

# Postgraduate Study at the University of Bath



## Research degrees

The University of Bath awards various research degrees: Master of Philosophy (MPhil), Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), Doctor of Education (EdD), Doctor of Engineering (EngD), Doctor of Business Administration (DBA), Doctor in Health (DHealth), Master of Surgery (MS) and Doctor of Medicine (MD): the vast majority of research students at Bath register initially for the degree of MPhil and transfer from this to the degree of PhD. Further information about the EdD may be obtained from the Department of Education, about the MS, MD and DHealth degrees from the School for Health, and about the EngD programmes from the Departments of Computer Science and Mechanical Engineering and the School of Management. The DBA is described on page 96 of this prospectus.

## MPhil and PhD degrees

### What is required and how is my work assessed?

In order to be awarded an MPhil or a PhD, you will be expected to carry out supervised research at the leading edge of your chosen subject, which must then be written up as a substantial thesis. The University Regulations require that this thesis must provide 'evidence of originality of mind and critical judgement in a particular subject'; for the degree of PhD to be awarded, it must also contain material which is deemed 'worthy of peer-reviewed publication'. The final stage of the PhD degree is the oral or viva voce examination, in which you will be required to defend the thesis to a Board of Examiners, normally consisting of one examiner from within the University and one from outside. If you submit a thesis for the degree of MPhil, the examiners may choose not to conduct a viva voce examination.

### Supervision

All research students at the University of Bath are allocated supervisors. You will have regular meetings with your supervisors, who will advise you on the directions your research should take, and provide advice on aspects of the production of your thesis, but the ultimate responsibility for deciding when the thesis is ready for submission rests with you.

### Monitoring your progress

There are various procedures in place to ensure that your progress is monitored properly throughout your time as a research student at Bath, including reports composed jointly by students and their supervisors which are then submitted to the Faculty or School Board of Studies.

The University Research Students Committee also monitors research postgraduate progression and completion rates as part of its remit for setting and monitoring the standard of all aspects of postgraduate education within the University.

### Transfer from MPhil to PhD

The transfer from MPhil to PhD is subject to your passing an assessment process, the details of which vary between

Departments, but which normally involves submission of written work and an oral examination. This generally takes place during the second year of study.

### How long will it take?

Depending on whether you are full-time or part-time, the amount of time allowed by the Regulations for the various research degrees is shown in the table below.

Degree	Minimum time allowed	Maximum time allowed
MPhil full-time	1 year	3 years
MPhil part-time	2 years	4 years
PhD full-time	2 years	4 years
PhD part-time	3 years	6 years
EdD/DBA full-time	2 years	5 years
EdD/DBA part-time	3 years	8 years
Integrated PhD full-time	3 years	5 years
Integrated PhD part-time	4 years	8 years
EngD full-time (industrially-based)	2 years	5 years

Once you have completed the necessary research, and provided that you have been registered for the minimum time required by the Regulations, you may, subject to the approval of the Board of Studies, transfer to one of two 'writing-up' statuses. Students who continue to require minimum supervision and continued access to the Library and computing facilities pay the Continuation Fee (£530 pa in 2008-9), and students who require no further supervision and no access to the Library and other facilities pay the Administration Fee (£84 pa in 2008-9).

## The MRes degree and Integrated PhD programmes

The one-year full-time taught MRes course is a valuable and exciting addition to PhD research programmes in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences (where it is recognised by the ESRC within the 1 + 3 research funding scheme), in the School of Management, and in the Faculty of Science, where it is offered under the umbrella of the NewRoutePhD – see [www.newroutephd.ac.uk](http://www.newroutephd.ac.uk). It aims to provide students with an insight into a range of research activities, techniques and skills, enabling them to carry out their subsequent doctoral research as effectively as possible. It is also available as a 'stand-alone' qualification. Department entries in this prospectus indicate whether they offer an Integrated PhD programme.

## Professional doctorates

The portfolio of professional doctorates currently includes the degrees of EdD, DBA, DHealth and EngD. All are defined by placing research of the highest academic quality in the context

# Ede & Ravenscroft Prize 2008

of 'real world' professional practice and reflection, to the enrichment of both. The University is keen to expand this area of work, so do keep an eye on the website for new developments.

