

APPLICATION FOR PRELIMINARY ENTRY TO A RESEARCH DEGREE (MPhil / PhD)

DEADLINE FOR FALMOUTH DOCTORAL STUDENTSHIPS APPLICATIONS DUE 17th JULY 2017, BY 17:00 (GMT).

Applications received after this date will not be considered.

Guidelines for completing the Application Form

Section A

1. Personal details

Please complete this section as fully as possible.

2. Residency status

This section is very important for assessing your tuition fee status, and will be used to assess your eligibility for any studentship that you intend to apply for. If you have not been ordinarily resident in the UK or EEA for the three years preceding 1st September 2017, you would normally be liable for the University's Overseas tuition fee rate, which is higher than the fee charged to Home or EU students.

Section B

1. Personal Details

2. Intended mode of study

Please state here whether you intend to study for your research degree full or part time.

3. Studentship

Please indicate which of the advertised studentships you are applying for.

4. English Language proficiency

If English is not your first language, you will normally need to demonstrate that you are suitably proficient in English before we can enrol you in the Research Degrees Programme. You can do this by providing evidence of one of the following:

- A recent Falmouth-approved English Language Test (ELT) score which meets the University's requirements for the Research Degrees Programme: either an IELTS minimum overall test result score of 7.0 with a 7.0 in writing and with no other component score lower than 6.0; or an equivalent test score;
- Recent completion of an MA (Distinction only) level course of study in a majority English-speaking country.

By 'recent' we mean that your English Language Test score or MA level qualification needs to have been awarded no more than 2 years prior to 1st September 2017. We cannot normally accept evidence that is older than this. You may submit an application for a place on the Research Degrees Programme before you have obtained your IELTS or equivalent test score, or before you have received your MA certificate, but if you are offered a place then you would need to provide evidence of having satisfied this condition before we can enrol you.

Each applicant is assessed on an individual basis and if you are offered a place on the Research Degrees Programme, then depending on your level of English language proficiency as demonstrated through your application form and interview, we will let you know whether we would require a new IELTS result before you can begin your PhD studies. Please note that we cannot accept TOEFL test results for this purpose.

If English is not your first language, please indicate on your application form if you have not yet fulfilled the English language proficiency requirements as stated above; if you are offered a place on the Research Degrees Programme then you will need to provide evidence of having done so before you can enrol.

5a. Proposed study – project details

Although the project title and high level aims of studentship projects have been decided in advance, the qualification of PhD requires that it is you who will be making a significant and original contribution to knowledge. It is therefore important that you provide a clear account of your response to the challenge your studentship outlines. This will be used as the basis for discussion at your interview.

The schematic outline below is a guide to the headings you need to address in your proposal. Some, like the section on theoretical context, may be open to a very wide range of approaches and interpretations and may not – especially in a mainly theoretical based proposal – be really distinguished from the historical or contemporary context. Others, like the survey of the contemporary context, are essential to all submissions.

- **Title:** In the case of advertised studentship projects, your project title will have been decided in advance
- **Subject Area, Aims and Objectives:** Within the scope of the studentship you are applying for, please identify what you feel the main concerns of the investigation will be, including a set of aims and objectives that will guide your research. After defining your subject, you might find it helpful to think about the main concerns of the project as questions you are asking yourself, to which you hope to find the answer.
- **Historical Context:** There is no single history that suits all investigations but you should identify the various strands of history that relate to your particular

research. It may be a history of ideas and concepts that have influenced the development of a particular area of art and design, the history of the medium or technology in which you work, or a particular part of the history of Art or Design.

- **Contemporary Context:** As far as you are able, please define the contemporary work that relates to your field of investigation.

You must do this for the following reasons:

- i. to demonstrate that you are aware of the field in which you are working.
- ii. to demonstrate that your proposed research will have distinct feature which will make it potentially original.
- iii. to form the basis of links with other research work to which you will contribute or on which you will build.

- **Methodology:** Within the scope of the studentship you are applying for, please outline both the methods you intend to use and the rationale for these methods as being appropriate for the pursuit of your research aims. You may find it helpful to think about the following:

- try to describe the basic methods and procedures you will adopt in discovering and recording research information
- if your research is practice-based, how does theory relate to your practical work?
- how will you record what you do and keep track of what you have done?
- How will you evaluate your findings?

- **Ethical Dimensions of the Research:** If you consider there are ethical considerations that need to be taken into account then you should address them briefly now. There is a comprehensive ethical approval process at Falmouth, which is intended to safeguard researchers, participants and others on whom the proposed research might impact, directly or indirectly. If you are offered a place at Falmouth then you will address any ethical issues formally when you apply to register your research proposal in your first year. In broad terms, the University expects all research to respect participants' rights (commercial, intellectual and civil, dignity (including privacy and confidentiality), safety and wellbeing.

A Research Ethics Information Pack can be downloaded from <http://www.falmouth.ac.uk/phd> under the Downloads tab of the course page.

- 5b. Indicative Bibliography:** List the main reference works which you will use for your research (no more than 500 words). These may be films, paintings, TV programmes, curated collections or websites as well as books or journal articles. Citations must be consistent and adopt a recognised standard system, for example, Harvard (with or without footnotes) or Numeric.

6. Supplementary Material

In addition to your application form, and at the same time, you will need to submit some additional documents and material. These include a CV (3 pages maximum), evidence of your English language qualifications (if you do not have a degree from a UK institution), a sample of critical writing (3000 words maximum), and, where relevant, evidence of your ability to undertake the practice-led research you are proposing (e.g. a DVD, portfolio, links to website, reviews, catalogue, etc.).

These additional items will need to be attached to your email when you submit your application form to research@falmouth.ac.uk.

Please note that no other supplementary material will be considered by the studentship selection panel (e.g. an extended proposal or personal statement/covering letter or essays/theses over 3000 words).

7. Academic qualifications

A master's degree in an appropriate subject is considered to be a particularly valuable preparation for a research degree, although the normal minimum entry requirement for a research degree is an upper second class honours degree of a British University or recognised institution of higher education. Please make sure that you outline clearly your previous and current academic qualifications and attach copies of certificates or transcripts wherever possible. If you do not know the result of a course you are currently taking, please also indicate when you expect to know and what result you are expecting. If your course was undertaken overseas then please state clearly the name of the course (in the original language) and provide as much information as possible about the institution (including the country where the qualification was undertaken). Wherever possible Falmouth will endeavour to compare your overseas qualification in relation to the UK academic requirements to study a higher degree however there may be instances where we will require your qualifications and transcripts to be formally translated.

8. Employment history

Please provide details of your relevant employment history in the table provided in **8a**, listing the most recent ones first. The University will consider all relevant information provided here when assessing applications, but it is particularly important to provide as much information here as possible if you do not meet the minimum academic qualifications as outlined above. If you are currently employed by Falmouth University of the Arts London in any capacity, please provide details in **8b**.

9. Other relevant experience

Please provide details here of any other relevant experience which you have not already included in your application. If you do not meet the minimum academic qualification requirements outlined above then the University will also take into account any other relevant experience that you have when assessing your application. You may provide here details of any publications, exhibitions, teaching, research or other professional experience that you consider to be directly relevant to your application.

10. References

As detailed on the application form, two references are required. It is your responsibility to ensure that the references are provided to us by 17:00 (GMT) on Monday 17th July 2017. Referees must use the separate Academic Reference for a Research Degree at Falmouth form and return their completed form to research@falmouth.ac.uk