We use cookies to ensure that we deliver the best user experience of our website. If you would like to, you can change your cookie settings at any time. Continue

Doctoral research degrees

A research degree is a unique opportunity to develop new skills, develop problem-solving abilities and make a valuable contribution to new knowledge.

Completing a research degree develops specialist knowledge in your field and professional skills for a range of business settings. Whether you're interested in a career in academia or in the private or government spheres, you will be equipped with valuable skills that will make you competitive, no matter your chosen career path. **Doctoral Research Scholarships and funding (/schools/government-society/courses/doctoral-research/scholarships.aspx)**

Research degrees PhD/MPhil:

Doctorate (PhD): The period of registration is 36 months (72 months part-time). The maximum length of the thesis is 80,000 words.

Master of Philosophy (MPhil): Participants register for advanced study over 24 months (48 months part-time) and submit a thesis within 6 months (12 months part-time) of the end of the registration period. The maximum length is 60,000 words.ticipants register for advanced study over 24 months (48 months part-time) and submit a thesis within 6 months (12 months part-time) of the end of the registration period. The maximum length is 60,000 words.

- **German Studies (Social Sciences) PhD/MPhil (/postgraduate/courses/research/govsoc/german-studies-socsci.aspx)**
- **International Development PhD/MPhil (/postgraduate/courses/research/govsoc/international-development.aspx)**
- **Local Government Studies PhD/MPhil (/postgraduate/courses/research/govsoc/local-government-studies.aspx)**
- **Political Science and International Studies PhD/MPhil (/postgraduate/courses/research/govsoc/political-science-international-studies.aspx)**
- **Russian and East European Studies PhD/MPhil/MA (Research) (/postgraduate/courses/research/govsoc/russian-east-euro-studies.aspx)**
- **Sociology PhD/MPhil (/postgraduate/courses/research/govsoc/sociology.aspx)**

PhD with Integrated Study

This enables students to take additional taught modules. It is particularly suited to candidates who have already completed taught programmes at Masters level, but who wish to change direction and / or undertake research in an area in which they do not have sufficient prior knowledge. The programme lasts for four years and requires a thesis of 80,000 words.

While the traditional PhD programme requires students to engage entirely in research training, culminating in the production of a thesis, the PhD with Integrated Study enables students to gain added value from taught, subject-based modules.

- **Local Government and Public Policy PhD with Integrated Study (/postgraduate/courses/combined/govsoc/local-government-public-policy.aspx)**
- **International Development PhD with Integrated Study (/postgraduate/courses/combined/govsoc/international-development.aspx)**
- **Integrated Study (Social Sciences) PhD (/postgraduate/courses/research/socsci/integrated-study-social-sciences.aspx)**

MRes

These programmes comprise a thesis of usually 20,000 words on a specified research topic, together with a selection of taught modules. They offer a broad training in the skills and techniques of contemporary research and can be taken as stand-alone degrees or as a step towards a higher research qualification.

- **Contemporary German Studies MRes (/postgraduate/courses/combined/govsoc/contemp-german-studies.aspx)**

Further information

Tricia Carr - Doctoral Research Student Administraton
Tel: +44 (0) 121 414 6346, Email: **p.a.carr@bham.ac.uk (mailto:p.a.carr@bham.ac.uk)**

FindAPhD in the School of Government and Society

© University of Birmingham 2014