

Six Full-Time Funded Postgraduate Research Opportunities Starting September 2015

Further Guidance

I. Following similar competitions during previous academic sessions, the School of Management is delighted to be able to offer four Graduate Teaching Assistantships (GTAships), one Graduate Research Assistantship (GRAship), and one studentship. Each GTAship and the GRAship is worth approximately £18,859 per year over **four** years. The Studentship is worth approximately £18,859 per year over **three** years. These PhD research opportunities are for full-time study only and will commence in September 2015. They will cover tuition fees at the UK/EU rate (currently £4052). The GTAships and the GRAship include a stipend of £9,901 each year as well as a salary of £4,156. The Studentship includes a stipend of £14057. The successful applicants are also entitled to a Research Training Support Grant of £750 per annum to finance their research activities as appropriate - this is included in the overall sum above.

II. This award covers full-time UK/EU tuition fees **only**. For the academic session 2015-2016 the fees are £4052. This figure will increase as necessary during the span of the Studentship. The tuition fees for international students for 2015-2016 are £12,455 and are also subject to inflation. Thus any successful international applicant for this award would have to cover the difference between the UK/ EU fee level and the international fee level themselves -- a difference of approximately (£8,403 at current fee levels) for every year of the Studentship.

III. Graduate Teaching Assistants (GTAs) are full-time postgraduate students registered for a PhD at the University of Leicester. They are contracted for a four-year period to undertake teaching and teaching-related duties within the School, not normally exceeding eight contact hours per week, while also undertaking research leading to a PhD degree. Approximately 80% of their time is spent on their own doctoral research and 20% on their Graduate Teaching Assistant responsibilities. The first year of a Graduate Teaching Assistant contract involves shadowing teaching, assessment, and supervision processes within the School followed by teacher training within the School of Management and the wider College of Social Science. Full teaching duties begin in the second year. Although the work normally focuses on teaching, including preparation and assessment time, Graduate Teaching Assistants may also be engaged in other duties as part of a planned and balanced portfolio of relevant academic experience. Graduate Teaching Assistants are responsible to the Head of School of Management.

IV. Graduate Research Assistants (GRAs) are full-time postgraduate students registered for a PhD at the University of Leicester. They are contracted for a four-year period to assist with research on the changing landscape of the arts and cultural sector in the East Midlands, not normally exceeding eight contact hours per week, while also undertaking their own separate research leading to a PhD degree. Approximately 80% of their time is spent on their own doctoral research and 20% on their Graduate Research Assistant responsibilities. The GRA will work on a project on

how funding cuts have impacted arts and cultural organisations in the East Midlands, including Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire, Nottinghamshire and Rutland. The core responsibilities of the GRA will be: (1) conduct and transcribe interviews with participating organizations; (2) contribute to the development of a longitudinal data set; (3) assist with other aspects of the project within the contracted time. The data collected will be available to the GRA for use in their PhD research, which we expect to be defined in collaboration with the supervisory team and to play a complementary role to the program of work. Suggested topics include (but are not limited to): creative and cultural industries workforce development; cultural policy and austerity; cultural value and cultural evaluation; informal and unofficial cultural and arts participation; cultural and arts participation by marginalized social groups; the politics of cultural practice. We are particularly interested to hear from applicants who have experience and/or interest in qualitative research methods, particularly ethnographic and digital methodologies. You will be primarily working with Dr William Green (School of Management) and Dr Jack Newsinger (Department of Media and Communication) on this project. Informal enquiries are welcome--please direct to Dr Newsinger (jn107@le.ac.uk) and Dr Green (wg32@le.ac.uk). Although GRA work will focus on the above mentioned project, Graduate Research Assistants may also be engaged in other research duties within the School of Management. The first six months of the Graduate Research Assistant contract involves preparation of the specific role and close cooperation with the relevant academics in respect of learning the specific duties. Full research assistance duties begin in the second half of the first year. Graduate Research Assistants are responsible to the Head of School of Management.

V. Studentship holders are full-time postgraduate students registered for a PhD at the University of Leicester. They receive a stipend over a period of three years. Please note that Studentship holders are not formally contracted to assist with teaching or research during this period.

VI. Continuation of the PhD research award is subject to

1. Satisfactory six-monthly PhD progress meetings. The student will be required to produce a retrospective and prospective written report for these meetings. Their supervisors will be present and asked to comment on the progress the student has made over the preceding period, and their plans for the next six months.
2. The student will be required to successfully complete the mandatory University Probation Review after twelve months of registration.
3. For the GTAs and the GRA only: Confirmation of successful completion of a probationary period after six months of GTAship/GRAship employment, and of interim reviews after one and three months.

VII. To Apply

- All applicants must submit:
 1. a completed postgraduate application form
 2. a PhD research proposal of no more than 4000 words
 3. a 750 word statement (see below for further information)
 4. a CV
 5. two references (preferably from academic institutions)
 6. copies of your degree transcripts and certificates from your first (Bachelors) and second degree (Masters)
 7. evidence of English language capabilities where required (see the application form).

