

Applying for Postgraduate Study

PhD/MSc by Research

Preparing your application

- Take a look at the [research interests of our staff](#) and our list of [PhD projects](#) to identify some specific members of staff with whom you would like to work. If you wish to contact any potential supervisor directly prior to making your application, please feel free to do so.
- Complete the online application for your chosen research degree by selecting the appropriate link below. Only one application per PhD programme should be submitted. You can apply for more than one project on the same application by listing the projects in the Research Proposal section.
 - [PhD in Physics](#)
 - [MSc in Physics by Research](#)
 - [MSc in Physics by Research - Distance Learning](#)
- Include the name(s) of the supervisor(s) whose research groups you are interested in joining, and the project title if you are applying for a specific project. You can list more than one.
- There is no need to provide a full research proposal, although applicants not applying for advertised projects should give an indication of areas in which they would be interested in working.
- Include a personal statement. This should include your experience, interests and motivation for wanting to work in your chosen area. PhD places are very competitive and this is your opportunity to highlight to a supervisor why you would be the ideal candidate.
- Upload your supporting documents including CV, transcript and certificates, if available. If you do not yet have these, they can be added after you have submitted your application.
- Include details of your referees, particularly their email addresses. When you submit your application an automatic email will go to your referees requesting a reference. At least one of these references should be academic.
- Include details of how you intend to finance your studies. If you have been awarded, or intend to apply for scholarships, please give the names of the scholarships.

Entry requirements

- PhD applicants should have, or be about to complete, an MPhys degree at 2:1 or above, or have a Masters degree in a closely related field, or who have relevant industry experience.
- We will also consider applicants with a BSc at 2:1 or above where sufficient relevant experience can be demonstrated.
- MSc applicants should have, or be expecting to achieve, a 2:2 undergraduate degree in Physics, or a relevant related discipline.
- International applicants: please check the [entry requirements for your country](#)
- If English is not your first language, you will be required to meet the minimum [English language requirements](#).

After submitting your application

- You will receive confirmation from the Central University admissions office when your application has been received.
- Your application will be processed by the Physics Postgraduate Admissions Administrator.
- Your application will be passed to your chosen members of staff for consideration. They may contact you directly to arrange an interview which could be via Skype, zoom, telephone or in person.
- The Physics Postgraduate Admissions Administrator will notify you if an offer is to be requested for you. All offers are subject to final approval by the Central University Postgraduate Admissions team.
- If an offer is made to you, you will receive notification via email and will be able to access your offer via your You@York portal.

Is there a deadline for submitting an application?

- Most funded PhD positions will have a deadline for applications which will be specified on the advert.
- MSc by Research applications are accepted throughout the year.
- Applications from self-funding applicants are welcome throughout the year.

- Early applications are advisable to ensure you have sufficient time to make arrangements, particularly securing accommodation and applying for visas.

When does the course start?

- Research students are registered from the 1st of a month with the majority starting on 1st October each year, as that is when most funded positions start. Our induction programme begins in late September.
- It is possible for research students to start at other points in the year, if necessary. This can be discussed with your potential supervisor and the Physics Postgraduate Admissions Administrator.
- It is possible to defer your offer, if required, as long as your supervisor agrees to this.

What funding can I apply for?

Funded PhD studentship positions will include details of the funder on the advert - this may be Research Councils, Department of Physics or an Industrial partner.

[Find out more about the variety of funding opportunities and scholarships available for postgraduate research study.](#)