

Department of Psychosocial and Psychoanalytic Studies

The selection process for a PhD by research

- The main criterion is that we need a good research proposal from you. You will need to work on this independently in the first instance. You might want to make initial contact with either:
 - the PPS Professional Services office (email ppspgr@essex.ac.uk),
 - a supervisor of your choice in the Department;
 - or the Director of Graduate Studies (Research), Professor Matt ffytche (mffytche@essex.ac.uk).

Please note, however, that any preliminary conversation cannot delve too deeply into the details of your proposal.

- When your proposal is ready for our consideration, please send this, along with your CV, to the Director of Graduate Studies, Professor Matt ffytche. Your CV should indicate your previous academic achievements, their relevance to your research interest, and your psychoanalytic knowledge. We would also like to know if you intend to study full-time, part-time or by distance learning.
- Not everyone starts with a high level of psychoanalytic knowledge. You should, however, indicate why a psychoanalytic doctorate is most appropriate. If the proposal is eventually accepted, you will need to discuss with the Director of Graduate Studies (and a maybe a potential supervisor) how you might develop sufficient psychoanalytic knowledge before starting the degree. This discussion will most likely take place during your interview.
- You will work most closely with your academic supervisor and you need to give some thought as to who would be most appropriate from our list of academic staff. In your proposal, you will need to clarify who you would like to work with and the reason(s) why he/she is best suited to guide you through this process. Not all staff will have vacancies at the time you are applying.
- Your proposal will be reviewed by your potential supervisor and one other member of academic staff. We aim to complete this first stage of the process within 6 weeks of receiving your CV and proposal.
- At this point, you may be asked to revise your proposal based on the feedback you have received from the readers. If this is the case, you will have one chance to submit a revised proposal.
- If you have been asked to submit a revised proposal, a final decision on its suitability will be made once the readers have assessed it.

The formal application will only take place after your proposal has been accepted in principle. If successful, the Director of Graduate Studies will contact you, inviting you to complete the process:

- you will need to make your application online,
- provide transcripts of previous degree certificates,
- provide two references
- provide the results of your English Language test (IELTS) if you are not a native English speaker.
- You will be invited for an interview with your supervisor, which takes place during the formal application stage.

Please note: Students for doctoral research are initially registered for an MPhil, but PhD status will be confirmed, normally in the second year, as long as your work is of a sufficient standard to continue at doctoral level.

We hope this is clear and helpful, but if you have any questions please ask in our office, by email, or telephone (ppspgr@essex.ac.uk; +44 (0)1206 873745 or 874969).