

Postgraduate study

PhD and Research degrees

2018



Introduction



The contents of this prospectus are correct at the time of going to press. However please check our website www.staffs.ac.uk before making an application in case there are any changes to the course you are interested in or to the other facilities and services described here. Where there is a difference between the contents of this prospectus and our website, the contents of the website take precedence and represent the basis on which we intend to deliver our services to you.



At Staffordshire University, we are immensely proud of our research. That's because it makes a genuine difference to the lives of people in the real world. From helping to protect the feet of people with diabetes, to helping the UK meet its renewable energy targets, to developing video monitoring applications to help keep society safe, our academics are making a real difference.

Our research students and academics are working at the forefront of their field, making Staffordshire University a great place for people to develop careers and grow research areas, allowing our entire student community to benefit as this research feeds into our curriculum.

78% of our research is at 'International Standard' or higher (REF)

Top 10 for teaching quality (Sunday Times Good University Guide 2017)

No.1 for Employability* (DLHE 2017)

Staffordshire University

Investing in your future



At Staffordshire University, we continually invest in our learning environment – to make sure that we're up-to-date and that all our students have access to the latest facilities.

Over the last few years we have invested nearly £100M in our campuses, including:

- a £30M Science Centre
- £11.5M on Cadman Studios, a specialist television, music, motion-capture and games design complex
- £8.7M worth of specialist computing facilities in the Digital Kiln
- £5M to create 'the Beacon' specialist learning hub

Industry leading lecturers

We're committed to providing real-world learning. Study with us and you'll be supervised by an experienced and highly research-active team whose expertise and knowledge closely match your research area, you'll also have access to a university full of senior academics, professional practitioners with industry experience and technical officers.



Support to succeed

We ensure that every student has the tools that they need to succeed in their studies, with access to equipment and the newest software.

We give all students full access to Office 365 for up to five devices including cloud storage so that your files are always available plus access to the full Adobe Creative Suite, including Photoshop, Illustrator and InDesign and access to Lynda.com, the online training tool with over 3000 video courses on a wide range of topics.

Add to that 24/7 library access during term time, free access to a wide range of cutting-edge market research and campus-wide wifi and you will have all of the resources that you need for your studies.

Great times in an amazing city





Stoke-on-Trent is a unique City, affectionately known as The Potteries. With its rich industrial heritage and history, Stoke-on-Trent has respectfully claimed the title of World Capital of Ceramics.

The City boasts many visitor centres, award winning museums, authentic factory tours, over 25 pottery factory shops and the exclusive Staffordshire Hoard.

Made up of six towns, plus a number of surrounding towns and villages there is an environment to suit everyone, in and around Stoke-on-Trent from the bustling high street in the City Centre to the market town of Newcastle-under-Lyme and the rolling hills of the Peak District National Park beyond.

