How to apply for an MSc by Research or PhD in Psychology

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Psychology PGR Admissions Tutor
Step 1 – minimum academic requirements

• Bachelors/first degree equivalent to a UK 2:1, or
• Masters degree equivalent to a UK Merit
• English language proficiency (Non-English majority countries)
• Visa (International students)
Step 2 – choose a fitting research domain

- Behavioural Science
- Language & Learning
- Lifespan Health & Wellbeing
Step 3 – identify potential supervisors

• Read up the work of academics in the research group chosen

• Approach 2 or 3 academics whose interests match with your own

• Email these academics to find one who has the expertise and capacity to supervise
  • Introduce yourself and background
  • Send CV (skills and experience)
  • Outline research topic/questions
Step 4 – draft a research proposal

• Detailing the research you would like to pursue in more detail.
• 2,000-3,000 words and follow Warwick’s Research Proposal Guidance.
• We recommend asking your prospective supervisor for their input!
Step 5 – submit your application online

- Your research proposal & name of your prospective supervisor (who has agreed to supervise)
- Personal statement & CV
- Details of 2 referees (academic or professional)
- Valid transcripts for your academic qualifications (and certificates if available)
- Apply at: https://warwick.ac.uk/courseapplication
That’s it!

- Assuming everything was done as discussed, you should hear back in 3 to 4 weeks.
- Additional documentation may be requested as necessary in order for a decision to be made.
Funding opportunities
• Masters and Doctoral loans
  - Paid out by the UK Government
  - Can be used to cover course fees and living costs

• Masters – worth £11,200 a year in 2020
• Doctoral – worth £6,600 a year (for 4 years) in 2020

• More info: Student Finance
UK only

- Department of Psychology Fellowships (PhD only)
  - UK fees and stipend
  - 3 years
  - Can apply with or without an offer already in place
  - More information coming in Spring 2021
International only

- **Chancellor’s International Scholarships (International & EU)**
  - Tuition fees, stipend, and research grant
  - 3.5 years
  - Deadline: 21st January 2021

- **Chinese Scholarship Council Scholarships (China)**
  - Tuition fees, stipend, and UK/China airfare
  - Deadline: 21st January 2021
All students

• **ESRC DTC studentships**
  • Home (UK) fees/up to 30% of international (including EU) fees and stipend
  • Length: 3 or 3.5 years
  • UG/untrained students can apply to the “1+3” scheme – 1-year Social Sciences Master’s, 3-year Psychology PhD
  • Deadline: 26th January 2021
More information

• Doctoral College Scholarship and Funding Opportunities:
  https://warwick.ac.uk/services/dc/schols_fund/scholarships_and_funding/

• Complete International Scholarships list:
  https://warwick.ac.uk/study/international/admissions/finance/scholarships/
Frequently asked questions 1

• Does my first degree have to be in Psychology?
  • No, provided it is particularly relevant to your proposed topic of research AND your supervisor has an active interest in the topic

• When can I start?
  • We are looking mostly at applications for an October 2021 start, but welcome applications for an earlier start provided your prospective supervisor agrees
Timeline - Oct 2021 entry

Jan – Feb 2021: Step 1/2/3
Mar 2021: Step 4
Apr 2021: Step 5
May – June 2021: Decision
Oct 2021: Start!
Timeline - Jan 2022 entry

July - Aug 2021
Step 1/2/3

Sep 2021
Step 4

Oct 2021
Step 5

Nov 2021
Decision

Jan 2022
Start!
What’s the difference between Mphil/PhD and MSc by Research?

- Length and scope
- MSc by Research is a PG research degree
- Students on the full-time MSc by Research are registered for 1 year. Part-time students should expect to be registered for 2 years.
- Thesis length - 40,000 words max (vs 70,000 words max)
- Viva - not required unless examiners consider it necessary (vs a requirement)
Useful contacts

**Postgraduate Office** (Thomas Freeman)
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e-mail: psychpg-admissions@warwick.ac.uk
https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/sci/psych/pgresearch/