



Go Study Beyond Borders!

WITH AECC GLOBAL

2021-22

See things differently

YOUR GUIDE TO APPLYING FOR
A DOCTORAL PROGRAMME



UNIVERSITY OF
SURREY



THE FIRST STEP IN YOUR RESEARCH CAREER

See things differently

By joining Surrey, you'll be part of a supportive and caring community that see things differently. We look out for one another and help each other become the best we can be.

We understand it can be difficult to know where to start when applying for a doctoral programme, so this guide has been created to help you.

Everyone's journey towards starting a PhD is unique, and that's because the most important elements involve finding a project and supervisor that are right for you. It's also vital to ensure you have everything in place to thrive during your research, such as the right funding and support. Although each person may go through different steps towards applying, there are some essential admissions processes that you need to be aware of.

A supportive community

At the University of Surrey we see our postgraduate researchers as an integral part of our research community, collaborating and innovating together with academics at all levels. We want the most talented researchers from diverse backgrounds to join us, bringing new ideas and perspectives.

We want to help you make the most of your potential, removing barriers where we can and supporting you with dedicated career guidance. We offer generous funding packages, sector-leading researcher development training and mentoring, and dedicated employability support.

Who knows what possibilities will open up for you in the next few years, but it all starts with taking that first step.

Whatever your aspirations, Surrey is where research careers are launched and nurtured.



13TH

in the UK for
postgraduate
research experience
(Advance HE
Postgraduate
Research Experience
Survey 2021)

“As PhD students, we are trained to question the boundaries.”

The beautiful location and familiarity of the University, as well as the opportunity to study a subject I am passionate about, led me to choose Surrey.

Through frequent and helpful supervisory meetings, my supervisors have aligned their goals with what I want to get out of the PhD experience. They really go above and beyond in order to make me feel welcomed in my research programme. They are very diligent and always ready to help when I come across any obstacles in my research – it is through their support that I'm able to achieve my aims during my PhD studies.

Most of all, I have enjoyed the certain uncertainty of my work. As PhD students, we are trained to question the boundaries, to try and push them further and build on the knowledge that is already out there.

Certainly, the biggest thing that has attracted me to do a PhD and also the most enjoyable, is that you don't always know where your research is leading but there are a plethora of possibilities and many avenues to discover! ”

Isaiah Ting

Biosciences and Medicine PhD



“ A PhD at Surrey provides a lot of freedom in terms of how we move forward, but at the same time guidance and support is available at any time when I need it.

After visiting the campus and meeting with my supervisor, I just knew straight away that Surrey would be the right place to study for my PhD.

For me, the most important factors were the cutting-edge research the Department was working on, combined with the very friendly and collaborative environment.



PhD students are treated as junior academic staff and the Department of Marketing and Retail Management strives to really integrate students.

Having the opportunity to work every day on a research topic I am passionate about and observing how this initial idea keeps developing into a solid, rigorous research project is what I enjoy the most about my PhD. A PhD at Surrey provides a lot of freedom in terms of how we move forward, but at the same time guidance and support is available at any time when I need it.

The warm welcome I received during my first few weeks at the University made such a big difference to me. Both my departmental colleagues as well as my PhD colleagues in our shared office are very open-minded and supportive. Studying for a PhD is indeed hard work – having a supportive environment and making friends along the way makes this journey truly enjoyable. ”

Brigit Altrichter

Management and Business PhD



THE APPLICATION PROCESS

Seven steps to starting your doctoral programme.

1. Research your area of interest

Identify the areas you are interested in, and find the institutions that are actively involved in research and offer doctoral programmes in this area. For a list of research programmes offered at Surrey, visit: surrey.ac.uk/pgp-programmes

2. Check you meet the academic criteria

When you find the programme that you are interested in, check the entry requirements, including English language requirements if English isn't your first language.

3. Find a supervisor

Visit the 'themes and facilities' section of the programme page to discover the different research themes that are available. From here you can explore our academic staff profiles to identify a suitable supervisor.

You can also use our research paper repository, which allows you to search by keywords, author or research area: eprints.surrey.ac.uk

It's not compulsory to find a supervisor before applying for a doctorate, but we strongly recommend contacting any academics that you might be interested in working with before you apply. Your relationship with your supervisor is incredibly important, and you'll want to find someone that you can work with and who shares similar research interests.