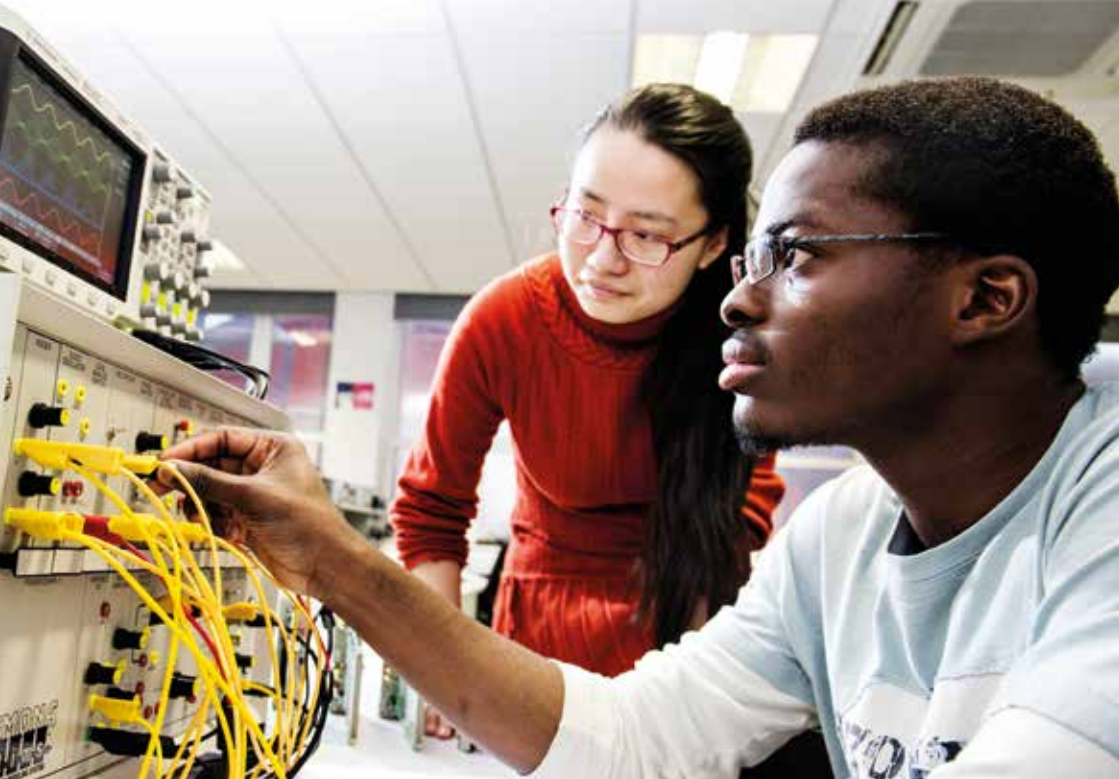
Why study a research degree?

Studying for a PhD can be hard work, you'll need to be passionate and dedicated but it is a very rewarding experience that will see you become an expert in your chosen area and leave university with one of the highest degrees that you can get from any University.

During a PhD you conduct your own supervised research to make a difference in your chosen area culminating in a thesis of your original material that is suitable for publication. You will increase your ability to understand and solve problems, communicate complex information, work independently and as part of a team, manage your time and gain many other transferable skills employers look for.

On most of our research degree routes, you can study full or part time. Also, some of the supervised research routes are available in distance learning mode.

At Staffordshire University, we offer two different research degree structures, the by supervised research model, and the professional doctorate model.



Supervised Research Degrees

You will work closely throughout your degree with a supervisory team with expert knowledge in the area of your research.

Your aim is to conduct a large-scale research project that, in its methods or results ends up being an original contribution to knowledge in your subject area. The supervisors will help you to plan, manage and complete your project, and help prepare you to submit your work, and sit the final oral examination. You can work full time, or part time; working full time, a PhD takes roughly 3 to 3.5 years . In some areas, the PhD can be conducted by distance learning, meaning that your liaison with your supervisors is online, and you need only attend the University for your final examination.



During the first year, you will be developing and planning your research. This means doing a comprehensive, critical literature review; checking the state of your own knowledge and skills and planning any professional development that you need; ensuring that ethics approval is in place and that health and safety checks have been carried out; and establishing that all the facilities you need for the research work are ready for you. Once this vital planning stage is complete and approved, you are ready to undertake the research itself.

**All the facilities you need
to emerge as the newest
professional researcher
in your field.**



During the second year, you will have carried out and evaluated trials of your research, and commenced the main sequence of investigations. You should be presenting papers to your peers, here or at conferences elsewhere, perhaps submitting them for refereed publication.

The third year is when your main investigations will be completing, you will be analysing your results for their significance and implications, and working on the text of your thesis for submission, perhaps at the same time writing new research papers.

The University helps you prepare for submission and examination, and your supervisors will provide support throughout. At the end of this year, or perhaps into the next year, you will sit your examination before a team of expert examiners, and emerge the newest professional researcher in your field.



Professional Doctorate

A professional doctorate is an equivalent qualification to the traditional PhD. It is designed for candidates whose research is designed and conducted in conjunction with their employer.

