Part A – University of Southampton Doctoral Programme Profile 2020/21

Part A of this document is the University of Southampton Doctoral Programme Profile, which provides a concise summary of the main features of a doctoral programme at the University of Southampton, and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided.

Part B of this document is a programme-specific Doctoral Profile, which provides more Faculty and programme-specific detail. This profile should be read alongside the University of Southampton’s Regulations for Research Degrees and the Code of Practice for Research Candidature and Supervision.

Research Environment

The University of Southampton is changing the world for the better, working with industry, governments and research institutions to make a global impact. We are a world-class research-intensive Russell Group University; over 97% of our research has been assessed as world-leading and internationally excellent in the Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2014. The University of Southampton is strongly committed to providing the very best learning experience to all our students in a friendly and stimulating environment. We are known nationally and internationally for our excellence in research and teaching, and are continually improving the scope and delivery of our activities, we aim to generate a community of doctoral graduates equipped to act as research leaders in the most pressing challenges of the 21st century.

Support for student learning

There are numerous facilities and services to support the learning of research students at the University of Southampton, some of which are accessible to students across the University and some of which will be geared more to students within particular Faculty or discipline areas. Information about support offered across the University can be found on the 'University life' pages of the website. Information about Faculty/programme specific support is detailed in programme-specific profiles.

Programme Outcomes

Having successfully completed a doctoral programme, a research student will be able to demonstrate:

- the creation and interpretation of new knowledge through original research or other advanced scholarship, of a quality to satisfy peer review, extend the forefront of the discipline and merit publication
- a systematic acquisition and understanding of a substantial body of knowledge which is at the forefront of an academic discipline or an area of professional practice
- the general ability to conceptualise, design and implement a project for the generation of new knowledge, applications or understanding at the forefront of the discipline, and to adjust the project design in the light of unforeseen problems
- a detailed understanding of applicable techniques for research and advanced academic enquiry

Professional Development and Transferable Skills

It is University policy that research students have access to a suitable programme of research skills, professional development, and transferable skills training which address individual needs and help research students to prepare for their subsequent careers. The Doctoral College delivers a range of skills training and personal development opportunities to meet the needs of researchers from across all of our disciplines. The provision has been informed by the Researcher Development Framework (RDF) and an extensive range of development opportunities aligned with the RDF is listed on the Doctoral College webpages.
Progression

The following summary should be read in conjunction with your Faculty Postgraduate Handbook and the University Regulations as specified in Section V of the Calendar.

Research students will be required to undertake three Progression Reviews during their studies within the timescales shown in the table below. In all cases, the time windows refer to periods in which progression decisions must be made. These timings may be adjusted on a pro-rata basis for students registered on nonstandard research programmes where other duties are a formal part of the programme.

Assessment in each Progression Review will be based on a piece of submitted work, followed by a viva with a Progression Review Panel. Two attempts at each review are permitted; and failure to meet the criteria for a successful progression review will lead to a termination of candidacy in line with the Procedures for Circumstances that may lead to Withdrawal or Termination. Interim Progression Reviews will take place for part-time students who have not undergone a Progression Review in the previous 12 months. Exceptional Progression Reviews may be scheduled, on the direction of the Director of Faculty Graduate School, if significant academic concerns have been raised about a research student’s candidature. The format of assessment for each milestone can vary by Faculty, and by discipline. Details on the formats of assessments are stated in Faculty handbooks.

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<th>Full time</th>
<th>Part time</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>First attempt</td>
<td>Second attempt</td>
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<tr>
<td>First Progression Review</td>
<td>Months 8-10</td>
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<td>Second Progression Review (Confirmation)</td>
<td>Months 18-21</td>
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<tr>
<td>Third Progression Review</td>
<td>Months 30-33</td>
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<td>Months 61-66</td>
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<td>Before the end of month 72</td>
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Confirmation of PhD status/Transfer/Upgrade from MPhil to PhD
Research students must successfully meet the requirements of a Confirmation panel to submit for a PhD. The Second Progression Review will form the Confirmation. The student must meet the criteria set, and provide the supporting evidence, as detailed the Code of Practice for Research Candidature and Supervision. The format of assessment can vary by Faculty, and by discipline. Students should be aware that the Panel may recommend that a student is transferred to an MPhil programme if the criteria are not met. With regards to the transfer of programme, the University will comply with its obligations under the relevant immigration legislation which may be updated from time to time. A student who is concerned about his/her entitlement to remain in the UK following a failure to progress should seek urgent advice from the Student Visa Guidance Service. Full details can be found in the Code of Practice for Research Candidature and Supervision.