If you are applying for a particular studentship opportunity, contact details of the relevant academic are included in the studentship advert.

4. Check for funding opportunities

Visit our website to view our full list of current funding studentship opportunities which are added year round: surrey.ac.uk/doctoral-funding
You can also visit FindaPhD.com for our latest studentship projects.

Each advertised studentship will provide details on how to apply. This process is different depending on the research area and type of studentship, so please refer to each individual studentship for application process information. You apply for a studentship by following the research programme application process as usual, but stating your project title and supervisor's name instead of providing a research proposal. Do check the application deadline for your studentship, however, as you may need to apply earlier than you would with a programme application.

5. Start your application

Each of our research programme pages has an 'apply' button which will start your application.

In the research interests section, include details of any discussions with supervisors, and a research proposal if needed. Your prospective supervisor can advise on this. If you are applying for a studentship to work on a particular project, you should enter the details of the specific project that you wish to apply for rather than your own research proposal.

Make sure you include scanned colour copies of any relevant documentation that you need to provide.

This may include:

- ▶ Scanned copies of signed/stamped qualifications with official English translations (certificates and transcripts) to show how you meet, or expect to meet, the entry requirements
- ▶ Evidence of your English language level, if you are from a country where English isn't the first language
- ▶ A copy of your passport, if you need a visa to study here
- ▶ A personal statement (where requested)
- ▶ A research proposal (where requested).

6. Wait for our response

You can track the progress of your application through our Surrey Self-Service website (details will be sent to you on how to log in). You will be contacted to arrange an interview. The time it takes for you to receive a decision can vary. Avoid unnecessary delays by making sure you complete the application in full and attach all documentation.

If you have any questions, please contact admissions@surrey.ac.uk

7. Accept your offer

“ It’s best to take the time to think about what you’re really interested in working on for three years.

I’m a third-year PhD student and I’m working in the area of computer vision and graphics. But I’m part of a wider research centre with expertise in audio-visual machine perception. I’m investigating using multi-camera broadcast footage of sports, and using this data to synthesise new virtual camera viewpoints – and doing this in virtual and augmented reality.

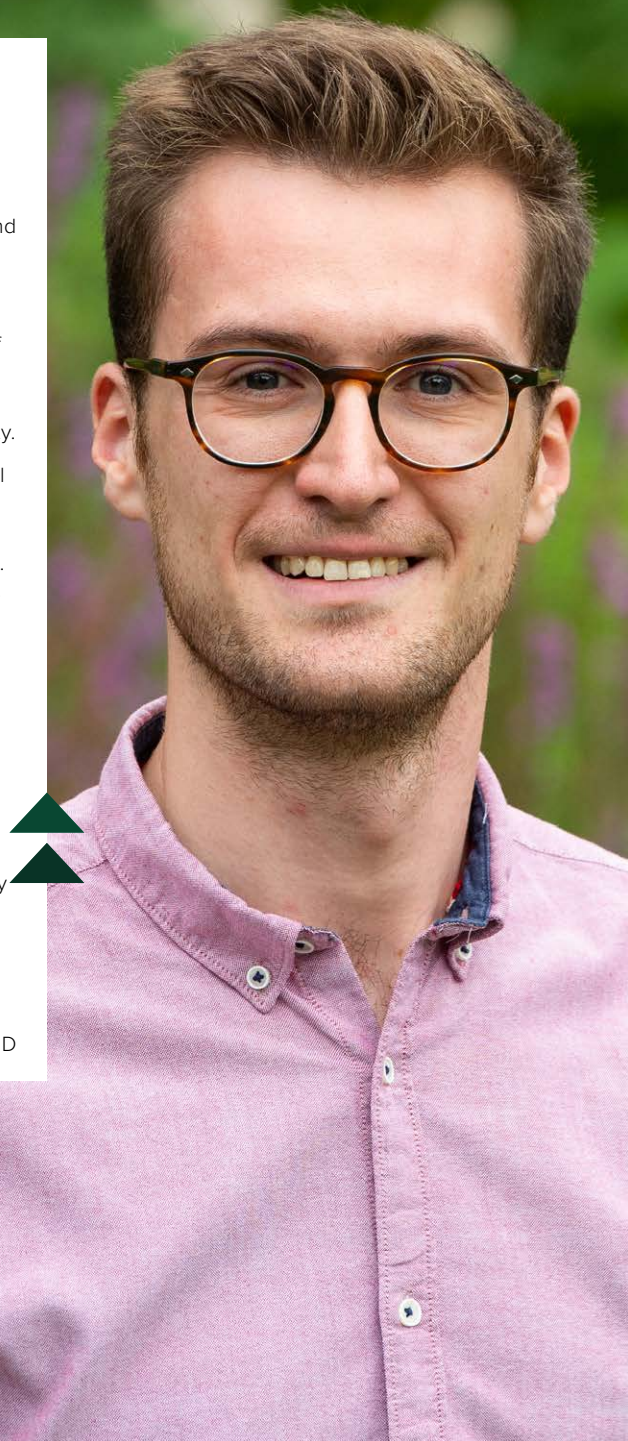
The Centre for Vision, Speech and Signal Processing, or CVSSP as it’s known, is a great place to undertake a PhD in machine learning or machine perception. It has a diverse range of research groups all with their own areas of expertise. We have great Christmas parties, too!