## Training for research students

During a research degree, you will acquire lots of generic and transferable skills as well as learning how to do research in your discipline. You will be required to undertake training and development in skills that can be applied to any field of work: there may be courses on communication skills, project management and writing skills, for example. Many of these will be organised by your Department, School or Faculty. Others are offered centrally by the Staff Development Unit, and there are external programmes run by the Research Councils and other bodies. Your supervisor can help you decide which areas you need to work on and help you choose the right training options. If you are involved in teaching, the University provides appropriate training through the Staff Development Unit, some of which is credit-bearing.

Details of many of the courses currently on offer can be accessed from the Staff Development web page: [www.bath.ac.uk/staff-development](http://www.bath.ac.uk/staff-development) as well as via the Graduate Office website.

## Further information

The University has a Code of Practice for Research Students and their Supervisors as part of its Quality Assurance procedures. You can look at it at: [www.bath.ac.uk/learningandteaching/cop](http://www.bath.ac.uk/learningandteaching/cop)

If you would like to look at the Regulations relating to research degrees, please go to the Graduate Office home page at [www.bath.ac.uk/grad-office](http://www.bath.ac.uk/grad-office). Click on "Documents & Publications" and then on "Regulations".

## Taught degrees

The University offers a wide range of taught programmes, most of which lead to the qualification of Master of Arts (MA) or Master of Science (MSc). Some programmes are also available as postgraduate diplomas, certificates, and as stand alone Continuing Professional Development units. The very well-regarded MBA degree is available full-time, or as a part-time Executive MBA. We also offer a PGCE at Secondary and Middle Years levels, which will give you Qualified Teacher Status (QTS), enabling you to teach in all sectors of the education system.

Many of the courses build on the subject-specific work you will have done for your undergraduate qualification, but some, including one of the most popular Masters degrees at Bath – the MSc in Management – are 'conversion' courses designed specifically for candidates who have good undergraduate qualifications in other subjects.

## MRes degrees

A new and exciting development at the University of Bath is the introduction of the degree of Master of Research (MRes). At the time of publication, this degree is available in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, in some Departments in the Faculty of Science and in the School of Management; there are plans to introduce it in other areas. This degree provides a thorough training in research methodology and may be taken as a qualification in its own right, or as part of an integrated PhD programme.

Full-time Masters courses are taken over one year. In most cases you will spend approximately nine months attending taught courses, and the remaining three months researching and writing a dissertation. Part-time Masters degrees generally take two years to complete.

The table on page 3 of this prospectus lists all the taught courses offered at postgraduate level.

Shifaan Thowfeequ, from the Department of Biology and Biochemistry, has been named the winner of the 2008 Ede & Ravenscroft Prize for his research *Towards a Novel Therapy for Diabetes: A Bio-chemist's approach*.

Founded in 1991 and sponsored by the gown maker Ede & Ravenscroft, the prize recognises and rewards outstanding postgraduate research.

Shifaan's prize is a cheque for £800; he and the other finalists – Tom Gundersen, Department of Computer Science; Edward Sells, Department of Mechanical Engineering; and Jens Roehrich, School of Management – each received a certificate and £50 book token.



Shifaan said: "I am very happy to have been awarded the Ede and Ravenscroft Prize. My time at Bath has been a great learning opportunity, and I have really enjoyed being part of a world-class research community at the University."

The Prize Committee considered a long list of twelve students from six academic Departments/Schools. Four finalists were invited to give a short presentation of their research to the Committee and an audience invited from the Bath academic community. In choosing a winner, both documentary evidence and the presentations were considered by the Prize Committee.

Professor Kevin Edge, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research and the Chair of the Ede & Ravenscroft Prize committee said:

"The range of departments and research areas represented in this year's final are a great indication of the breadth and depth of research being carried out at the University by our highly valued PhD students. This year we were particularly impressed by the effort the finalists went to in making often very complex research understandable to a lay audience."

Dr David Tosh, Shifaan's supervisor in the Department of Biology and Biochemistry said: "Shifaan's PhD work has opened up new areas of research for the lab. His results should ultimately help in the development of a treatment for diabetes."

The membership of the Prize Committee for 2008 was:

- Professor K A Edge (Chair), Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research
- Professor A P Graves, Chair, Management of Technology, School of Management and Director of the Innovative Manufacturing Research Centre (IMRC)
- Professor Shasikanta Nandeibam, Department of Economics and International Development.
- Dr Eamonn O'Neill, Senior Lecturer and Director of Studies, Department of Computer Science, and University Research Students Committee member.

For further information, please visit [www.bath.ac.uk/awards/winners/er](http://www.bath.ac.uk/awards/winners/er)