- Please ensure you complete all questions on the University postgraduate application form. Please type or write clearly in black ink. Your application form should specify in the department box on the first page that you are applying for a GTAship or the GRAship or the Studentship or a combination if you want to be considered for specific PhD research opportunities. You should also enter this information in the Financial Support section of the application form. An application form can be found at <http://www2.le.ac.uk/study/research/application-form.pdf>

- Please read our PhD proposal guidance notes before writing your project proposal. It is available here: <http://tinyurl.com/psu6un6>. The project proposal is one of the most important parts of the application. If you applying for the GRAship you may submit a PhD proposal that elaborates on the topic as described in point IV of this document into a fully-fledged outline of relevant academic literature(s), the contribution and research questions, the methodology and so on which could be employed in a doctoral thesis in the area.

- Ensure that you submit with your application the 750 word statement explaining
 1. Why a GTAship or Studentship or GRAship would enable you to do a PhD in financial terms -- i.e. details of why other funding is not available to you.
 2. If you are applying for a GTAship you will need specifically to include in your statement how a GTAship will assist in you moving towards undertaking the full range of teaching duties, assessment and supervision required of a university lecturer in future.
 3. If you are applying for the GRAship you will need specifically to include in your statement how a GRAship will assist in you moving towards undertaking the academic research required of a university lecturer in future. You will need also to discuss why the specific project outlined in point IV is attractive to you in intellectual terms and how your educational or career background equips you to undertake an academic project of this type.
 4. How your proposed research constitutes a critical rethinking of the field of your study (as part of management and organization studies).

You should give equal attention to each aspect of the statement. Applicants who do not supply the statement, or whose statement does not conform to the expectations outlined above, will not be considered for shortlisting.

- We welcome applications from those interested in the critical and innovative rethinking of any of the following fields: accounting and finance; marketing and consumption; organization studies; regional studies; science, technology and innovation; work and employment. Our PhD programme is distinctive because it is firmly located within a broadly defined critical social science tradition. Our students draw on any of the different fields of management as well as on anthropology, cultural studies, economics, geography, physics and mathematics, science and technology studies, sociology, politics, philosophy and psychology amongst other disciplines in undertaking their research.

- References (preferably from academic institutions where you have studied) should either be signed and on official letterhead or sent from the referee's institutional email account.
- Send these application documents to Teresa Bowdrey, either by email at t.bowdrey@le.ac.uk or by post to: PhD Programme, School of Management, University of Leicester, Leicester LE1 7RH, UK. Please do NOT apply using the online application system. All the documents mentioned above are required -- your application will not be considered unless they are all present.
- The closing date is **10th April 2015**. We cannot consider late applications. All applicants should allow a minimum of four weeks for an application to be considered. All short-listed GTAship/GRAship applicants will be interviewed for suitability. They will take place as soon as possible after the closing date, and are provisionally scheduled for mid May 2015.

VIII. The award decision will be based on the following criteria:

1. availability of supervision within the School of Management
2. qualifications (including English language capability)
3. quality and strength of proposed PhD project
4. the extent to which the PhD project represents critical rethinking of management and organization
5. references
6. financial need
7. performance at interview
8. the likelihood of the student completing within the maximum registration period
9. clear indication of professional development benefits
10. presence at the School of Management and contribution to the research we are doing in the School
11. Consolidate or expand current capacity at the School of Management
12. teaching abilities or established interest in research (depending on whether you are applying for a GTAship or GRAship or both)

IX. The procedure for consideration of applications is as follows:

1. Screening of applications by the Postgraduate research Committee to ensure all documents are in place, that all entry requirements are met and that the proposal is of a viable standard. Guidance is sought from other members of academic faculty at this stage if necessary. *Applications may be rejected at this stage, in particular if the proposal does not meet our specifications or standards or if the statement is unsatisfactory.*
2. Consideration of applications which pass previous stage by the Postgraduate Research Committee. Potential supervisors will be identified for applications. *Applications may be rejected at this stage, if the proposal is deemed not to be of a high enough quality and/or if the panel are unable to identify potential supervisors for the applicant.*
3. Distribution to faculty members in the relevant disciplinary area/s to explore potential supervision. *Applications may be rejected at this stage if the proposal is*

deemed to be inadequate by these disciplinary experts or there is insufficient supervision available. In order to progress a candidate to interview at least two members of faculty must have suggested they may be able to supervise the student. Please also note that at this stage we may indicate that we cannot progress your application for one of the funded PhD research opportunities but we can consider you for the PhD programme without any offer of funding. This would still involve an interview if you wished to pursue your application.

4. *Invitation for interview. Interviews will involve members of the Postgraduate Research Committee, at least one potential supervisor and a representative of the College of Social Sciences.*
5. *A decision about applications will follow the completion of all interviews. This decision will be taken by the Postgraduate Research Committee and the Head of School or the Director of Research, based on written feedback from the members of the interview panels for each applicant. Confirmation of supervisory arrangements also takes place at this point, where relevant. Some applicants may be rejected at this stage. Some applicants will not be offered a funded PhD research opportunity but may still be offered a non-funded place on the PhD programme. It is then of course their decision whether to accept or not as no funding will be available from the School for their studies.*

X. The decision of the interview panel and the Postgraduate Research Committee is final and the School of Management will not enter into correspondence unless it is able to offer you an award.