The University has a great atmosphere, a nice campus and a great support structure for its PhD students – something that was especially evident during the Covid-19 lockdown.

I was lucky to end up studying for a PhD that I really enjoy with a great supervisory team. But it’s best to take the time to think about what you’re really interested in working on for three years. ”

Lewis Bridgeman

Vision, Speech and Signal Processing PhD



“ The connections I’ve made during my project have opened doors to different research groups around the world.

I’m investigating sleep in a rural South African community to identify if there’s a relationship between sleep health and HIV infection, in collaboration with the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg. I’m hoping to establish what sleep looks like in this community compared to the vast amount of research conducted in westernised populations, and to see whether the high rate of HIV infection in these individuals affects sleep in any way.

My primary supervisor, Professor Malcolm von Schantz, has been instrumental to my achievements. He’s given me the freedom to explore my own ideas and interests, and shape my research how I see fit, which has been fantastic. My co-supervisor, immunologist Dr Natalie Riddell, has also been very encouraging and her expertise has helped me become a multidisciplinary scientist.

After my PhD, I’d love to continue working in a research group to address the racial and ethnic disparities in sleep research. The connections I’ve made during my project have opened doors to different research groups around the world, that could be a good fit in the future. ”

Katie O’Brien

Biosciences and Medicine PhD



FEES AND FUNDING



Fees

You can find information about our tuition fees on the relevant course page on our website:

surrey.ac.uk/doctoral-programmes

Postgraduate research tuition fees cover the cost of registration, teaching and assessments, as well as access to the University Library and other support services. Tuition fees do not cover additional costs that may apply to some programmes, such as the cost of lab safety equipment, field trips and materials.

Funding your research programme

PhD students are expected to have their finances in place before they start their course.

We appreciate that not all of those who want to start a doctoral programme will be able to self-fund their studies. For those who require financial support there are options available to you.

Once you are registered as a student at Surrey, there are few funding opportunities available, so make sure you are happy with your financial arrangements before you start.

University funded studentships

The University's Doctoral College is pleased to offer funding opportunities for students starting in both the 2021-22 and 2022-23 academic years. A competitive funding package is offered which covers fees, provides a stipend at the UKRI rate and includes £1000 per annum for you to invest in your training and development. Our funding packages also include provision for sick pay and parental leave ensuring that you are well looked after while you undertake your research project with us.

The Doctoral College studentships are focused on widening access to doctoral level study, encouraging international mobility and offering opportunities to undertake projects co-funded by industry. More broadly, the University also offers a range of funding opportunities across all departments and schools. All of our current funded studentship opportunities are listed on our website.

surrey.ac.uk/pgr-studentships

Research council studentships

The seven UK research councils distribute public money to train new PhD students at UK universities. This funding is referred to as a 'UKRI Studentship'. It has two components: a studentship paid to the University up to the value of your PhD fees, and a maintenance grant paid directly to you for living costs during your doctoral studies, also called a stipend.



