

UNIVERSITY of
STIRLING



REDEFINE

WITH
RESEARCH

DOCTORAL STUDIES WITH
THE FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCE

REDEFINE AT STIRLING

WELCOME TO THE FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

We are delighted that you are considering postgraduate research within the Faculty of Social Sciences.

As a world-leading research environment, our Faculty will provide you with a critical space in which to address the many challenges arising from political, economic, social, cultural, environmental and technological changes in society.

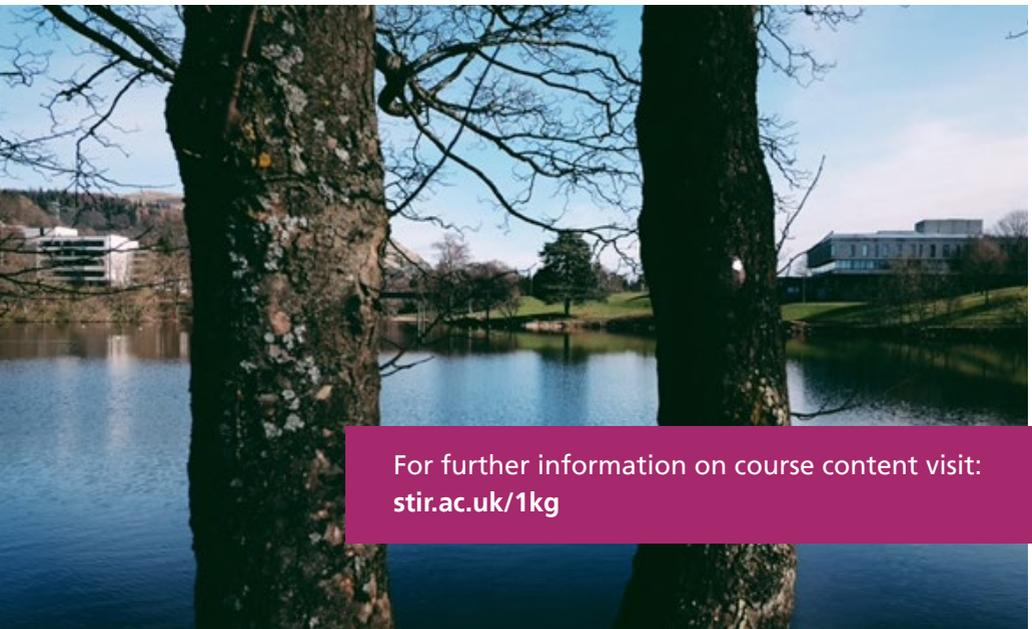
Being a student within the Faculty also means that your research will be supervised by world-leading academics, with strong and established research records, and a wealth of world-class publications. In addition, you will have access to invaluable training and development opportunities and be rapidly integrated into our strong and supportive research community.

OUR EXPERTISE

The Faculty has an international reputation for its research in child well-being and protection, crime and justice, dementia and ageing, education studies, public services and governance and social surveys and social statistics.

The research based within the Faculty has application to global developments and is methodologically innovative across subject areas.

The Faculty also hosts, works in partnership and collaborates with a number of research centres and networks: **The Centre for Child Wellbeing and Protection (CCWP)**, **Dementia Services Development Centre (DSDC)**, **ProPEL: Professional Practice, Education and Learning**, the **Salvation Army Centre for Addiction Services and Research**, the **Scottish Centre for Crime and Justice Research** and the **Stirling Network for Curriculum Studies**.



For further information on course content visit:
stir.ac.uk/1kg

DOCTORAL PROGRAMMES

We recognise that every applicant for a PhD is unique in terms of aspirations and starting point. It is very important that you choose the right PhD route for you based on your experience and circumstances. The Faculty of Social Sciences offers PhD supervision across a range of disciplines including: Sociology, Social Policy, Criminology, Education, Social Work, Housing Studies, Dementia Studies and related disciplines.

PHD BY RESEARCH

stir.ac.uk/19j

A PhD by research is considered to be the standard route to a doctorate. Study can be full-time (typically 3 years) or part-time (typically 6 years).

The programme is designed to enable you to research a topic in depth with the support of expert supervision. Your thesis is expected to make a substantial original contribution to knowledge in the field, with the potential to generate peer-reviewed publications. You will undertake your research under the guidance of a supervisory team, comprising a principal supervisor and a second supervisor (who may be from a different discipline if appropriate).

In addition to the range of PhD supervision referenced above, we also offer students the opportunity to conduct research in a world-class and interdisciplinary school with strong links to theoretical, empirical, policy and practice developments.

PHD BY PUBLICATION

stir.ac.uk/19j

This route varies from the traditional PhD in that the final thesis comprises four to six published research papers interlinked by a contextualised narrative but within the standard limit of 80,000 words. The papers may include journal articles, chapters, monographs and books, and the majority of these must be published or accepted for publication within the PhD registration period. All other aspects of the programme (supervision, involvement, length, cost and support) are the same as the traditional thesis route.

PHD TESOL RESEARCH

stir.ac.uk/18b

The PhD TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) Research is a unique programme, offered at the University of Stirling. This ground-breaking programme will develop your research skills to a professional level, which is characteristic of a PhD degree, and support your learning through seven modules, a feature of taught doctorates. Your learning will be facilitated by tutors who have extensive expertise in TESOL, research methods and/or educational theories. If you are interested in investigating language use, teaching and/or learning, this PhD programme is for you.