Thesis Submission and Examination
The maximum period of candidature, including nominal registration but excluding periods of suspension is four years (48 months) for full-time candidature and seven years (84 months) for part-time candidature. A research student who fails to submit a thesis by the end of the maximum period of study shall be deemed to have withdrawn from the course.

The maximum length of a thesis is 75,000 words in the case of a PhD, or 50,000 words in the case of an MPhil. The thesis is considered by at least one internal and one external examiner and a viva held. Both the written thesis and the performance of the candidate at the viva are assessed independently.

Please note: As a research-led University, we undertake a continuous review of our programmes to ensure quality enhancement and to manage our resources. As a result, this programme may be revised during a student’s period of registration; however, any revision will be balanced against the requirement that the student should receive the educational service expected. Please read our Disclaimer to see why, when and how changes may be made to a student’s programme.
Fees, Additional Costs and Funding

The current fees charged for doctoral programmes are found on the University Postgraduate Fees and Funding website which also gives details of some opportunities to obtain funding for your PhD.

Research students are responsible for meeting the cost of essential textbooks, and of producing such essays, assignments, laboratory reports and dissertations as are required to fulfil the academic requirements for each programme of study. If there are additional costs, these will be detailed in the programme-specific profile.

Intermediate exit points (where available)

MPhil: In some cases, research students may not or cannot continue through to completion of the PhD. Students may make such decisions for themselves, or it can be based on unsatisfactory performance at one of the formal milestones described above. If a student decides to carry out research, but at MPhil, they will need to transfer onto an MPhil programme. In any case, an MPhil may be awarded only after successful examination of a suitable thesis by an internal and external examiner and passing a viva voce. See the University Calendar for further details on the award of an MPhil.

Other intermediate exit points may be available; these will be detailed in the programme-specific profile.

Admission

At a minimum, successful applicants must meet the admissions requirements of the University Code of Practice for Research Candidature and Supervision. Additional admissions criteria may be set in programme specific profiles.

Applications are submitted using the University online application form. A full guide to this process may be downloaded from the accompanying guidance notes. Applicants may be interviewed and references will be taken up. A formal project proposal is not required, but applicants should indicate the area of their research interests at the time of application.
Programme Overview

Brief outline of the programme

The University of Southampton offers a PhD programme for both practice and non-practice-based Fine Art and Design research at the Winchester School of Art (WSA) campus in Winchester. The School is recognised as an International Centre for research in global art and design, culture and communication and enjoys a reputation as a world leader in research. PhD candidates at the School work with Faculty engaged in creative and critical practices across a wide range of research interests and who disseminate their work through internationally recognised publications and exhibitions. The School’s postgraduate researchers engage in both material and intellectual practices as specific ways and means of thinking in order to produce critical knowledge and innovative objects. The School is proud to be a hub for collaborative projects and public events, offering a vibrant venue for artists, designers and intellectuals to debate the key issues of the 21st century. The School’s Centre for Global Futures in Art, Design and Media provides an overarching vision for researchers at the School. Its activities are focused on creating and sustaining mutually beneficial and interactive professional associations with a range of public organisations. These include galleries, museums, arts and community centers, publishers and online sources whose activities may benefit diverse social groups locally, nationally and around the world.