Although the studentship is allocated by a research council, you still apply directly to the University rather than the research council.

There are seven research councils, all part of UK Research and Innovation (UKRI), that invest in funding studentships for PhD students at UK universities.

Research councils do not fund PhD students directly, instead they provide funding to universities who form networks to pool expertise and facilities for PhD research. These networks are known as Doctoral Training Partnerships (DTPs) and/or Centres for Doctoral Training (CDTs).

The University of Surrey is a member of several Doctoral Training Partnerships.

Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC)

The EPSRC Doctoral Training Partnership (DTP) supports excellent research and researchers across a broad range of subjects including electronics, physics, chemistry, civil/chemical/mechanical/aerospace/environmental engineering, computing, mathematics, sociology and psychology.

epsrc.ukri.org

Technē

Funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC)

technē.ac.uk

South East Network for Social Sciences (SeNSS)

Funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC)

senss-dtp.ac.uk

SCENARIO

Funded by NERC

research.reading.ac.uk/scenario

FoodBioSystems

Funded by the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC)

research.reading.ac.uk/foodbiosystems



Charities and learned societies grants

Charities and trusts sometimes provide smaller grants, often for students who are disadvantaged or academically excellent. You can find out more at your local library in publications such as *Educational Grants Directory*, *Charities Digest*, *Grants Register*, and the *Directory of Grant Making Trusts*. You can also use the Family Action grant search.

Certain societies also offer funding for postdoctoral research. They include:

- ▶ British Academy (for humanities and social sciences)
- ▶ Royal Academy of Engineering (for engineering)
- ▶ Royal Society (for science).

Employer sponsorship

If you want to do research within your current subject area and believe that a doctorate will improve your performance at work, it is worth discussing with your employer whether they can help to subsidise or pay your fees.

Certain departments at the University also offer commercial studentships, where a programme is embedded in industry with a sponsoring organisation.

Student loan scheme

The UK Government has introduced a Postgraduate Doctoral Loan to help with course fees and living costs while you study a postgraduate doctoral course, such as a PhD.

Whether you qualify for a doctoral loan depends on your course, your age and your nationality or residency status.

It's worth noting that, if you're studying for a PhD within a Doctoral Training Partnership (DTP), Doctoral Training Centre (DTC) or Centre for Doctoral Training (CDT), your eligibility depends on whether your research is funded by a Research Council studentship. If it is, you won't be able to apply for a loan. Similarly, if you apply for a loan and subsequently receive research council funding you will be required to pay back the loan.

There are non-means tested loans available for those studying research-based programmes at masters level too.

Find out more: gov.uk/doctoral-loan





“ From the first day I arrived here, the hospitality I received was so splendid that it did not take me long to adapt to my new environment. ”

The alarming rate of premature death attributed to poor air quality especially in the developing nations led to my decision to study a PhD in Environment and Sustainability.

My Surrey experience so far has been fantastic. From the first day I arrived here, the hospitality I received was so splendid that it did not take me long to adapt to my new environment and I have made wonderful friends at the University.

Surrey is a place where one can easily balance their academic studies with their personal life. The campus is well organised, a very conducive environment for learning, Surrey Sports Park is rated one of the best university sports centres in the UK and that is exactly what I have seen. There are many societies here to make you feel at home and Guildford is a beautiful town many would love to live in with its serene wooded environment, shopping malls, restaurants, gardens and close proximity to London.

My main aim is to help reduce the impact of poor air quality especially in the developing world, but it would be nice if I can gain more experience in the field with a postdoctoral fellowship here. I am also not ruling out being an academic, a consultant or staff member in a reputable governmental or non-governmental institution or firm. **”**

Timothy Chukwu

Environment and Sustainability PhD

SUPPORT

WE OFFER

The Doctoral College at the University of Surrey supports the academic career, and professional development of postgraduate and early career researchers through a wide range of services.

The Doctoral College

The Doctoral College connects academic supervisors, research support staff, postgraduate researchers and early career researchers across all of the University's faculties.

We bring researchers and support services together to ensure excellent supervision, training, progression and development.

