.pdf)	Prof Alexander Milner
(CASE project) Rare earth elements are essential for green technologies but are they damaging human andenvironmental health? (/generic/centa/documents/UB13.pdf) UB23 (PDF - 370KB) (/generic/centa/documents/UB23.pdf)	Dr Stephanie Handley-Sidhu

There are opportunities for distance learning in the School of Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences. If you are interested please contact Professor Jon Sadler (j.p.sadler@bham.ac.uk (mailto:j.p.sadler@bham.ac.uk)) in the first instance.

- View all NERC CENTA funded PhD projects (/generic/centa/phds/index.aspx)
- NERC Centre for Doctoral Training (CDT) in Oil & Gas - View PhD studentships

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