Aims of the Programme

The aims of the programme are to:
- Have the experience of, and the opportunity to gain expertise in, rigorous, leading edge research in the areas of fine art, design, media, and critical and cultural theory;
- Broaden your knowledge of the contextual background of your research problem in relation to the wider field of your chosen area in the arts;
- Have a comprehensive understanding of the theoretical foundations of your chosen discipline and area of research;
- Have a thorough and innovative engagement with art practice (when taking up a practice-based PhD);
• train in generic and transferable research skills;
• have a high quality and intellectually stimulating experience of learning in a supportive, research-led environment;
• communicate and present skills through seminar presentations and production of a research proposal and writing;
• have the ability to interpret and critically evaluate research and scholarship in the areas of art and design;
• have the ability to conceptualise, design, implement and manage research for the generation of new knowledge, tools, applications or understanding at the forefront of art and design;
• have the ability to create and interpret new knowledge through original research of a quality to satisfy peer review and merit publication;
• have the capacity to present ideas, arguments and research findings effectively to a variety of specialist and non-specialist audiences
• have the ability to contribute to the research and development needs of the discipline sector

Programme Structure

The following summary should be read in conjunction with the University Regulations as specified in the Calendar.

Unlike undergraduate study, the open-ended nature of research means it is not possible to always predict the structure of a programme of study leading to a thesis. Research students are however, all required to undertake three Progression Reviews during their studies, as detailed in the Code of Practice for Research Candidature and Supervision. The timetable shown below is indicative of what you can expect. Maximum candidature is 48 months in full-time registration, 84 months in part-time Registration. Candidates may be in receipt of funding for shorter periods. The timings listed below are those for a full-time student. Timings for a part-time student are adjusted suitably.

Programme details

Year 1

The supervisory team typically either consists of a main supervisor and a second supervisor, or for a multi-disciplinary project more than one co-supervisor (one of whom must still be designated as the main supervisor). The main supervisor is typically the lead for the project and is responsible for organising the completion of all progression paperwork and timely examination. A second supervisor may have less direct technical involvement with your work, but may still attend a number of review meetings with you (as well as progression milestones) and be available to discuss the progress of your project.

The Academic Needs Analysis (ANA) is an assessment of the student’s current personal and professional development needs, including transferable skills, which will need to be completed in consultation with the supervisory team within the first 3 months of the commencement of the degree (re-visited at regular intervals).

During this year you will be asked to participate in a Doctoral Research Skills module, which will provide training in the development of your programme of research, establish a baseline provision in research methodologies and project planning which you can build on according to your specialist project. The module will also require you to undertake basic ethics awareness training via the on-line module ‘Ethics1: Good Research Practice’. See: http://www.southampton.ac.uk/gradschools/graddev/ethics_requirements.html

3 Monthly Activity Reports are monitored via PGR Tracker in which students and supervisors will be required to complete a progress report form that details:

• Supervisory meetings (dates when any meetings took place, who was present and any comments that the student wishes to make).
• Other activities (conferences, summer schools or any relevant activities undertaken.
• Any issues or difficulties that the student might be experiencing.
• Training record (training booked via Gradebook, other technical modules or Faculty level training, additional training and professional development activities completed).

These reports are reviewed and approved by the main supervisor.
Progression Review 1: Between months 8–10 for full-time and 18–21 for part-time study, students must submit documentation for the first Progress Review. The work will be considered by a member of the supervisory team and an independent assessor (or assessors) appointed by the Faculty Director of Graduate School. Documentation normally comprises (1) an updated research proposal, which outlines the nature and scope of the research as agreed by student and supervisors (to include a provisional thesis structure and timeline for the research); and (2) a draft chapter of the thesis (typically the literature review). In the case of practice-based research, students should provide documentation of work and/or make available current work to their supervisors and assessors. Students must demonstrate clear progress with their initial research plans – identifying how the research has gained greater focus (and what the original contribution aims to be), what the realistic plans are for the continuing research and also to demonstrate a detailed understanding of the field in which the research is contextualized (this is normally achieved with a solid initial draft of a literature review). The assessor(s) must be satisfied the student has the potential to undertake independent research and produce a doctoral level thesis within the timescale of the programme. The assessor(s) submit their report to the Faculty Graduate Office. If all requirements have been met the student can proceed with their studies. If the student fails to meet the requirements, the student may choose to be re-examined, but will be allowed only one further attempt (within three months of the first attempt). If student fails at second attempt it will not be possible to proceed with studies.

Throughout the candidature students have the opportunity to meet regularly with the Graduate School (which comprises an academic representative from each Academic Unit as well as the Director of Graduate School) at a mixture of training and networking meetings, which gives ready access to an independent and impartial source of advice about any issues a PGR may be having during their studies.