The first year of the degree consists primarily of taught modules on, for example, research methods, taught as intensive short courses. Once the taught phase has ended, you move into the research phase. You will work on a project or set of projects that will represent both an original contribution to knowledge in the field, and also useful new directions for your employer.





Research areas

We have a number of pre-defined research opportunities across the University to help grow our current research projects. For a full list of these, visit staffs.ac.uk/research





You may also propose your own project ideas, within the domains of research expertise of our staff. We have research-active academics in a wide variety of areas, including:

- Games and Visual Effects
- Film, Media and Journalism (including music technology)
- Computing
- Humanities and Performing Arts (including Archaeology, Geography, English, History, Philosophy and International Relations)
- Art and Design
- Engineering
- Nursing
- Midwifery
- Social Work and Social Welfare
- Education
- Psychology
- Sport and Exercise
- Biological and Biomedical Sciences
- Criminal Justice and Forensics
- Law
- Business Management and Marketing
- Accounting and Finance

Our ground-breaking research

We're not simply at the centre of the UK, we're at the heart of some of the most outstanding applied research in Britain. Research that makes a difference to lives around the world and opens doors for us.

Our research active staff are connected to the world and the industries around them. That's what makes them so relevant, knowledgeable and respected.

Take a look at just a few of our research initiatives and the people behind them:





Nachiappan Chockalingam, Professor of Clinical Biomechanics.

Professor Chockalingam directs our Biomechanics facility. He is also an Affiliate Professor at the Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Malta; and a Visiting Professor at Sri Ramachandra University; India. He is a Chartered Engineer, a Chartered Scientist and a member of various professional organisations. He has also been elected to the executive board of several international societies.

Professor Chockalingam currently leads several research projects in the area of understanding the design, manufacture and clinical interventions of using orthoses. These include a large European Union-funded research project on Diabetic Foot and Footwear looking at the development of an integrated system for foot assessment. In addition to its recognition by the international scientific community, his work has also received substantial media attention. To date, he has numerous publications in peer-reviewed journals, book chapters and conference proceedings.





Dr Caroline Sturdy Colls,
Professor of Forensic Archaeology
and Genocide Investigation.

Dr Caroline Sturdy Colls specialises in Holocaust studies and is also the Research Lead at the Centre of Archaeology, teaching in areas of forensic archaeology, techniques in the identification of human remains and various aspects of crime scene investigation.

Caroline is also a consultant for UK police forces in the search and recovery of buried remains. As part of her research, she completed the first archaeological surveys at Treblinka in Poland. In August 2015, based on her research findings, a permanent exhibition, entitled Finding Treblinka, was installed at the Museum of Struggle and Martyrdom in Warsaw, Poland.

Caroline is published extensively in Holocaust and Forensic Archaeology. Her research has gained international media attention and featured in TV documentaries and radio programmes in Europe and the USA.





Karen Rodham,
Professor of Health
Psychology.

Since joining Staffordshire University in 2014, Professor Rodham has played a pivotal role in raising the profile of the University's research. Having spent more than twenty years as an academic, combined with seven years as a health psychologist in the NHS, she has amassed considerable expertise in the field of chronic pain. Her own research is focused on understanding how people cope with complex and chronic health-related issues.

Karen's teaching is informed by both research and practice. In addition to publishing books and papers, and delivering conference keynotes, she makes public engagement a priority.

She is the former Chair of the British Psychological Society Division of Health Psychology.

Her passion for sharing knowledge is clear. "Our students benefit from being taught by experts who are actively engaged in the development of their research fields," she says.



Our experts



At Staffordshire University we make sure you work with some of the best minds around, with the best research expertise and the best industry links.

As you'd expect, our experts have connections around the world. So get ready to connect with them.

Ruby Hammer, Head of Department, Law.

Ruby first became interested in law when working in administration for the NHS. Since discovering her passion for the subject, she has gained two Masters degrees: one in Critical Legal Studies and another in Education.

She now teaches on a range of awards in the Law School and has a particular interest in employers' liability and stress at work claims. With a passion for researching the law, her work has taken her all over Europe: from delivering seminars in Strasbourg to presenting papers in Romania.

