REDEFINE

YOUR FUTURE

DOCTORAL STUDIES WITH
THE FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
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.

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 service and governance, social survey 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/social-sciences/postgraduateresearch
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 be a substantial original contribution to knowledge in the field, with the potential to generate peer-reviewed publications. You will undertake your research under the supervision of a supervisory team, comprising a principal supervisor and a second supervisor (who may be from a different discipline if appropriate).

We currently offer PhD supervision across a range of disciplines, including Sociology, Social Policy, Criminology, Social Work, Housing Studies, Dementia Studies, Education and related disciplines. 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 IN TESOL RESEARCH
stir.ac.uk/18b
The PhD in 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.

APPLIED SOCIAL RESEARCH (MRes)

This MRes programme has a core of modules in generic research skills, plus specialist disciplinary modules covering subject areas such as Social Sciences, Film, Media and Journalism, Management, Nursing, Midwifery and Health and Sports Studies. Teaching methods are designed to facilitate your acquisition of skills and progressive development. Students are expected to participate in lectures, seminars, tutorials, computer-based workshops and group work. Assessments include essays, critical review essays, book reviews, research proposals, a computer lab-based assessment for quantitative data analysis and a research dissertation.

EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH (MRes)

The course is designed to meet the Economic and Social Research Council’s requirements for broad knowledge, practical skills and both generic and specific competencies in educational research. It comprises taught modules and a dissertation. The taught modules assessment will be based on coursework and will be assessed through assignments approximately 3,000 words in length. The dissertation involves a small piece of educational research written up as a 15,000 dissertation.

CRIMINOLOGICAL RESEARCH (MRes)

The Criminological Research MRes prepares students for undertaking social research and evaluation, leading to careers in research, research management and commissioning or using research. The course is supported by staff from both the Scottish Centre for Crime and Justice Research (SCCJR) and Law. SCCJR hosts regular, state-of-the-art events to which students are invited. There are also strong links with the applied crime and criminal justice sector, including Police Scotland and the Scottish Prison Service.
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/social-sciences/postgraduate-research
**Entrance Requirements**

Candidates for the **Applied Social Research Doctorate** 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 6.5 (6.0 in all bands), or equivalent.

**Start Dates**

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<tr>
<td>Applied Social Research Doctorate</td>
<td>January or September</td>
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<td>Education Doctorate</td>
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<tr>
<td>PhD by research or PhD by publication</td>
<td>1 January, 1 April, 1 July or 1 October</td>
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**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](http://stir.ac.uk/postgraduate/research-degrees)

**Funding**

For information on possible sources of funding, visit: [stir.ac.uk/scholarships](http://stir.ac.uk/scholarships)