Year 2
Independent study, training, group seminars and regular supervision meetings continue throughout the second year. Between 18–21 months for full-time candidates (pro-rata for part-time) the candidate is required to submit for ‘confirmation’ (more details below), which will be considered by a review panel comprising the supervisory team and two independent assessors. The assessors are usually selected from within the School, but will not have had direct contact with the research project. Upon successful completion the candidate is then eligible to continue their studies into the third year in readiness for final submission of the thesis.

Progression Review 2: Confirmation - Between months 18–21 for full-time study and 30–42 for part-time study, students must submit documentation for ‘confirmation’ and to attend a viva examination involving the supervisors and two independent assessors from within the faculty. Together, the quality of the written materials and the viva will determine whether the student is eligible to continue with their PhD candidature. Documentation normally comprises (1) an overview of the research (equivalent to a draft introduction of the thesis, plus an overview of all work done to date, an outline of a the thesis structure and also a timeline for the remaining planned research); a full chapter from the thesis (typically a full literature review); and any additional relevant material (e.g artworks or equivalent for practice-based research; overview methodology and/or preliminary empirical research). At viva, Students must demonstrate familiarity with the literature on their research topic, successfully defend a completed piece of written work, demonstrate an understanding of the chosen field of research, review the background literature (and where relevant sources that help contextualise and position the practice components of the research) and draw together the work to date and outline the future direction of the research. At viva voce, supervisors and internal assessors may examine on any aspect of the work and future plans for the project. The assessors must be satisfied the student has the potential to undertake independent research and produce a doctoral level thesis within the timescale of the programme. The assessors submit their report to the Faculty Graduate Office. If all requirements have been met the student is confirmed by the Graduate School and reported to the Faculty Education Committee. If the student fails to meet the requirements, the student may choose to be re-examined, but will be allowed only one further attempt (within three months of the first attempt). Alternatively, you may be advised to transfer to MPhil.

Year 3
The target date for submission of your thesis is at the end of year 3. The thesis is considered by at least one internal and one external examiner and a viva held. Examiners make their reports to the Faculty Graduate School. Possible outcomes are the recommendation to the University of the award of the PhD; award of the PhD subject to minor or modest corrections to the thesis; major revision of the thesis with the award of the PhD subject to a further examination or rejection of the thesis with the recommendation that the PhD should not be awarded. In the latter case an MPhil may be awarded based on earlier performance.
Progression Review 3: Between months 30–33 for full-time or 61–66 for part-time, at the discretion of the supervision team and/or the director of programme, students are invited to submit for a third progress review. Students should submit a draft of all written material for their supervisors to assess. A mock-viva can also be arrange if deemed appropriate. Having successfully completed the previous Progress Reviews and completed subsequent work (and having responded to any recommendations raised at Confirmation), students should be well on their way to completing their work. The third review is an opportunity for formal feedback and guidance prior to final submission.

**Thesis Submission:** Students should aim to submit their final thesis by month 36 (full-time) or 72 (part-time) of their candidature. Students may be eligible to transfer to nominal registration in their final year if they no longer require supervision but need a period of time to write up their thesis. The maximum length of candidature for MPhil or PhD degree is 48 months for full time registration and 84 months for part time registration. Candidates who fail to submit a thesis by this time will be deemed to have withdrawn, unless extensions are sought and subsequently granted by the Faculty.

**Programme Outcomes**

Having successfully completed this programme you will be able to demonstrate:

- the creation and interpretation of new knowledge through original research or other advanced scholarship, of a quality to satisfy peer review, extend the forefront of the discipline and merit publication
- a systematic acquisition and understanding of a substantial body of knowledge which is at the forefront of an academic discipline or an area of professional practice
- the general ability to conceptualise, design and implement a project for the generation of new knowledge, applications or understanding at the forefront of the discipline, and to adjust the project design in the light of unforeseen problems
- a detailed understanding of applicable techniques for research and advanced academic enquiry

**Knowledge and Understanding**

Having successfully completed this programme you will be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:

- Current critical thinking and debates in the areas of fine art, design, media, and critical and cultural theory;
- Current research issues relevant to your PhD topic.
- The theoretical and/or practical foundations of your chosen discipline and area of research;
- The research and development needs of the discipline sector

**Learning and Teaching Methods**

You will develop core knowledge and understanding through your own research and guided independent study via individual supervision meetings. In addition you will further develop via the School’s wider research environment, and dedicated PhD seminars, events and presentations, as well as student-led study groups.

