

RESEARCH DEGREES

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)

Master of Philosophy (MPhil)

Masters by Research

Doctorate in Clinical Psychology
(DClinPsychol)

Doctorate of Education (EdD)



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AN OPEN AND WELCOMING RESEARCH CULTURE

Choosing to undertake a research degree is an important decision in your career – whether you are currently in full-time or part-time study, pursuing your chosen career and aiming to boost your potential, or considering a career in academia.

Here at Christ Church we believe in offering full-time and part-time courses that will contribute to your successful career path, and add to your personal and professional skills.

It is important that you get the most from your postgraduate university experience, and the investment that you will be making. So you need to feel confident in your choice and be sure that the university you choose to develop your research skills has the right kind of environment for you to thrive in – with a friendly and supportive research community and supervisors whose interests closely reflect your own.

This prospectus is just an introduction to what we can offer you, but we hope that it gives you a flavour of Canterbury Christ Church University and encourages you to get in touch with us to discuss your interests and options in more detail.



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OUR RESEARCH DEGREES

For over 50 years, Canterbury Christ Church University has been a place which makes a real and positive difference to people's lives, and we've grown into a community with 20,000 students and a rich diversity of academic and professional education. On our Canterbury Campus, we continue a tradition of learning which began with the founding of St Augustine's abbey over 1,400 years ago.

We have a flourishing research community and offer a number of research degrees:

Masters by Research, Master of Philosophy and Doctor of Philosophy are by thesis only.

Doctorate of Education, Doctorate in Clinical Psychology and MSc by Research in Social and Applied Sciences are by thesis and coursework.

What is a research degree?

Essentially a research degree is a training in research, an apprenticeship which leads to a thorough grasp of an area of knowledge and its methodology.

This involves reviewing the literature, coming to an understanding of the theories, models and methods used by relevant academic authorities, and evolving a set of empirical questions within a well-defined area of study. The review, the understanding and the questioning are the basis of your own research.

As a research student, how to ask the questions, what methods to use in answering them and why you take these decisions will be central to you.

Join an active research community

We have a relatively small but friendly and cohesive research student community. Cross-disciplinary discussion is encouraged; and we value the pastoral nature of our supervision.

Quality assurance and standards are managed centrally by our Graduate School, which promotes a supportive academic environment for all our research students and provides a study room exclusively for your use on our Canterbury Campus, complete with full IT facilities and 24-hour secure access.

Specialist supervision within academic Schools, Faculties and research centres is complemented by a cross-disciplinary Researcher Development Programme, which is provided by our Graduate School.

Details of research degrees offered by our individual faculties, schools and research centres can be found at:

www.canterbury.ac.uk/postgraduate-research



RESEARCH DEGREES BY THESIS

The Masters by Research, the MPhil and the PhD degrees differ from taught degrees in that most of their time is devoted to the individual pursuit of a research project which culminates in a written thesis which is examined at the end of the programme.

Masters by Research

One year full-time and two years part-time. A successful thesis will indicate your ability to conduct an independent study and to understand its relationship to a wider field of knowledge.

MPhil

Two years full-time and three years part-time. A successful thesis will demonstrate an appropriate ability to conduct an original investigation, to test ideas, whether your own or those of others, and to understand the relationship of the topic or theme investigated to a wider field of knowledge.

PhD

Three years full-time and five years part-time. The thesis should be an original contribution to knowledge or understanding in the field under investigation. For the PhD all students are initially registered for an MPhil and must demonstrate sufficient ability for upgrade to PhD level half way through the programme.

In each of these degrees you will carry out your individual research projects under the guidance of a supervisor, but it is inherently your own work. You must therefore possess the ability to work independently and be self-disciplined in organising your time effectively throughout the programme. For each student a supervisory panel is appointed, consisting of two supervisors, and a chair, who is normally a Professor or Reader of the University. The first supervisor provides the majority of the supervision and guidance. The whole panel meets with the student at least once a year for a review of work in progress, following which, if the resulting report is satisfactory, registration will continue.

RESEARCH DEGREES BY THESIS AND COURSEWORK

The University also offers a number of research degrees which include credit-bearing coursework as a lead up to the thesis.

Doctorate in Clinical Psychology (DClinPsychol)

This is a three year full-time programme accredited by the British Psychological Society and approved by the Health and Care Professions Council.

