

RESEARCH DEGREE PROPOSAL & APPLICATION GUIDANCE NOTES 2025-26

DEADLINE: 25 May 2025, 17:00

Applications received after this date will not be considered.

If you have any questions regarding an application, please contact the Postgraduate Research team on pgr@falmouth.ac.uk or 01326 255831.

Guidelines for completing the online Research Degree Application Form

1. Personal details

Please complete this section as fully as possible.

i) A bit more about you

Please complete this section regarding your nationality and residence status as fully as possible. 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/EU for the three years preceding 1st September 2025, you would normally be liable for the University's Overseas tuition fee rate, but this will be waived for this studentship. Please note that the student must be based in the UK for the duration of the studentship, and international students would be required to be available in-person in Falmouth on a weekly basis.

We encourage the widest range of potential students to study for this studentship and welcome prospective students from different backgrounds to apply. We particularly welcome applications from people of Global Majority backgrounds as they are currently underrepresented at this level in this area.

2. Contact Details

Please provide your permanent residential address. If you have another address which you would prefer that we contact you on, please add that at in the 'Contact Address' section. If you are due to relocate to the area, you can update your address later, so use your current residence.

3. Other Details

Please complete this section as fully as possible. The question marks at the end of the boxes offer additional help text to assist you with your answers if you are unsure about the question.

i) Marketing Data

It is useful for us to know how you found out about the studentship here at Falmouth. Please select the most relevant category using the drop-down menu.

4. Qualifications and experience

Applicants need to either have (or expect to shortly complete) a relevant Masters-level qualification, or demonstrate they have equivalent experience in a professional setting. This equivalent experience might include, for example, artist residencies, jobs involving research, creative industry work, or higher level volunteer roles. Essentially, applicants need to demonstrate in their application that they have the required level of research skills to undertake work at PhD level.

The practice-based element of the studentship is open to the student to shape but should focus on participatory and/or co-created digital/immersive/augmented media. While some developmental support may be available, applicants must possess the requisite technical

knowledge and skill in their creative discipline to be able to deliver their proposed practice-based element.

Applicants must be able to demonstrate an interest in the heritage sector and potential and enthusiasm for developing skills more widely in related areas. Please make sure that you outline clearly any previous and current academic qualifications and upload copies of certificates or transcripts wherever possible. If you do not know the result of a course you are currently taking, you can indicate when you expect to know and what result you are expecting.

i) English Language Qualifications

If English is your first language you only need to select 'Yes' from the drop-down menu here. If English isn't your first language you will be asked a further two questions, first relating to previous study, and secondly regarding an English Language test.

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 two years prior to the date that you would first enrol at Falmouth. 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.

Place and mode of study

This research studentship is one allocated to Historic England by the AHRC. The successful student will be expected to spend time carrying out research and gaining relevant experience with the partner in an agreed Historic England location as part of the studentship. Historic England has offices in York, Manchester, Newcastle, Birmingham, Cambridge, London, Swindon, Bristol, and Portsmouth.

The successful candidate will be encouraged to participate in professional development events and activities organised for all Collaborative Doctoral Partnership students who are registered with different universities and studying with cultural and heritage organisations across the UK. These activities are organised by a coordination team based at the V&A and are designed to provide CDP researchers with the knowledge, networks, and skills to thrive in their future careers.

Students are welcome to be based anywhere in the UK: however, they should be able to be present in Falmouth for at least four weeks of each year. International students are required to check in regularly on campus to comply with immigration rules.

To be classed as a home student, candidates must meet the following criteria:

- Be a UK or Irish National (meeting residency requirements), or
- Have settled status, or
- Have pre-settled status (meeting residency requirements), or
- Have indefinite leave to remain or enter

Further guidance can be found here based on revisions to Training Grant Terms and Conditions for projects starting in October 2025 www.ukri.org/publications/policy-statement-review-of-the-training-grant-conditions

All applicants must meet UKRI terms and conditions for funding. See: <https://www.ukri.org/funding/information-for-award-holders/grant-terms-and-conditions/>

International students are eligible to receive the full award for maintenance as are home students. The University will waive overseas tuition fees for the purposes of this studentship.