Follow the Doctoral College on Twitter:

 [@SurreyDocCol](https://twitter.com/SurreyDocCol)

Researcher Development and Employability

Our Researcher Development and Employability (RDE) team provides training and development opportunities for postgraduate researchers, research staff and supervisors.

Workshops

The RDE team offers over 60 different themed workshops, covering everything from analytical skills, research funding, and impact and engagement, to research project management, writing skills and career planning.

Mentoring

We have a unique mentoring scheme that is open to all postgraduate researcher applicants who receive an offer from Surrey. The RDE team can pair you with

a mentor who is in the later stages of their doctoral programme at Surrey.

As a result, you'll be able to benefit from their advice and experience before you even arrive and throughout the first six months of your time here.

As a researcher at the University, you will be able to access our Employer Mentoring Programme as well, pairing you with employers, many of them doctoral alumni, from a variety of employment sectors.

One-to-one coaching

Our RDE team offers one-to-one coaching in person or through virtual appointments. These sessions allow you to meet an experienced member of the team to get the advice or support you need to move your research and your professional development forward. This can range from presentation or fellowship interview practice, managing your time and/or research project, academic writing or spoken fluency support, and more.

If you're studying part time or through distance learning, you can also take one of our workshops as an individual appointment, supported by our online resources.

Careers

Within RDE we have a dedicated Careers and Employability team, experienced in providing career support to postgraduate and early career researchers. They will assist you with your professional development and help you

identify and strengthen your employability skills. The team's strong external partnerships and relationships across the University mean you'll get excellent opportunities to collaborate, gain skills and practical experience.

Research Degrees team

Our Research Degrees team provides support to our students and supervisors, ensuring you receive consistent and accurate advice on all stages of your doctoral programme, from registration to award.

They are responsible for your initial induction to the University, managing progression milestones and the examinations process, and working with student finance and student records to answer student data and funding queries.

Disability and neurodiversity support

We support students with a range of disabilities which might be physical, long term medical, mental health or autistic spectrum conditions, or specific learning differences.

You will be encouraged to disclose your specific needs during the application process with one of our disability advisers, so they can better inform of the support available.

UK students are encouraged to apply for the Disabled Students Allowance (DSA) or the research councils' equivalent allowances. These non-means tested allowances fund assistive technology and non-medical helper support for students with disabilities.

The University makes funds available to provide similar support for international students who are not eligible to apply for the DSA. Our disability advisers will be able to guide you on how to apply for this support.

For help and advice, contact:

disability@surrey.ac.uk



“ I'm now finally seeing some results which is incredibly rewarding!

I chose to study for a PhD as it would provide me the mental challenge that I needed before I settled on a career path, while still providing me with experience in a field that I am extremely interested in.

After completing my undergraduate degree at Surrey, I was interested in continuing my PhD at the University due to it being one of 19 Academic Centres of Excellence in Cyber Security Research recognised by the UK Government's National Cyber Security Centre.

My supervisor has been extremely supportive. We have frequent meetings to check on my progress and discuss my work and she also provides me with invitations to conferences that may be of interest. I have every opportunity to present my work, pursue leads that I've found myself and I've already had the chance to visit two PhD schools so far, one in Italy and one in Newcastle. I'm also currently working with an external company in relation to my PhD.

My biggest discovery so far is just how much work a PhD is. I'm now finally seeing some results which is incredibly rewarding! ”

Ksenia Budykho

Computer Science PhD

SUPPORT FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

With students from 140 different countries, we're proud to be one of the most culturally diverse universities in the UK.

Support

Leaving your home country, possibly for the first time, and moving to an unfamiliar country can be exciting and daunting.

Our International Student Support team is here to help you with any visa or immigration questions you might have.

At the start of the year, they organise the International Orientation Programme to help students from overseas meet people and feel at home.

International Student Support can help you with:

- ▶ General immigration and visa advice for your Student Visa
- ▶ Applying for post-study work visas such as the Graduate Route or the Start-up visa
- ▶ Police registration.

To find out more:

- ▶ Email: internationalsupport@surrey.ac.uk if you have any questions
- ▶ Visit: surrey.ac.uk/international/visas-and-immigration for more on our visa application support.