For more information see: www.canterbury.ac.uk/clinical-psychology

A small number of places are also available for those wishing to self-fund. Details about applying through this route are available at: www.canterbury.ac.uk/dclinpsy-funding

Doctorate of Education (EdD)

This five year part-time doctoral programme aims to establish a community of reflective and enquiring professionals working together as a supportive team in the development of critical and analytical conceptualisations in professional and research contexts.

www.canterbury.ac.uk/pg/education-doctorate

Masters by Research in Social and Applied Sciences

This one year full-time and two year part-time programme aims to develop researchers who are conceptually aware, who can utilise a range of skills and methods, and who in a multi-disciplinary environment, can practice and develop their own research capabilities, and disseminate that research in a meaningful way.

www.canterbury.ac.uk/pg/social-and-applied-sciences-research

SCHOLARSHIPS

A small number of scholarships are awarded by the University each year for full-time MPhil/PhD students. They cover fees and a maintenance grant and are advertised in early February with a deadline in April. For further information, visit:

www.canterbury.ac.uk/funding-for-postgraduate-degrees

Individual faculties, schools and research centres may also offer scholarships. Information can be found regarding these on the relevant web pages.



“Deciding to study at Christ Church was probably one of the best decisions I have ever made. Having studied here for my BA I decided to stay on and do a Masters by Research. I am lucky enough to be supervised by academics who are not only great teachers, but who are actively engaged in their own research and leading experts in their field. I know that if I need help, no matter how big or small the problem, it will always be available. We have great links with the archives at Canterbury Cathedral and the British Library, Institute of Historical Research and National Archives are only a short train ride away. Canterbury is probably one of the best places to study history, the campus itself is situated on a World Heritage Site, and there is no end of amazing places to explore within the city and the surrounding area.”

Successful MA by Research student, and now a PhD student in History

TESTIMONIALS

“Working full-time and being a part-time post-graduate research student is a challenging experience. I found the Researcher Development Programme accessible and responsive to my situation; it provided access to a research community of students in similar circumstances. The participatory nature of the sessions enabled me to shape my research strategy design and provided opportunities for reflection. All those Saturday sessions were very enjoyable and maintained the momentum of the research process.”

