

Applying for an MPhil/PhD or Professional Doctorate Degree

College of Professional Services, University of London

An application for a doctoral research degree (e.g. PhD, EdD and DSW) at UEL should normally be accompanied by a research proposal (between 1,500 - 2,000 words, excluding bibliographical references).

A research proposal should normally include the following:

- 1) A working title that describes the field, scope and subject matter of your projected research. Please try to be as specific as possible. For example, avoid broad titles like ‘The history of European integration since the 1940s’, focusing, instead, on your own specific interest (e.g. ‘Debates between European elites, especially German, British and French, in the run up to the Maastricht Treaty of 1991-92’).
- 2) A detailed statement of the topic you wish to research, including your research objectives, key research questions and proposed methodology. Several PhDs proposals often emerge for MA/MSc research. Please note that at this stage your application should not be a description of your MA/MSc thesis.
- 3) A review of the key literature on the topic of your choice, and, ideally, the research questions that arise from the literature review.
- 4) Sufficient information about yourself, explaining how your proposed research fits with your qualifications, research experience and interests, as well as those of your employer, sponsor or organisation, if your research is funded by such a body.
- 5) Where applicable, evidence that you have ascertained the accessibility of data or resources that you might need for your research.
- 6) A simple time plan, indicating the length of time for each major phase of your research. Please bear in mind that, if Full-Time, you have to complete your PhD in three years and if Part-Time in six years).
- 7) A list of references in Harvard style. This should only include the sources cited in your document, not bibliographical sources that you may have consulted more widely. You can add endnotes or footnotes to your proposal.

Proposals that do not meet the above criteria are unlikely to be considered.

The University of East London abides by the qualification descriptors specified by the QAA ‘The Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (January 2001)’:

<http://www.qaa.ac.uk/academicinfrastructure/FHEQ/EWNI/default.asp>

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