A main area of study for Ruby is environmental law; indeed her expertise in this field saw her working as part of a research team on an EU-funded Renewable Energies Transfer System project.

Even when Ruby's students aren't learning from her directly, they can be working through a leading textbook that she co-authored with two fellow Staffordshire University academics. The book, *Business Law*, published by Routledge, is currently in its third edition and is used by students across the country.

Determined to make sure her work as an active researcher benefits her students, Ruby says: "I like to get students involved in research and develop their skills by doing real-life tasks."



Rune Todnem By,
Professor of
Organisational
Behaviour.

Professor Rune Todnem By is an internationally acknowledged leader in the fields of organisational change and leadership. He teaches at Undergraduate, MBA, and Doctorate level, provides guest lectures across the University to undergraduate and postgraduate students and delivers invited keynotes and leadership development sessions both nationally and internationally.

Rune is also a Professor of Change Leadership at the University of Stavanger (Norway) and co-founder and Chairman of the Public Leadership Foundation (The Netherlands). Being editor-in-chief of Routledge's Journal of Change Management, Rune is actively engaged in the development and publication of the newest research available. He is the co-author and co-editor of a number of books focussing on organisational change, leadership, ethics and the public sector. Additionally, he is continuously identified as being in the top 0.1% of scholars registered on www.academia.edu.



Dr Sita Bali,
Head of Department,
Humanities and
Performing Arts.

Dr Sita Bali gained a degree in Politics and Economics from St. Xaviers College at the University of Bombay. She later completed a Masters and PhD in International Relations at the University of Kent in Canterbury. Sita has been a lecturer in International Relations at Staffordshire University since 1990.

Her interests lie in the politics of South Asia – particularly India, Pakistan and Afghanistan. Sita is also interested in the politics of international migration and refugee movements, as well as security studies – particularly migration and security issues and their impact. Publications include articles on Indian politics and various aspects of international migration.



Claude Chibelushi,
Professor of Cognitive
Digital Media Computing.

Professor Chibelushi has worked his way to the top of his field since achieving his first degree in Electronic and Telecommunication Engineering. Following that, he added a Masters in Microelectronics and Computer Engineering, before gaining his PhD in Electronic Engineering.

Recently, he has been part of a team that developed ground-breaking technology to enable computers to understand the content of pictures and videos. Rated the best technology of its kind in the world, Spectral-360 is built into monitoring software that was used by UK police forces and Transport for London. His current work includes advanced research to produce next-generation software for self-driving motor vehicles, in collaboration with world-leading companies such as BMW.



Dr Mohamed Sedky,
Senior Lecturer in Computer
Networks and Security.

Before finishing his Masters in Communications and Electronics in 2002, Mohamed founded SKM Communication Systems with two partners. He went on to gain his PhD at Staffordshire University, and his research in physics-based image formation continues to add value to many projects.

Since 2012, he has been the Technical Director of Adaptive Video Analytic (AVA) Technologies Ltd, which has produced solutions regarded as some of the best in the world. Clients using his work have included police forces throughout the UK.

Video monitoring is vital to society. It keeps motorways moving, provides evidence in police investigations and can help prevent crime. Taking the advantages of CCTV one stage further, a system developed by Staffordshire University is able to track objects, analyse them and even report anything suspicious. Built using a sophisticated model that can replicate the capabilities of the human eye, the system is already proving valuable in law enforcement.



Ian Brown, Professor of Fine Art.

After completing a Masters degree in Fine Art at Staffordshire University, Professor Brown developed a successful profile of exhibitions, lectures and part-time teaching, resulting in him becoming a permanent member of staff in 2005. Since then, he has contributed to shaping a broad-based Fine Art course that reflects the currency of debates in contemporary culture.

Ian is an active practitioner and his work has been reviewed in *Art Monthly*, *The Guardian* and *Artforum*, where it was Critics' Choice. He received critical acclaim for a touring exhibition that he curated, entitled *Trying To Cope With Things That Aren't Human (Part One)*. Making up one-third of the collaborative artists' group

Common Culture, Ian is also globally connected. This is because as part of the group, he has exhibited a range of inter-disciplinary artworks across Europe, Asia and North America.