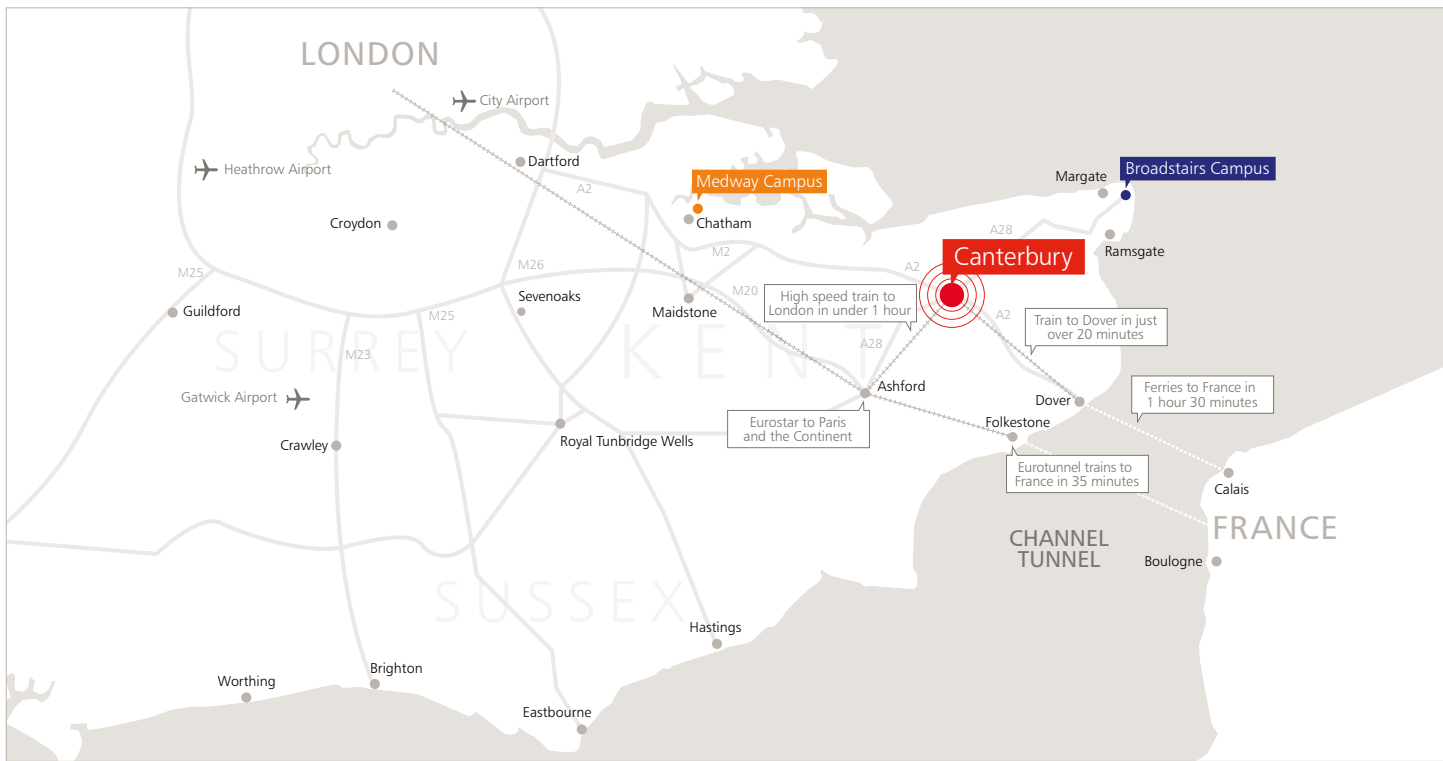
Part-time, self-funded student

“I come from Sofia, the capital of Bulgaria, and first came across Canterbury Christ Church University by a lucky accident. A friend was looking for a university in the UK and I went along to a presentation with her. I hadn't even considered studying abroad, but Christ Church and the city of Canterbury looked attractive and I thought coming here could be a great adventure! Christ Church offered a wide choice of academic courses; the one I chose consisted of modules in areas of life which suited my interests and which I wanted to explore in depth.

I'd studied in a specialised English language high school so of course I'd heard of Canterbury – Chaucer, the Canterbury Tales, the Cathedral, the Archbishop – the rich cultural and historic heritage associated with this place. I had a bit of a fairy-tale imagination of Canterbury and England – the reality lived up to it, though in a contemporary way, of course.”

Final year PhD student in Media and Cultural Studies





STUDYING IN KENT

Kent and the South East of England provide a gateway to the UK and continental Europe, so have much to offer you as a student. We have four campuses in Kent – our Graduate School is based at our Canterbury Campus, but research students can be supported across all of our campuses.

If you're already based in Kent, you'll find us easy to access, but if you are coming from outside the county, or from abroad, you will like to know that most places are only about an hour from London, and our campuses are within easy reach of Europe by train or by sea, and there are several major airports nearby.

The region's accessibility and attractions mean that it is popular with visitors from all over the world. There is a small but very friendly and supportive international community of research students, with the opportunity to make new friends and develop your professional networks, wherever you are from.

Kent offers excellent prospects for your future. There's a thriving business community and plenty of entrepreneurial spirit – many of our graduates (perhaps you're already one of them) choose to stay on here to live and work. With London within easy commuting distance it offers you access to opportunities if you want to work further afield, too.

“Canterbury Christ Church University has proven itself again and again to be a congenial research environment. The admin and academic staff have been friendly, professional and supportive, but I would also have to say that the support staff have been super all the way along, always ready to help. This is an excellent place to do research, and only an hour away from London!”

Full-time, International Scholarship student

ABOUT US

Investing in your future

You are investing a great deal in your future – and so are we.

Multi-million pound developments in recent years have ensured that you'll have access to the most up-to-date library and IT facilities at Augustine House, which also houses our student support services.



Canterbury welcomes students

Canterbury is a busy and attractive city – one of the best known in Britain. Each year over two and a half million tourists come to visit its world famous cathedral and discover the city for themselves. The city centre is full of historic buildings and with its shops, restaurants and bars offers you a great lifestyle, with everything in walking distance. It is surrounded by beautiful countryside and charming villages, and seaside towns are close by.



St George's Centre

Situated right in the city centre our brand new student accommodation gives students the chance to live, study and socialise in the heart of historic Canterbury. It combines excellent living space and facilities with easy access to the campus, the high street and transport links.

This £15 million building is not only home to some 200+ students, but a bar, coffee lounge and our Students' Union. St George's Centre is the leading building for student welfare, support and high profile student events, such as Freshers' Week.

We built St George's, one of the first multi-million pound Students' Union buildings with a city centre location, in collaboration with our Students' Union, ensuring our students' needs were at the centre of this development.

St Gregory's Centre

This beautiful, 19th century building was transformed in 2012 to create an international centre for music education and performance.

Situated just across the road from our Canterbury Campus, St Gregory's seats 150, and has been designed to enhance the experience of both the audience and the performer.