Distance learning overseas online applicants:

As a collaborative award, students will be expected to spend time at Historic England locations as agreed with the HE supervisory team. Distance learning online applicants do not qualify for a student visa to enter the UK and so we cannot offer this studentship via this mode.

5. Experience (and Employment)

Please provide details of any relevant employment history, listing the most recent ones first. If you are currently employed by Falmouth University in any capacity, please provide details in this section.

Please also provide details here of any other relevant experience which you have not already included in your application. We would particularly like to hear about your experience and interest in the heritage sector. 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.

You will also be invited to upload your full CV: please do so.

6. Research Proposal

i) Are you currently employed by Falmouth University?

Please use the drop-down menu to answer this question. If you are employed by Falmouth University in any capacity, please answer 'yes'.

ii) Proposed supervisor

If you are applying to a specific project outline advertised by Falmouth there will be a proposed supervisor indicated in the project outline information, and you can use their name here.

iii) Proposed project title / Studentship title

If you are applying to a specific doctoral project brief advertised by the University, which has a title included, please include that title here.

For this particular brief, we are not requesting a research proposal. Instead, where the application form in the MyFalmouth portal invites you to submit a research proposal, we ask that in this section applicants upload a supporting document in which they have provided responses to the following questions:

- 1) Bearing in mind the aims and scope of this studentship, please tell us (in no more than 500 words) what you think are the most important challenges in the heritage sector in England with respect to inclusive audiences. Please illustrate your answer using your knowledge of academic literature, heritage policy, and/or your own experience.
- 2) Our suggested methodology and research questions are outlined in the brief. In no more than 500 words, please give us any ideas on how you might go about delivering this. Please let us know your ideas for the creative practice part of the case study. You may want to consider the following:
 - How might you go about answering the research questions using your chosen practice?
 - What sort of output might you produce?
 - What ethical issues do you think you might encounter?
 - What other practical or technical issues might you need to account for?

iv) Indicative bibliography

As part of your supporting documentation in the **Research Proposal** tab, please list the main reference works which you think will inform your research (no more than one page of A4). These may be books or journal articles, films, paintings, TV programmes, curated collections or websites.

v) Further supporting Documents

If you have visual evidence that is applicable to your research and application, you can also upload that information in the **Supporting Documents** section. You may also provide a URL for audio or video pieces (5 minutes maximum).

7. Passport and Visa

Please fill in your passport details here. If you are unable to provide them, you will have another opportunity after you have submitted your application.

You will also be asked in this section whether you require a visa to study in the UK. Please provide details as requested.

8. Fees and funding

This studentship allocated by Historic England by the AHRC. When asked about your Source of Funding, please select 'Research Council' and include that it is 100% funded.

9. Submission

Here you are asked to confirm your submission via a declaration. **YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO CHANGE YOUR APPLICATION ONCE YOU HAVE SUBMITTED IT.**

10. After submission of your online application form

i) References

Once you have submitted your online application you will receive a message in your Applicant Portal requesting you **to nominate** on a *Research Referee Nomination Form* **either two academic referees or one academic referee and one referee from outside academia** who is relevant to paid or voluntary roles you may have held in the heritage sector. This message will appear in your portal **one working day** following submission of your online application. The nomination form is downloadable via the link in the message you receive in your Applicant Portal.

It is your responsibility to ensure that the references are provided to us by 17:00 (GMT) on 1st June 2025 at the latest, one week following the application deadline, otherwise we will be unable to process your application further.

Following submission of your *Research Referee Nomination Form* in the portal, you will need to send your two nominated referees the separate *Academic Reference for a Research Degree at Falmouth* form (also downloadable from the link in your applicant portal message) and ask them to return their completed referee form to pgr@falmouth.ac.uk. These **MUST** be sent to us direct from the referee and not from yourself. Please also be aware that the downloadable forms will be available **one working day** after you have submitted your online form.

Your two referees are asked to use their professional judgement to comment on the following points (this should not be a general character reference):

- your academic work undertaken, and or past professional experience;
- your previous performance and achievements in relation to your research degree; proposal (a copy of which you should send to them when sending them the reference form);
- your preparedness for doctoral study;

iii) Next steps

Following submission of your application, and references, the next step in the process is the shortlisting review, where each application is reviewed by subject specialists, and then taken to the Research Degrees Committee for final shortlisting. Interviews will take place on **4th June**.