Along with the University's whole Fine Art team, Ian has inspired many success stories, from students winning *New Art West Midlands* to graduates setting up Stoke-on-Trent's first contemporary art gallery and being selected for the prestigious *John Moore's Painting Prize*.

Postgraduate community

Our fantastic community means that you are constantly connected to a great support network. From the moment you join us, we're here for you.

Whether it's an academic issue, something financial, personal or related to your wellbeing, we have exceptional teams that are here to help.

A photograph of a young woman with long blonde hair, smiling and looking towards the right. She is wearing a plaid shirt. The background is blurred, suggesting a workshop or classroom environment.

The Graduate School also provides an extensive series of workshops throughout the year, helping you with your professional training and development.



Graduate School

As a research degree candidate at Staffordshire University, you will belong both to a Department and to the Graduate School. The Graduate School helps make sure that your student voice is heard, for the improvement of our provision of research degrees. The Graduate School also provides an extensive series of workshops throughout the year, helping you with your professional training and development. Finally, we put on a series of social events, and at the end of the academic year a large-scale research conference, which is run by and for research degrees students.



Clubs and Societies

The Students' Union has hundreds of clubs and societies that can help you connect with other students that share your interests, from the Law Society to the Video Games Society. The Postgraduate Research society is a thriving community that allows research-based postgraduate students to network, share experiences and put on events.

How to **apply**

Applying for a postgraduate research degree with Staffordshire University is a four stage process.

1

Visit staffs.ac.uk/research to have a look at all of the work that we are doing. You'll find an extensive list of suggested projects, or you can search for an academic with whom to discuss your own project proposals.

2

Contact the relevant academic to talk through your research proposal, or discuss one of our suggested projects in more detail.

3

Apply online at staffs.ac.uk. If you meet the criteria then you will be invited to an interview with our academic team.

4

We help you make the arrangements to get started on this most exciting of journeys.



Please note that typical entry requirements include a Masters level qualification (although this may not be necessary in some areas, and for those with extensive professional or research experience), and for applicants whose native language is not English, proof of English language proficiency (usually the IELTS exam, where the required minimum score varies by subject area).

Where are we?

Staffordshire University is located in Stoke-on-Trent, at the heart of the UK.

We're just 45 minutes from Manchester, 60 Minutes from Birmingham and 90 minutes from London and within easy reach of Manchester, Birmingham and East-Midlands airports.

By choosing Staffordshire University, not only are you located in a vibrant, multicultural city but you're connected easily to every corner of the world.



Funding your studies

New PhD loans

If you live in England, funding your doctoral degree has never been easier with the brand new government-backed, non means-tested PhD loan.

PhD loans at a glance:

- Available from 2018/19 for new PhD students
- Worth up to £25,000
- For UK nationals resident in England
- Study at any UK university that awards PhDs
- Repay 6% of income over £21,000 per year

How much can I borrow?

You'll be able to borrow any amount up to the maximum of £25,000. The loan can be used however you like - to pay fees, other study-related costs or to help with your living expenses.

Am I eligible for a PhD loan? You must:

- be a UK national ordinarily resident in England
- be aged 59 or under on the first day of the first academic year of your course
- not already hold a PhD or equivalent qualification
- not be receiving a Research Council studentship (including fees-only), NHS funding or other government finance towards your PhD

You won't be able to get the loan if you began your PhD before 2018/19. It is intended only for those starting their PhD from that year onwards.



Other sources of funding

Other sources of PhD funding include:

- Research Council funding
- PhD studentships
- Scholarships and bursaries
- Employer sponsorship
- Crowdfunding

Useful sites for comprehensive guides on all of the most current PhD funding options:

FindAPhD - findaphd.com

Prospects - prospects.ac.uk

For more detailed information on courses
or studying at Staffordshire University visit:
www.staffs.ac.uk/research

Find us on:



www.staffs.ac.uk/socialmedia