Our talented students regularly perform here, and the University's longstanding relationships with artists of international standing including Sir Peter Maxwell Davies, the Maggini Quartet and John Harle, provide exciting opportunities to see world class acts within a City Centre venue, while enabling our students to gain unique insight into professional artistic practice.

Sports Centre

Christ Church Sports Centre has plenty on offer including a multi-station fitness suite, sports hall, exercise studio and climbing wall. There's something for everyone.



Environmental responsibility

Our new buildings are all designed and built with energy and water efficiency in mind – making use of new technologies to help us achieve our carbon reduction target of nearly 50% by 2020.

The work continues. We are also part of national schemes run by the National Union of Students; our students in University accommodation at Canterbury and Broadstairs have been taking part in the Student SwitchOff energy saving scheme, and our participation in the Green Impact Universities scheme means our staff and students are helping to improve environmental performance across the University.

Travel and transport

We have made major changes to how our staff and students travel around our campuses. Investment in cycle racks, lockers and shower facilities as well as a new look at how we use on-campus parking are all helping to reduce traffic levels and pollution. With campuses across the county a lot of staff and students travel regularly, so to help them reduce their impact on the environment and save money, we are part of a Kent-wide car share scheme; 5SHARE, and we run easily accessible, free shuttle services between our sites in Canterbury. We work closely with local councils to make sure our developments support their plans to benefit the whole community.

Fairtrade and locally sourced

Because we value everyone's contribution both to our local and global communities, we want to ensure fair treatment for all. Since 2007 we've had full Fairtrade University Status and we encourage our students and staff to buy Fairtrade products wherever possible.

All our cafes serve Fairtrade coffee, so whether you are an early-bird or a night-owl you will know that all-important first cup of the day is guaranteed to have been part of helping producers get a better deal for themselves and their families. Other Fairtrade products like tea, hot chocolate and confectionery are also available widely and the Bookshop's range of clothing is made from certified Fairtrade cotton.

As well as the Fairtrade range, the Touchdown cafés at Canterbury, Broadstairs and Medway serve food based on locally sourced, seasonal ingredients prepared on site, helping to reduce food miles.

Supporting part-time study

Part-time students have always been a big part of life at the University – with a large number across our campuses choosing to combine work and study at all levels. We have a particular interest in part-time research students for our Masters by Research, MPhil, PhD and EdD degrees. Over the years we have developed an excellent record in working with research students who also have significant work and/or family commitments. Many of our supervisors have successfully completed their own research degrees part-time, so would understand your particular needs as a part-time student. Supervision by email is considered a real and effective alternative when face to face meetings are not possible.

Our Researcher Development Programme also has repeat sessions in the evenings and at weekends and web-based material, including recordings of sessions. All sessions are designed to be picked up in any order and when convenient to you.



“I’m in my fourth year now – and as well as my research I’ve discovered I also enjoy teaching undergraduates. As a postgraduate research student you have to do about fifty hours a year – you get training! But, really, nothing prepares you for the first time you stand in front of a class of students. It’s something I really enjoy now, particularly when I get a chance to lecture in my own area. I used some subliminal messaging in one of my lectures – my students were quite surprised at how it worked when I debriefed them at the end!”

PhD Scholarship student in Psychology

Part-time international students

Our welcome to part-time students extends to international students who are able to study away from the UK. There is a minimum attendance of one visit per year (not during the July-August vacation period), with other attendance agreed by your supervisory panel, and a local mentor may also be employed to enhance your supervision. You will, though, find it essential to have access to sufficient internet capability for email supervision and access to our e-library.



“It’s an incredible place to study. Not many Universities are on a World Heritage Site with access to Cathedral archives. And the British Library and National Archives are only a train-ride away. I’ve been taught by lecturers leading in their field, I’ve been able to go to live archaeological digs, and the History Department sits opposite one of the oldest churches in the country.

As a disabled student I’ve had different types of support – a scribe to help with note-taking is just one example. The scribe I worked with for the last few years of my degree was also interested in what I was studying, which really helped. It feels almost as though you’re doing it together that way.

One of the things I’ve found about Christ Church is that if you raise issues, you’re listened to, more than at some other universities I’ve visited. It is part of the way it works here – there’s a real sense of community. Things come up, but if you talk about them sensibly, you’re listened to, and they get dealt with.”

Successful MA by Research student,
and now First year PhD student in History

Researcher Development Programme

The Graduate School offers a dedicated Researcher Development Programme (RDP) as well as facilitating a wide range of development and skills training opportunities for all research students.

