



PhD Studentship Application Guidance

This is guidance for PhD studentship applications to SAMS (University of the Highlands and Islands).

Entrance requirements

You must possess one of the following in an appropriate discipline:

- A master's degree at postgraduate level from a university in the United Kingdom or equivalent, or
- A first or upper second class honours degree from a university in the United Kingdom or equivalent, or
- Other qualifications or experience which equate to the academic level required and sufficiently demonstrate the benefit of postgraduate research study to the applicant (to be approved by the Research Degrees Committee on the recommendation of the Principal of the Academic Partner concerned).

If your first language is not English, you will be required to possess an IELTS qualification with a score of 6.5 (with at least a 6 in writing), gained within two years prior to your registration date, unless you have a prior UK degree or can provide suitable evidence of your standard of English.

An English language test is not required if you are a national of one of the following countries: Antigua and Barbuda, Australia, the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Canada, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, New Zealand, St Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago and the United States of America.

How to apply

1. Complete the standard application form
2. Gather the following supporting documentation:
 - a) Copies of degree certificates and transcripts (plus officially certified English language translation if applicable).
 - b) English language test certificate (IELTS or equivalent) if applicable.
 - c) A copy of the photo page of your passport if you are not a UK national. Also include any pages which indicate a right of abode in the UK.
 - d) A current CV (optional).
3. Send the standard reference request form to each referee and ask them to return them to phd@sams.ac.uk before the application deadline
4. Email your application and supporting documentation to SAMS Graduate School: phd@sams.ac.uk

The Application Form

Section 1 About You		
1.1	Personal Details	Please complete all sections as applicable. If you live outside the UK, you will need to get a student route international student visa to study here – unless you are an EEA or Swiss national. Current visa requirements are here .
1.2	Education	List in date order, with the most recent first. Please give the exact titles of qualifications, including any non UK qualifications (in the language awarded - please do not give English equivalencies). Please note that qualifications gained outside of the UK will be checked by the international admissions team to ensure UK equivalency.
1.3	English Language Qualifications	If your first language is not English you must complete this section. Please ensure you list the result for each section of the English language qualification you hold.
1.4	Publications/ Evidence of Research Experience	If you have published any papers or chapters, please list them here. If you have been involved in research previously, please list your experience. If you do not have any publications or previous research experience, please write “N/A”.
1.5	Employment	Please list previous/current employment. If you do not have any, please write “N/A”.
1.6	Referees	Please give details of the two referees. At least one referee should have knowledge of your academic abilities (eg, a supervisor or tutor from a university you have attended) and neither should be a relative. Please ask them to complete the standard referee form and return to phd@sams.ac.uk
Section 2 About the Research		
2.1	Research Project	Please insert the title of the research project, which can be found on the project description.
2.2	Personal Statement	Please outline your suitability for PhD study and this project in particular. What makes you an excellent candidate? Why do you want to undertake this research? Why do you want to study at the SAMS- University of the Highlands and Islands? This should be around 500 words.
Section 3 Questions for International Applicants		
		All international, non-EEA/Swiss, applicants must complete this section. If you selected “Yes” to the question “Do you require an international student visa?” in section 1.1, please complete section 3. Please indicate in this section how you will cover the cost of the difference between UK/EU fees and International fees. Current fees information can be found here: https://www.uhi.ac.uk/en/studying-at-uhi/first-steps/how-much-will-it-cost/research-postgraduate-tuition-fees/
Section 4 Statement by Applicant		
		Please print, sign & date, and scan this page (if possible) to complete the application form. If you are unable to sign and scan, please insert an electronic signature, and if selected for interview the PhD position, you will be required to sign this page at the interview.
Additional information		