We also have a pre-departure website that has all the essential information you need when getting ready to leave for the UK:

surrey.ac.uk/international-pre-departure-guide



Social life and events

We offer an exciting mix of events and activities from the moment you arrive, such as our Meet and Greet (airport pick-up) service at Heathrow and Gatwick airport. There is also the International Orientation Programme which will give you the opportunity to meet other international students at Surrey and take part in trips, welcome talks and an early registration.

Throughout the year, the Students' Union organises many events to bring everyone together. One such event is One World Week, which celebrates the many different cultures we have at Surrey, through various exciting activities and exhibitions.

Money and housing

We have a dedicated Student Money Support team who can help with a wide range of financial matters including:

- ▶ Postgraduate research fees
- ▶ Student loans
- ▶ Bursaries and scholarships
- ▶ Budgeting and debt
- ▶ Financial difficulties or hardship.

More information on Surrey's Pre-session English courses can be found here: surrey.ac.uk/international/pre-session-english-language-courses

Study modes

Most of our international students studying for a doctorate will be studying full time as a condition of their Student Visa. The nature of your doctorate will vary depending on your research area and your relationship with your supervisor. There may be some opportunities to conduct your research away from campus, but you'd need to arrange this with your supervisor.

Funding your studies

Most of our international students studying for a doctorate are self-funded or sponsored by an external agency. There are a number of funding opportunities for which international students are eligible.

To view the current funding on offer, visit: surrey.ac.uk/dc-funding

“We have an inspiring working environment that supports us to reach our potential.

I have more than 10 years' experience working in the hospitality and tourism industry, so I knew this was the area I wanted to pursue. I chose Surrey for my PhD because I wanted to be supervised by Professor Xavier Font, a leading academic in sustainable tourism. Having worked with him during my masters, I knew how supportive he was.

My PhD involves close collaboration with the industry to bring real change in terms of saving water, energy and carbon emissions, by fostering pro-environmental behaviour among consumers.

The School of Hospitality and Tourism Management attracts not only the best academics, but also the best colleagues. They are all very approachable — we have an inspiring working environment that supports us to reach our potential. The multiculturalism that the University offers is absolutely great — it's a very welcoming place and I've made friendships here that I know will last forever.

After living in London for several years, I appreciate the quietness of Guildford and the Surrey Hills. Outside of my PhD, you can find me at the Library or one of Surrey's many coffee houses, or of course at Surrey Sports Park, the most amazing place to exercise and disconnect from the routine. ”

Pablo Pereira-Doel

Hospitality and Tourism PhD



COVID-19

PRECAUTIONS



The situation with the Covid-19 pandemic is always changing, but we continue to make every effort to ensure that our staff and students are able to work in a safe working environment. To find out the latest information on our Covid-19 safety precautions, please visit:

surrey.ac.uk/coronavirus/prospective-students

Next steps

Live webinars

Our webinars are a great opportunity for you to hear directly from our academic staff and doctoral researchers, and ask questions about postgraduate life at Surrey.

surrey.ac.uk/phd-webinars

Postgraduate events

Our events are a brilliant way to engage with staff and students.

surrey.ac.uk/postgrad-events

Postgraduate experience blog

A team of current doctoral researchers write regularly on our blog about their experiences and share their tips.

www.surrey.ac.uk/postgrad-blog

The AECC Global Advantage

- ✓ **LOCATED IN 12 COUNTRIES & 33 CITIES**
- ✓ **MORE THAN 500 + PARTNER INSTITUTIONS**
- ✓ **40,000 + GLOBAL ENROLMENTS**
- ✓ **EXPERIENCED & CERTIFIED EDUCATION COUNSELLORS**
- ✓ **END TO END GLOBAL EDUCATION SERVICES**
- ✓ **UNCOMPROMISING ETHICS & INTEGRITY**
- ✓ **HIGH VISA SUCCESS RATE**



Our Services



**ADMISSION & COURSE
GUIDANCE**



SCHOLARSHIPS



STUDENT VISA SERVICE





Starts your future with us

Reach us at:

www.aeccglobal.co.id



aeccindonesia



AECCIndonesia



AECC Global Indonesia



aeccglobalindonesia



+62 878 7847 4764

