



“ I first heard about Warwick whilst I was taking a two year Master’s course in Brazil. My supervisor at the time had studied abroad with a student at Warwick and heard a lot of good things about the University. As it happens, that student is now my supervisor for my PhD here at Warwick! I initially wanted to come to Warwick for a few months to set up a PhD project, but after being awarded a Warwick Postgraduate Research Scholarship by the University, I decided to stay full-time. My PhD is within the Psychology department, focusing on human motor behaviour and cognitive neuroscience. In the future I hope to forge a research career either here at Warwick or elsewhere in the world with good facilities and world-class research. Warwick was my only choice for study abroad – I did not look at any other universities as Warwick provided everything I needed.”

João Fialho  
2nd Year PhD  
Department of Psychology  
Brazil

“ Having done my BA and MA in two different departments at Warwick I had made up my mind to take a year out of academia. Then, my PhD came up. Not only was it fully funded by the AHRC but it also involved collaboration with a museum and a year of research in Paris. I couldn't resist such an opportunity. I feel very lucky to be in a cutting-edge university and in a department that embraces a multi-disciplinary approach. My PhD explores the theatrical metaphor in prints from the French Revolution, so it comprises a mixture of history, politics, theatre, history of art, and literature! On top of the writing and research, I am also cataloguing 250 Revolutionary prints from Waddesdon Manor and planning an exhibition on a selection of its collection. This collaborative doctorate is providing me with a wider range of experiences than a traditional PhD and whilst it is challenging, it is also very rewarding.”

Claire Trevien  
2nd Year PhD  
Department of French Studies  
France/UK



Thinking about doing a PhD?

The University of Warwick  
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[www.warwick.ac.uk](http://www.warwick.ac.uk)  
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Cover: *Grown in the field*, 1976, Avtarjeet Dhanjal,  
Social Sciences Building, University of Warwick

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**WARWICK**

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# GETTING STARTED

1

## THE IDEA

Read as much as possible around your subject area. Begin thinking about how you will present your idea in your proposal.

2

## CHOOSE YOUR DEPARTMENT

Target a department that has expertise in your topic. Remember to investigate the Research Centres too.

3

## CONTACT A POTENTIAL SUPERVISOR

Within that department find an academic who has experience in the relevant field and make contact with them to discuss your proposed area of research.

4

## FINALISE YOUR RESEARCH PROPOSAL

Your proposal (if required by the department) should include: intended area of research, core research questions, possible methodologies, approach proposed and how you will complete the PhD in the time available.

5

## MAKE YOUR APPLICATION

Your application needs to be made online. To apply for a research degree, you will need: your research proposal (if required), 2 academic referees, transcripts and certificates as well as the application form.  
[www.warwick.ac.uk/go/pg](http://www.warwick.ac.uk/go/pg)

6

## FUNDING

Have you considered how you are going to fund your PhD? Remember there are deadlines for funding opportunities.  
[www.warwick.ac.uk/go/graduateschool](http://www.warwick.ac.uk/go/graduateschool)

# ROUTES TO A DOCTORATE AT WARWICK

- **Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)**

This is the most popular route to a doctorate and can be undertaken in all disciplines. Most applicants have previously done a Bachelor's and a Master's degree before commencing a PhD. In some disciplines, however, it is possible to start a PhD upon completion of an integrated Master's degree (e.g. MMaths, MPhys, MChem etc.) or even a Bachelor's degree. Warwick also offers 4-year integrated research programmes (MA/MSc + PhD) in the University's Doctoral Training Centres.

- **Professional doctorates**

These appeared in the UK in the late 1980s and are gaining in popularity. Although they involve a significant taught element, candidates are also required to write a thesis as with the more traditional PhD. The University of Warwick offers the following professional doctorates: EdD (Doctor of Education), EngD (Doctor of Engineering), DClinPsych (Doctor of Clinical Psychology in partnership with Coventry University) and MD (Doctor of Medicine).

- **PhD by published work**

This is not a common route to a doctorate and although it is one often followed by people already working in academia, it is a route open to suitably qualified/experienced applicants working in a research capacity within industry. The PhD is awarded on the basis of published work which is accompanied by an appraisal of this work set within the context of the research. It gives candidates the opportunity to gain formal recognition of the research they have undertaken during their career.

Funded PhD projects are advertised on the Graduate School website. [www.warwick.ac.uk/go/graduateschool](http://www.warwick.ac.uk/go/graduateschool)



# HOW TO FIND A SUPERVISOR

## THE SUPERVISION OF YOUR RESEARCH WILL BE CONDUCTED BY A DESIGNATED MAIN SUPERVISOR OR TWO CO-SUPERVISORS, WHO WILL BE EXPERIENCED MEMBERS OF WARWICK ACADEMIC STAFF.

Supervisors are there to help you ensure that you write your best possible thesis. In return, they will expect hard work and a great deal of enthusiasm. They will help you organise your initial objectives once you have registered at the University and offer guidance on structuring your research and developing your transferable skills.

You will have regular contact with your supervisor(s). During these meetings, they will also offer advice on reading materials and any taught courses, research seminars and workshops they think relevant.

