



**Bournemouth
University**

Vice-Chancellor Doctoral (Fee Waive) Scholarships 2014 – Policy

We are delighted to announce the launch of the **2014 Vice-Chancellor Doctoral (Fee Waive) Scholarships** (VC PhD Scholarships) which will offer support to up to **25 outstanding postgraduate research students** (PGRs).

The VC PhD Scholarships will be awarded, via the process set out below, to candidates who meet the eligibility criteria, have the support of their supervisory teams, are accepted by the relevant Academic School and must be approved by the School's Dean and the UET.

Full details and criteria are set out in this Policy Document. Staff are asked to check the eligibility criteria carefully before nominating any candidate.

Applications to the Vice Chancellor Doctoral Scholarships should be submitted on the BU Research Degree Application Form 2014 downloadable from the Research webpages and sent directly to the relevant Academic School.

Applications can be submitted at any time until the closing date of 31st May 2014.

Details of the Scholarships

The VC PhD Scholarships will provide a **full fee waive** for up to 36 months, and exceptionally to a maximum of 48 months in the case of part-time candidates. Fees will be charged after 36/48 months respectively. To be clear about the '48 month exception': this is included so that in some cases a sponsor or employer may continue to provide candidates with part-time employment, effectively releasing them for doctoral study part-time. Please note these scholarships will only be allocated to part-time candidates in exceptional circumstances. The Scholarships may NOT be used to support professional doctorates, current BU postgraduate research students, nor may they be used to support BU staff to complete doctoral programmes.

Stipends, to cover living expenses, are NOT included in the scholarships and candidates must demonstrate at application stage that they are able to support themselves as part of the application process. Financial support for stipends must be sourced privately by the candidate (self or family funding) or by an external sponsor such as an employer, industry, or government.

Each successful candidate will have access to a guaranteed grant of between £3k and £5k, depending on the nature of the project, over 36/48 months for use by the candidate to support fieldwork, consumables and conference travel. However, the candidate will have to make appropriate justification for use of funds. This will grant will normally be provided by the Academic School or Sponsor. Normal VC PhD Scholarship terms and conditions will apply.

The Scholarships are open to **outstanding candidates** who meet the eligibility criteria outlined below. This rolling programme of VC PhD Scholarships may be used to support:

- (1) **Supervisor or industry, sponsor proposed projects;** in this case the project is provided to outstanding candidates once they have received a scholarship. In the case of projects specified by industry or sponsor this must be with the full agreement in advance of the supervisor team.
- (2) **Candidate proposed projects;** the research project would be developed by the candidate under guidance from a potential supervisory team within an Academic School.
- (3) **Hybrid model;** supervisors, sponsor and candidates may work together to develop an appropriate project proposal.

Candidate Eligibility Criteria

The VC PhD Scholarships are open to UK, EU and International candidates, who must demonstrate outstanding qualities and be motivated to complete a PhD in 3 years full-time or 4 years part-time.

All candidates must satisfy the University's minimum doctoral entry criteria for research degrees of an honours degree at Upper Second Class (2.1) and/or an appropriate Masters degree. An IELTS (Academic) score of 6.5 minimum (or equivalent) is essential for candidates for whom English is not their first language.

In addition to satisfying the basic entry criteria, BU will look closely at the qualities, skills and background of each candidate and what they can bring to their chosen research project in order to ensure successful completion. **It is important to consider that in most cases the interpretation of 'outstanding' is likely to be those candidates with a First Class (Hons) degrees and/or a distinction at Masters, with clear documented evidence of drive and commitment.**

Candidates will be asked to submit an application form and a synopsis (1500 words) outlining their understanding of the project for which they are applying, the approach they would envisage taking and what qualities they will bring to the research community.

Supervisor Eligibility Criteria

A supported research degree programme should have a balanced supervisory team, with no supervisor currently supervising more than 6 research students including this project. The first supervisor, (who must be a permanent member of BU academic staff) must be an experienced supervisor (defined as having a current "certificate of supervision") and be in consideration for the Research Excellent Framework submission.

Scholarship Process

The VC PhD Scholarship process will be managed and overseen by the Graduate School but administered through the Academic Schools and will involve 5 key steps:

- (1) *VC PhD Scholarships Advertised.* BU will promote VC PhD Scholarship opportunities within the generic market place and with particular emphasis on overseas countries.
- (2) *Candidate Selection.* Recruitment should be undertaken by the Academic School in line with BU policy. When applications are received they will be evaluated for eligibility and suitability by the Deputy Dean for Research or delegated authority. All recruitment

arrangements, for candidates who meet the criteria and for whom there is a potential interested supervisor, will be the responsibility of the Academic School. Interviews should refer to the interview form and person specification available from the Graduate School. Successful candidates should receive endorsement by the Dean of School.

- (3) *Scholarship Approval.* Selected candidates require UET approval before a Scholarship can be offered. Full details of the candidate should be sent on the VC PhD Scholarship Nomination Form, together with a copy of the application form, to the Graduate School (email: graduateschool@bournemouth.ac.uk). It should be made clear on the nomination form how the candidate meets the specified criteria and a project outline should also be included at this stage. Once approved for a VC PhD Scholarship by UET, the standard conditional offer letter (offering the place on a research degree programme subject to project development) will be sent by the Graduate School as per the Research Degree Admission Policy and Procedure.
- (4) *Project Development.* Working in parallel with the application process, the candidate and supervisors should work together to develop project proposals. The VC PhD Scholarship cannot be taken up by the candidate until a full project proposal is accepted by the Supervisory team and approved by the Deputy Dean Research (or delegated authority) on behalf of the School Research Committee (or equivalent). The offer of a Scholarship will be withdrawn if an agreed project is not approved within 3 months of the conditional offer. A copy of the approved project, signed by the relevant School authority should be sent to the Graduate School.
- (5) *Unconditional Offer.* Once the project has been formally approved and any conditions met, the Academic School should issue an unconditional offer.

7.0 Timetable

The Graduate School will manage the recruitment process along the following timetable:

March 2014	Information will be made available on the Research Blog, Staff Portal, BU website and via all-staff e-mail
<i>March – May 2014</i>	Ongoing review of applications and offers. Schools/Faculty may decide to wait until the closing date before shortlisting. All shortlisted candidates should interviewed following BU standard policy and procedures
31 May 2014	Final Deadline for submission of applications
<i>June - August 2014</i>	Development of projects and final offers made
To intakes: Sept/Oct 2014 or March 2015	Scholarships Start

All of the forms and further information on the scheme are available from the BU Research Blog.

VC PhD Scholarships 2013 Process

