Malaysia Partnership Doctorate Scheme

established | transformational | global
Introduction

The Malaysia Partnership Doctorate Scheme has been designed to support Malaysia in developing its Higher Education workforce, in line with the aims of the 9th Malaysia Plan Vision 2020. The scheme enables academic and other high level staff working in Malaysian universities and associated bodies to study for a Reading PhD whilst largely working and living in Malaysia. Through the scheme, staff are able to develop their careers in a manageable way and at an affordable cost.

Specific benefits include:

- An internationally recognised PhD from a UK University ranked in the top 1% of universities in the world.
- Individually tailored research training programme, delivered online and in Reading.
- High quality research supervision from our leading scholars and support from a locally-based supervisor.
- Access to state-of-the-art facilities and resources, if required.
- Becoming a member of our Graduate School and our extended family of doctoral researchers.
- Access to lively social media and networking groups.
- Reduced fee rates.

Contributing to Malaysia’s 2020 vision

The Malaysian government has set the benchmark in its Vision 2020 of 100,000 PhD holders by 2020. To achieve this, the Ministry of Higher Education has said that ‘Malaysia needs to produce human capital with a first class mindset in order to face developmental challenges in a knowledge and innovation-based economy. The desired human capital should be knowledgeable, skilful and possess a superior personality.’

As an international university, the University of Reading has a strong track record in equipping our graduates with the values, skills and experience needed to make a positive contribution to knowledge and innovation-based economies.

As part of our commitment to Vision 2020, we are pleased to offer our Partnership Doctorate Scheme to all staff at Malaysian universities – creating more opportunities for upskilling academic staff to doctorate level.

Research Excellence at Reading

The University of Reading is ranked among the top 1% of research-led universities in the world. Much of our world-class research is focused on important global issues that affect all of us, both now and in the future, including: health, food, environment and sustainability. Our research spans a range of disciplines including science and technology, business, arts, humanities and social sciences.

We receive high levels of research funding, typically winning over £35m (RM 172m) of new research grants and contracts each year. Examples of successful research bids from two of our highly rated schools – Agriculture, Policy & Development, and Psychology & Clinical Language Sciences – is featured later in this brochure.

Our PhD students benefit from first class research facilities. Our £400m (RM 1.9bn) investment programme over the past decade has helped us to establish a number of outstanding centres of excellence and facilities, including:

- Centre for Advanced Microscopy
- Centre for Food Security
- Centre for Integrative Neuroscience & Neurodynamics
- Chemical Analysis Facility
- Design Innovation Research Centre
- Institute for Cardiovascular & Metabolic Research
- Walker Institute for Climate Sciences
World-class PhD supervision in a wide range of disciplines

As part of an ambitious academic investment programme, the University has made 50 new academic staff appointments during 2011/12. These highly respected academics will be providing support and supervision to postgraduate research students, allowing us to offer a wider range of postgraduate research opportunities than ever before. Whatever your area, you can expect to receive first class supervision from staff with expertise and interest in your chosen field, and experience of working with a diverse range of research students on various projects. Collaborative supervision across disciplines is actively encouraged.

Our supervisory support contributes strongly to the success of our research students and the University is ranked very highly in the UK in terms of its doctoral submission and completion rates for both home and overseas students.

Professional and personal skills training

Our Researcher Development Programme offers a wide range of training sessions, development workshops and activities designed to help our research students gain the skills needed to carry out their research effectively and to be successful in their ongoing career. Many of the core sessions are repeated several times during the year to increase access to those who are not based on campus. These face-to-face sessions are complemented by a growing suite of online modules covering core topics.

How the scheme works

• Institutions or individual applicants will initially need to submit a Partnership Doctorate enquiry form, which can be found at: www.reading.ac.uk/partnershipdoctorate

• Return the completed enquiry form to the Doctoral Research office within the Graduate School.

• We will put the applicant in touch with a potential supervisor, who will then discuss the research topic / proposal via email. Supervisory arrangements (including time to be spent in Reading, regularity of contact, supervisory visits to Malaysia, etc.) will also be agreed. The scheme has a requirement that the candidate spends at least six months at the University of Reading during the course of the registration period.

• Once a research topic and supervisory arrangements have been agreed, a formal application will need to be completed.

• Applicants need to meet our normal entry requirements: either a first degree of at least 2:1 standard, or equivalent, or a Master’s degree (depending on subject area), and English Language qualification (normally IELTS score of 6.5 or above).