Before beginning your search for a potential supervisor, it is recommended that you read more about the research expertise of the University of Warwick on our website. This will give you an overview of the areas in which it is possible for you to undertake a PhD. When you feel confident that you can contribute to the research carried out at the University, you can then begin your search for a supervisor. You can do this in a number of ways:

- All the departments at the University have their own websites which feature details of the staff interests and publications. The academic staff at the University welcome enquiries from potential PhD candidates, so you are welcome to contact them, by telephone or email, directly.
- It is also possible to search for a supervisor on our 'Expertise Database': [www.warwickexcellence.co.uk](http://www.warwickexcellence.co.uk)
- If you cannot find a suitable potential supervisor after trying the above, we would recommend that you send a short summary of your research interest to the administrator in your chosen department. They will then forward your email on to the most appropriate academic within the department. Contact details are available on the individual departmental websites.



# HOW TO WRITE A RESEARCH PROPOSAL

## A RESEARCH PROPOSAL IS A DOCUMENT EXPLAINING WHAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO RESEARCH FOR YOUR DOCTORATE.

Before you begin, remember different departments request different things as far as a proposal and/or application is concerned. It is important that you contact the department to find out any particular requirements before submitting your application.

The proposal should:

- Provide an overview of your research question, explaining why it is of academic and or practical importance.
- Outline the main objectives of your research, providing details of two or three key aspects.

- Indicate the importance of previous related research and how your own research question might make a useful contribution to the area.
- Briefly state the main research techniques (interviews, case studies, modelling etc.) you might use.
- Indicate your suggested data collection procedures, indicating sources and any possible difficulties.
- Techniques you intend to use.
- Add your proposed timetable of activities.
- List the references in your proposal or provide a short bibliography.



# THE BENEFITS OF A WARWICK PhD



## RESEARCH EXCELLENCE

- One of the UK's leading research universities:
  - *The Guardian University Guide 2011* – 3rd
  - *The Independent Complete University Guide 2011* – 7th
  - *The Times Good University Guide 2011* – 8th
  - *QS World University Rankings 2009* – 58th
- In the latest Research Assessment Exercise (2008) Warwick was ranked 7th in the UK. 65% of Warwick's research was ranked as world leading (4<sup>th</sup>) or internationally excellent (3<sup>rd</sup>).
- International reputation for first-class research in the Humanities, Science, Medicine and Social Science, including interdisciplinary research in the Doctoral Training Centres.
- Opportunity to develop transferable skills through the Research Student Skills Programme.
- View recent research in the Warwick Research Repository (WRAP): [wrap.warwick.ac.uk](http://wrap.warwick.ac.uk)
- Visit iTunesU for more Warwick Research: [www.warwick.ac.uk/go/itunesu/](http://www.warwick.ac.uk/go/itunesu/)

## RESEARCH STUDENT SKILLS PROGRAMME

Studying for a PhD has significantly broadened in scope over the last decade. In addition to developing your research skills, you now have the opportunity to develop additional transferable skills which are of invaluable help in ensuring your future employability.

The programme consists of short training sessions, one and two-day courses covering a wide range of subject areas and additional support, all aiming to provide you with the skills and experience necessary to assist you in successful completion of your research degree and to prepare you for employment. [www.warwick.ac.uk/go/pgskills](http://www.warwick.ac.uk/go/pgskills)

## DOCTORAL TRAINING CENTRES (DTC)

DTCs are multi-disciplinary research centres funded by the UK Research Councils. They bring together academics and research students from several departments. These Centres normally offer four-year programmes (MA/MSc + PhD). The first year focuses on bridging the gap between knowledge gained from the first degree and that required to complete a research project. During this year candidates have the opportunity to attend taught modules at the University and, as with all PhD programmes at Warwick, candidates have the opportunity to develop their transferable skills, through the Research Student Skills Programme. Examples of DTCs at Warwick include:

- Mathematics and Statistics Centre for Doctoral Training (MASDOC)
- Molecular Organisation and Assembly in Cells (MOAC)
- Complexity Science Doctoral Training Centre
- Systems Biology Doctoral Training Centre
- Life Sciences Doctoral Training Centre

## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Details of the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) Block Grant Partnership, Warwick Postgraduate Research Scholarships, and many other funding opportunities for doctoral research projects are available on the Graduate School website: [www2.warwick.ac.uk/go/gsp/scholarship](http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/go/gsp/scholarship)

## PART OF A COMMUNITY

Research students are an integral part of the University community, both academically and socially:

- The Graduate School: [www.warwick.ac.uk/go/graduateschool](http://www.warwick.ac.uk/go/graduateschool)
- £900k Wolfson Research Exchange: an area within the library exclusively for research staff, students, or research-focused events. [www.warwick.ac.uk/go/researchexchange](http://www.warwick.ac.uk/go/researchexchange)
- The Grad Deck: a new purpose built social space, tailored for the needs of postgraduate students. [www.warwick.ac.uk/services/studentssupport/graddeck/](http://www.warwick.ac.uk/services/studentssupport/graddeck/)
- On-campus nursery: [www.warwick.ac.uk/go/nursery](http://www.warwick.ac.uk/go/nursery)
- Postgraduate life: [www.warwick.ac.uk/go/pgadlife](http://www.warwick.ac.uk/go/pgadlife)
- The Students' Union: re-opened after an £11m renovation project [www.warwick.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/living/su/](http://www.warwick.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/living/su/)

To keep up-to-date with the latest news and funding opportunities at the University of Warwick, sign up for your own Warwick portal: [your.warwick.ac.uk](http://your.warwick.ac.uk)