**Assessment methods**

Assessment methods will include written examinations, oral presentations, written assignments, research proposal, progression reviews including **Confirmation of PhD Registration** and a thesis with viva voce as described in part A.

The programme follows the University’s **Higher Degree Regulations**, as set out in the University Calendar. The following are indicative lists for full-time and part-time study. It sets out the key milestones to complete in order to progress satisfactorily on the programme.

**Subject Specific Intellectual and Research Skills**

Having successfully completed this programme you will be able to:
• Interpret and critically evaluate information from a range of sources, including monographs, academic papers, exhibitions, archives, government and NGO reports and other relevant sources.
• Synthesise ideas and apply creative and original thought to the both practice-based and theoretical enquiry.
• Develop, modify and apply existing theory/practice in novel situations and circumstances.
• Create and evaluate new knowledge through research of a quality to satisfy peer review and merit publication and/or exhibition.

Learning and Teaching Methods
Guided and independent research which can include projects carried out with industrial sponsors. Methods will include lectures, seminars, laboratory and coursework assignments, exercises and extended periods of self-study.

Assessment methods
Written examinations, project based assignments, progression reviews including Confirmation of PhD Registration, theses, viva voce exams as described in Part A

Support for student learning

Learning and Supervision
You will develop core knowledge and understanding through your own research and guided independent study via individual supervision meetings. In addition, you will further develop via training support, tutor-led and student-led tutorials, student-led seminars and presentations, studio-work and other related classes/events.

Research students are allocated a supervisory team of at least two members, one of whom will be the main supervisor. The supervisory team typically either consists of a main supervisor and a second supervisor, or for a multi-disciplinary project more than one co-supervisor (one of whom must still be designated as the main supervisor).

Applicants may indicate a preference for the supervisory team on their application form, but the names will not be confirmed until a formal offer is made. In some cases, the composition of a supervisory team may change as the research project evolves and in response to other circumstances.

In addition to the University-wide learning support, students studying on the Fine Art Doctoral Programme will be able to access:
• library resources, including e-books, on-line journals and databases, which are comprehensive and up-to-date; together with assistance from Library staff to enable you to make the best use of these resources;
• high speed access to online electronic learning resources on the Internet from dedicated PC Workstations onsite and from your own devices; laptops, smartphones and tablet PCs via the Eduroam wireless network. There is a wide range of application software available from the Student Public Workstations;
• computer accounts which will connect you to a number of learning technologies for example, the Blackboard virtual learning environment (which facilitates online learning and access to specific learning resources);
• standard ICT tools such as Email, secure filestore and calendars;
• access to key information through the MySouthampton Student Mobile Portal which delivers timetables, Module information, Locations, Tutor details, Library account, bus timetables etc. while you are on the move;
• IT support through a comprehensive website, telephone and online ticketed support and a dedicated helpdesk in the Student Services Centre;
• Enabling Services offering assessment and support (including specialist IT support) facilities if you have a disability, dyslexia, mental health issue or specific learning difficulties;
• the Student Services Centre (SSC) to assist you with a range of general enquiries including financial matters, accommodation, exams, graduation, student visas, ID cards;
• Career Destinations, advising on job search, applications, interviews, paid work, volunteering and internship opportunities and getting the most out of your extra-curricular activities alongside your degree programme when writing your CV;
• a range of personal support services: mentoring, counselling, residence support service, chaplaincy, health service;
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- a Centre for Language Study, providing assistance in the development of English language and study skills for non-native speakers;
- An appropriate research environment, as set out in the Code of Practice.

