

Post Graduate Study for Geography students

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Employability and Graduate
Development

[**www.exeter.ac.uk/careers**](http://www.exeter.ac.uk/careers)

Content

- *Introduction* to PG study
- Rationale for PG study
- Types of programmes
- Choosing your PG study
- Applying and funding
- Sources of information

Why do PG study?

Pros:

- Studying Geography in greater depth
- May be an essential prerequisite for a job
- A 'conversion' to a new area of interest
- Increasing your employability in a difficult job market
- Increase your starting salary
- Delaying entry to the 'real world' – extra time to develop your work experience

Why do PG study?

Cons:

- The expense
- It *may not* increase your employability
- It *may not* increase your starting salary
- Delays entry to the job market

What type of PG study?

- Taught programmes
- Research programmes

- Taught research skills

PG Taught study at Exeter

Cornwall Campus

- MSc Climate Change and Risk Management
MSc Energy Policy
- MRes Environment, Energy and Resilience
- MSc Sustainable Development
- MSc Sustainable Development (Climate Change and Environment)
- MSc Sustainable Development (Distance Learning)

PG Taght study at Exeter

Streatham Campus

- MRes Climate Change Impacts and Feedbacks
- MRes Critical Human Geographies AHRC Masters studentships.

PG Research at Exeter

Cornwall Campus

- MPhil/PhD Human Geography
- MPhil/PhD Physical Geography
- MPhil/PhD Environment, Energy and Resilience

Streatham Campus

- MPhil/PhD Human Geography
- MPhil/PhD Physical Geography
- MPhil/PhD Environment, Energy and Resilience
- MSc by Research Geography

PG Research at Exeter

- MRes Critical Human Geographies

‘in-depth research training in the social sciences in general and human geography in particular. With a focus on preparing you for a career in social science research, whether at doctoral level at university, or in the public and private sectors, the MRes offers a range of core modules in contemporary social and geographical theories and methodologies, and optional modules in different areas of current human geographical research’.

- Funding possible: AHRC Masters studentships.

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What type of PG study?

Taught courses

Academic:

MA, MSc, MRes

Vocational:

MA, MSc, PGCE, MBA, PG Certificate, PG Diploma,
eg Law Conversion, Journalism

Study while employed

- Day / Block /Evening courses – your employer may fund these
 - eg ACA (Chartered Accountancy)
 - RTPI (Planning)
 - RICS (Surveying)
 - CIM (Marketing)
 - CIPD (Personnel / Human resources)

Subject areas

- Research:
Any Geography subject area (or new subject)
- Taught:
Any Geography academic subject
Many vocational areas eg.
Law Conversion, Teaching, Journalism,
Social Work, Surveying

Research outside university

- KTP (www.ktponline.co.uk) research in smaller businesses possibly leading to post-graduate diploma, a masters degree or a doctorate
- Research during employment in industry – usually scientific or technical
- CASE awards for research – scientific, technical or business
<http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/Pages/Home.aspx>

Choosing a research degree

What to consider:

- The skills / personal qualities needed
- The reputation of the university / department
- The subject areas of research
- Your supervisor / research group
- Funding available
- Will you get extra funding for teaching?
- Are you motivated to research for 3 years?
- Do you have a good grade from UG degree?

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Finding research opportunities

- www.prospects.ac.uk
- www.findaphd.com
- www.jobs.ac.uk

Choosing a taught course

- www.prospects.ac.uk (university courses)
- Professional Institutes (vocational courses - *NB it may be important to choose an accredited course*)
- Recommendations from 'insiders' / academics
- Check where graduates find work following the course
- Does the course include a work placement?
- What are the entry requirements?
- Attend an open day if possible

Finding Masters programmes

- www.prospects.ac.uk
- www.findamasters.com

Teaching Courses

- Entry Routes
 - PGCE or.....
 - SCITT (School Centred initial Teacher Training)
 - School Direct (salaried and school based - often for applicants with experience)
- Funding for courses means tested and subject specific – details www.tda.gov.uk
- 6 December deadline for Primary PGCE courses
- Apply for courses through www.gttr.ac.uk

www.exeter.ac.uk/careers

Study Abroad

NB This needs long and careful planning

Check www.prospects.ac.uk for details of studying in a range of countries

Study in USA: www.fulbright.co.uk

Applying for courses

- Apply to each academic programme individually
- there is no UCAS style system for all PG programmes
- Apply to central systems for some vocational courses eg PGCE, Law,
- There may be no closing date stated – apply early for popular courses (October of final year, ideally)

Applying for courses

- You may have to write a personal statement covering
 - Your interest in the subject area
 - Your motivation to follow this course
 - Why this institution
 - Why you would be a good student
 - Career intentions

Applying for courses

- Academic references
- Tips and further information:

<http://www.exeter.ac.uk/careers/research/pgstudy>

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Cost of Programmes (Taught)

- Masters Course fees
£4K - £6K+ for UK students
- Exeter: UK fees £6,800 for most taught masters (2013/14) programmes
- Exeter International fees £17,000

Cost of Programmes (Research)

- PhD / MPhil fees
£3,500 pa +
(Exeter UK fees: £3,850 for 2013/14)
- Part time options available

Funding

- There is limited funding available for PG programmes
- Research Councils (BBSRC, ESRC, AHRC, NERC)
- Institutional Funding
- Loans (Bank, Career Development Loan)
- Employers (eg Law)
- Charities / Trusts
- Working and study part time or evenings

Funding Tips

- 2:1 or first may be a prerequisite
- Watch for 1 + 3 models of funding eg ESRC
- May need to be nominated for funding by the department you wish to study in
- Usually awards will cover fees or fees *and* maintenance
- Look for fee waivers for Exeter graduates

Summary

- Research your options carefully
- What are your motives?
- Can you afford PG study?
- Allow plenty of time to meet deadlines for applications and funding

Further Information

www.ex.ac.uk/employability/students/postgraduatestudy

www.exeter.ac.uk/careers