DOCTOR OF EDUCATION (EdD)

stir.ac.uk/w9

The Doctorate in Education (EdD) is an innovative inter-disciplinary programme, offered as either a full or part-time opportunity. Modules are taught on a face-to-face and blended basis. Summative assessment for modules will be based on coursework and will be assessed through assignments. The programme comprises seven core taught modules, followed by the conduct of an empirical study focused on an aspect of professional practice and the production of a doctoral thesis.

DOCTORATE OF APPLIED SOCIAL RESEARCH (DASR)

stir.ac.uk/8g

As a Doctor of Applied Social Research student in the Faculty of Social Sciences, you will follow a programme of study that will allow you to develop your skills as a researcher before working with experienced supervisors on the conduct of an original piece of research. The programme is designed to change the way you think as a professional. It is expected that you will be able to make a significant difference to your professional environment from the very beginning of the programme. Ideas and methods from a range of disciplines will be applied to your own fields of expertise. The DASR Programme offers six professional pathways through which candidates are able to take a tailored route through their studies: Housing; Social Work; Criminal Justice; Dementia Studies; Applied Social Research; Social Statistics.

DISTINCTIVE FEATURES

Postgraduate Research (PGR) students within the Faculty of Social Sciences are teamed with two academic supervisors, the staff members that you are most likely to have the most contact with. You will also be allocated a PGR Tutor, who will help you to develop networks and links with our Faculty's research groups and our wider research environment.

As a doctoral student in the Faculty, you will receive advanced training, which includes presentation and critical engagement skills through our fortnightly postgraduate seminars. You will also be encouraged to contribute to the Faculty's annual doctoral training conference and participate in regular social theory reading groups. Guidance and support on writing for publication (through peer mentoring, specialist courses and writers' retreats); and further training on project management and the doctoral research process will be provided via the Stirling Graduate School:

stir.ac.uk/graduateschool

You will also have access to advanced discipline and research methods training, work with peer and senior mentors and be supported to develop work for publication, present work to peers and at international conferences. You will also be given the opportunity to engage with the policy makers and practitioners to maximise impact of your research.

The Postgraduate Society enables students from all areas of the University of Stirling to meet one another. The society aims to run many social events to make this easier. Currently, there are weekly lunch meet-ups, coffee and chats, as well as pub trips and larger social events.

The Faculty is home to a vibrant and diverse community of academics and postgraduate students, where creative thinking and independent spirit is both promoted and celebrated. Conversations that foster thought-provoking questions can regularly be heard around the Colin Bell Building, a state-of-the-art office and research space purpose built to promote research and interaction. This building, named after our renowned late Principal, forms the hub of our exciting Faculty.





You can find out more about
funding opportunities at:
stir.ac.uk/scholarships

“

I found completing a doctorate to be challenging but incredibly stimulating and motivating. It was a fantastic experience to be part of an academic research community at Stirling and to have access to supervisors and other academic staff who are internationally renowned researchers and academics in their fields. I found that my thinking was challenged in ways which has helped me make sense of my professional context and to be able to make a valuable contribution in my areas of interest - academically and professionally. The doctorate is more than the end goal - the journey should be savoured and appreciated! ”

NEAL MCGOWAN



“

I'm doing a doctorate for personal reasons and not in order to become a researcher or work at a University as I already do so. Now in my third year as a part-time student, my appreciation of what research is and my research skills have improved tremendously. I've also met a fantastic group of people including my erudite and inspirational supervisor. Most of all, my doctoral studies have helped me to make sense of the field I've been working in for nearly 15 years by furthering my understanding of both the complex relationships within and outside it. ”

EMMA GUION AKDAG



For further information on course content
visit: stir.ac.uk/1kg

ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

Candidates for the **Doctorate of Applied Social Research** should normally have, as a minimum:

- An upper second class Honours degree or Masters degree in a relevant social science from a UK university or equivalent.
- Two years professional experience in a related field.
- A minimum level of IELTS 6.5 (6.0 in all bands), or equivalent.

Candidates for the **Education Doctorate** should normally have, as a minimum:

- An upper second class Honours degree or Masters degree in Education or cognate subject from a UK university or equivalent.
- Candidates with learning gained through extensive relevant professional experience may be considered for admission.
- A minimum level of IELTS 6.5 (6.0 in all bands), or equivalent.

Candidates for the **PhD by research or PhD by publication** should normally have, as a minimum:

- An upper second class Honours degree in a relevant social science from a UK university or equivalent. Or, substantial equivalent experience in undertaking research.
- We also ask you to submit a proposal for your intended research. We can provide feedback on proposals before the official application stage.
- A minimum level of IELTS 7 (6.5 in each of the skills), or equivalent.

START DATES

Applied Social Research Doctorate	January or September
Education Doctorate	January or September
PhD by research or PhD by publication	1 January, 1 April, 1 July or 1 October

STUDY METHOD

PhD programmes can be studied full-time (typically 3 years) or part-time (typically 6 years).

APPLICATION PROCESS

Candidates follow three steps when applying for a research degree at the University of Stirling:

1. A research overview and research proposal that can be explored collaboratively with a prospective supervisor.
2. Identifying a supervisor using our **Find a Supervisor Tool**.
3. Once your supervisor has agreed to consider your research idea they will work with you to finalise your research proposal.

Complete details of this can be found at: stir.ac.uk/postgraduate/research-degrees

FUNDING

For information on possible sources of funding, visit: stir.ac.uk/scholarships

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Photography: For a list of photographers who have contributed to the University of Stirling photo library, contact: marketingtools@stir.ac.uk

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