The Students Union provides:

- an academic student representation system, consisting of Course Representatives, Academic Presidents, Faculty Officers and the Vice-President Education; SUSU provides training and support for all these representatives, whose role is to represent students' views to the University.
- opportunities for extracurricular activities and volunteering
- an Advice Centre offering free and confidential advice including support if you need to make an academic appeal
- Support for student peer-to-peer groups, such as Nightline.

Associated with your programme you will be able to access:

- Research infrastructure
- A Research Training and Support Grant of at least £700 per annum (full-time, pro rata for part-time) for registered students including those on nominal registration
- Access to appropriate desk space and computing facilities
- Support of a supervisory team consisting of at least two members of staff
- Finance for details of your personal RTSG subproject code and claims

UoS Supervisors will act, in lieu of Personal Academic Tutors, to ensure University of Southampton pastoral care duties to PGR students. Further clarification on this will be made available in due course.

The Faculty also offer the following learning support:

- Induction programme for orientation, introduction of the programme and staff, and dissemination of materials.
- Postgraduate Student Handbook, including guidance on selection of technical modules.
- Access to all administrative and academic material on the Faculty, Programme and individual module web sites and Blackboard.
- An opportunity to meet with the Graduate School (which comprises an academic representative from each Academic Unit as well as the Director of Graduate School) at a mixture of training and networking meetings. This gives ready access to an independent and impartial source of advice about any issues you may be having during your studies.
- Infrastructure to support your research.
- Access to other staff of the Faculty.
- Access to Faculty cluster of computers with relevant specialist software.

Fees, Additional Costs and Funding

See Appendix 1 below.

Intermediate Exit Points

There are no intermediate exit points for this programme.

In some cases, students may not or cannot continue through to completion of the PhD. Students may make such decisions for themselves, or it can be based on unsatisfactory performance at one of the formal milestones described above. In this case a transfer to the MPhil programme may be possible, in which case the University will comply with its obligations under the relevant immigration legislation which may be updated from time to time. A student who is concerned about his/her entitlement to remain in the UK following a failure to progress should seek urgent advice from the Student Visa Guidance Service. An MPhil may be awarded only after successful examination of a suitable thesis by an internal and external examiner and passing a viva voce. See the University Calendar for further details on the award of an MPhil http://www.calendar.soton.ac.uk/sectionV/mphil-phd.html

Career Opportunities
Career opportunities are wide ranging and varied within the arts, culture, curation and publishing realms. Opportunities exist to engage with and contribute to wider research in academia, leading to future leadership positions within an academic context. The nature of the generic and discipline-specific skills obtained during your study make your experience and skills attractive to a range of organisations post qualification.

Please note: This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information can be found in the programme handbook (or other appropriate guide).
Appendix 1:

Additional Costs

Students are responsible for meeting the cost of essential textbooks, and of producing such essays, assignments, laboratory reports and dissertations as are required to fulfil the academic requirements for each programme of study. In addition to this, students registered for this programme typically also have to pay for the items listed in the table below.

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<tr>
<th>Main Item</th>
<th>Sub-section</th>
<th>PROGRAMME SPECIFIC COSTS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stationery</td>
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<td>Candidates will be expected to provide their own day-to-day stationery items, e.g. pens, pencils, notebooks, etc. Any specialist stationery items will be specified under the Additional Costs tab of the relevant module profile.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Textbooks</td>
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<td>Where a module specifies core texts these should generally be available on the reserve list in the library. However due to demand, students may prefer to buy their own copies. These can be purchased from any source. Some modules suggest reading texts as <strong>optional</strong> background reading. The library may hold copies of such texts, or alternatively you may wish to purchase your own copies. Although not essential reading, you may benefit from the additional reading materials for the module.</td>
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<td>Hardware</td>
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<td>Conference expenses</td>
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<td>Accommodation</td>
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<td>Within the annual research allowance and prior to approval</td>
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<td>Travel</td>
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<td>Within the annual research allowance and prior to approval</td>
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<tr>
<td>Studio Space</td>
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<td>For those undertaking studio-based/art practice PhDs, it is important to note the University does not provide dedicated studio space. Ad-hoc support from technicians and use of equipment can be arranged on site over the candidature, and spaces for temporary exhibition and installations can be arranged with consultation. However, studio space is not provided.</td>
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