
Three Full-Time Funded Postgraduate Research Opportunities Starting October 2016

Further Guidance

I. Following similar competitions during previous academic sessions, the School of Management is delighted to be able to offer two Graduate Teaching Assistantships (GTAships) and one Graduate Research Assistantship (GRAship). Each GTAship and the GRAship is worth approximately £18,417 per year over **four** years. These PhD research opportunities are for full-time study only and will commence in October 2016 with no exception. They will cover tuition fees at the UK/EU rate (currently £4121). The GTAships and the GRAship include a stipend of £10,098 each year as well as a salary of £4,198.

II. This award covers full-time UK/EU tuition fees **only**. For the academic session 2016-2017 the fees are £4121. This figure will increase as necessary during the span of the Studentship. The tuition fees for international students for 2016-2017 are £13,015 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 (£8,894 at current fee levels) for every year of the award.

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, 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 developing an app to support the careers of women in higher education. The core responsibilities of the GRA will be: (1) conduct, transcribe and analyse qualitative interviews; (2) contribute to the development of app content and manage the data set for the app; (3) provide general project support and assistance, including liaison with the technical development team.

Applicants are expected to have experience in qualitative research methods and working with audio-visual data and to propose a PhD project that links into the critical research tradition of the School of Management. You will be primarily working with Dr Doris Ruth Eikhof (School of Management) and informal enquiries are welcome (d.r.eikhof@leicester.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. 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.

VI. 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 relevant boxes of the application form. In the Funding section of the form you should select "Studentship" this will then give a dropdown menu where GTA or GRA can be selected. If you wish to be considered for both awards then confirm this with the administrator at t.bowdrey@le.ac.uk.
- Please read our PhD proposal guidance notes before writing your project proposal. It is available here: [X:ULSM Research Proposal Guidance Notes.pdf](#) 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 links to the critical research tradition of the School of Management.
- 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 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; innovation, science and technology and marketing and consumption; organization studies; regional studies; 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.
- Please apply online by going to <http://www2.le.ac.uk/research/degrees/how-to-apply/online> If you have any queries then email the administrator at t.bowdrey@le.ac.uk. All the documents mentioned above are required - your application will not be considered unless they are all present
- The closing date is **17th April 2016**. We cannot consider late applications. All applicants should allow a minimum of four weeks for an application to be considered. All short-listed GTAsip/GRAsip applicants will be interviewed for suitability. They will take place as soon as possible after the closing date, and are provisionally scheduled for end of May 2016.

VII. 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)

VIII. 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 and at least one potential supervisor.*
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.*

IX. 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.