You will be encouraged to take advantage of the many accessible opportunities that are currently available and to take responsibility for ensuring that you accumulate a broad portfolio of high quality research related skills and experience. These activities are designed to provide ongoing support for individual research, and are aimed at enhancing your personal, professional and career skills to a very high level. The RDP supports the ongoing acquisition of discipline-specific research expertise with a range of broader interpersonal, reflexive, critical thinking and project management skills. It emphasises the value of multi-, cross- and interdisciplinarity as a means of enhancing the mobility and employability opportunities for new researchers within the European Higher Education area. The RDP engenders the value of interdisciplinary research networking and team working as a means of encouraging cross-cultural competence in research contexts. All students have the opportunity to present their research to peers or in research events once per year.

The core programme comprises three courses of 20 hours each in Research Theory and Design, Accessing Evidence and Analysis, and Towards an Academic Life. There are also two optional 20-hour courses specialising in qualitative and quantitative research.

PGRA (Postgraduate Research Association)

The PGRA is an active and enthusiastic society run by the students themselves. They meet regularly and are involved in liaising with various student service departments within the University on behalf of research students.

The PGRA arranges a series of seminars in which research students are invited to present to peers within a ‘safe’ environment. It is also responsible for the annual Research Student Conference in June. All are interdisciplinary events which encourage learning and exchange of views across subject areas.

All research students are also eligible to join the clubs and societies of the Students’ Union.

MAKING AN APPLICATION FOR A RESEARCH DEGREE AT CCCU

(Applications for Research Degrees by Thesis & Coursework should be made directly to the school or faculty)

1. YOUR IDEA



Think about how you will present your idea in your proposal and read as much as possible around your subject area. Time and care taken at this stage will be more likely to result in an offer.

2. CHOOSE YOUR SUBJECT AREA



Find the subject area that relates to your topic.
www.canterbury.ac.uk/postgraduate-research-areas

3. CONTACT A POTENTIAL SUPERVISOR



Within that subject area find an academic who has an interest in the relevant field and make contact with them to discuss your proposed research. Send them a very brief resume of your topic rather than lots of documents or lengthy proposals.

4. FINALISE THE PROPOSAL



Use the template provided for your subject area available to download here:
www.canterbury.ac.uk/postgraduate-research-how-to-apply
This includes intended area of research, core research questions, possible methodologies and how you intend to complete the research in the available time. Please be aware that there are different proposals forms for different programmes of study.

5. APPLY



To apply for a research degree you will need your research proposal (in the correct format), 2 recent academic references (you will need to contact the referees), transcripts and certificates for your highest qualification as well as the online application form.
www.canterbury.ac.uk/postgraduate-research-how-to-apply

6. FUNDING



Please ensure that you have considered how you are going to fund your research degree. Information about potential funding can be found here:
www.canterbury.ac.uk/funding-for-postgraduate-research-degrees

7. TIME BETWEEN APPLICATION AND REGISTRATION



Under normal circumstances, the time taken between submitting the application to the Graduate School and getting registered will take three months for applicants who need a Tier-4 visa, and six weeks for home and EU applicants. Applications are sent to the appropriate academic school who interview short-listed candidates. This is a highly selective and very competitive process. The Graduate School then writes offer letters to successful candidates. The University usually registers Research Degrees by Thesis students near the beginning of the Michaelmas and Lent terms.

If you require this publication in an alternative format,
please contact the Graduate School.

We would welcome any feedback you may have about this prospectus,
by writing to: The Graduate School, Canterbury Christ Church University,
North Holmes Road, Canterbury, Kent CT1 1QU

Telephone: +44 (0)1227 782701 Email: graduateschool@canterbury.ac.uk

The information in this prospectus relates to Canterbury Christ Church University and to its research degree programmes whether offered on a part-time or full-time basis. It is intended for use by prospective students; but we hope that others, such as employers, careers advisers and educational professionals might find it of interest and use. Every effort has been made to make the information as accurate as possible.

Canterbury Christ Church University reserves the right to alter or discontinue any course or programme or to amend other information without notice. The University undertakes to take all reasonable steps to provide the educational services set out in this prospectus and the further documents describing the content, teaching and assessment of courses which students will receive when they begin their studies. It does not guarantee the provision of these services but, should circumstances beyond the control of the University interfere with its ability to provide the educational services described, the University undertakes to minimise the effects of this interference. The University reserves the right to change course details and other information included in this prospectus without notice.

The information used in this prospectus is believed to have been correct at the time of publication. January 2016.

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