• Candidates will require a visa in order to spend time in Reading; the University will provide some assistance with this process.

University of Reading Malaysia

Since beginning its operation, the University of Reading Malaysia has been impressed by the ambition and commitment shown by Malaysia to expanding its capacity for knowledge and innovation through education.

The University of Reading Malaysia is already beginning to develop research partnerships with the top institutions in Malaysia to support the 2020 vision of 100,000 PhD holders or equivalent.
A former role: Director of Postgraduate Research Studies & Researcher Development within the University and is responsible for all matters relating to Postgraduate Research Studies. Prior to taking up this position, she held a number of senior positions, including Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research, Dean of Social Sciences, and Head of Psychology.

Professor Berry joined the University in 1990, coming from Oxford University, where she was a research fellow and lecturer in Psychology. Her academic qualifications include a first class degree in Psychology and a Doctorate in Experimental Psychology, the latter of which was gained at Oxford.

Professor Berry is a member of a number of important national committees, and works closely with the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) in relation to research assessment and funding.

In 2012, Professor Berry was awarded the Order of the British Empire (OBE) by Her Majesty, The Queen for services to scientific research.

Professor Dianne Berry, OBE

Rozih Che Haron, PhD student, School of Construction Management and Engineering

‘The main reason I chose Reading was really because of its excellent reputation in my research field of construction cost estimating in construction management. Upon my arrival here I discovered many things that were impossible for me to not fall in love with. The most important of these were the extensive references that I could get hold of for total immersion into my research, on top of the top-notch supervision from learned experts who had gone out of their way to facilitate my research.

‘One thing that makes Reading extra special is its environment. The natural beauty of this place is astounding. Accompanied by the friendly locals and diverse range of international students, I can’t help but feel like I belong, like I am at home and at peace. The proximity to London is also a deciding factor.’

The Graduate School
Around 350 new research students join the University of Reading each year; nearly 40% are from outside the UK. All new research students become members of the University Graduate School in addition to their home schools and departments. The Graduate School is the hub for all doctoral research activity across the University. We work in partnership with academic schools and departments to provide first rate support and training, and a range of broader networking opportunities. Through the Graduate School, research students join a thriving multidisciplinary community where they exchange ideas and join special interest groups, which meet in person or virtually.
Research excellence in Agriculture, Policy & Development

The School of Agriculture, Policy & Development has substantial experience of applied research working across the boundaries of the natural and social sciences. Research focuses on serious issues that face us now and in the future connected with food, fuel and fibres. Interests range from farm animal welfare to factors influencing increasing levels of obesity, from the impacts of trade liberalisation to poverty alleviation in the face of rapid population growth, and the impacts of agricultural production on biodiversity and factors which lead to a sustainable rural environment.

Meet two of the many active staff who engage in research supervision:

Prof Michael Shaw,
Professor of Agriculture Policy and Development

My research interests are plant disease epidemiology and ecology, studied by modelling and experiment: foliar disease forecasting and dynamics in natural and agricultural ecosystems; spatial pattern and dispersal of pathogens; development of fungicide resistance; host-pathogen adaptation and ecology of Mycosphaerella graminicola & Botrytis cinerea.

My current research projects include the epidemiology of systemic infection by Botrytis cinere, modelling the spread of Phytophthora ramorum, the cause of ‘sudden oak death’ and fungicide resistance, especially modelling its evolution. I am currently supervising PhD students’ work on the epidemiology of Mycosphaerella graminicola and Botrytis cinerea, and the population dynamics of hyperparasites of rusts and mildews.

Dr Elizabeth Robinson,
Reader in Environmental Economics

My current research is focused on two broad areas. Most of my research in east Africa explores the intersection of people and the natural environment, in particular how policies and institutions can be designed to protect both resource-dependent livelihoods and the natural resource base. Methodologically this research relies on explicitly spatial and temporal models of resource extraction with an emphasis on forests and fish, on spatial optimal enforcement models, and combining anthropological and economic data collection approaches. I have recently broadened this area of my research to address the linkages between urban fuel choices, rural forest degradation, and REDD. In Ghana I am looking at agricultural value chain development; the role of agriculture in economic transformation; and the forest-agriculture interface. I have focused much of my recent research in Ghana on the tomato value chain. This research has encompassed the viability of agro-processing; market structure and the role of market traders; and drivers of tomato quality.
Research excellence in Psychology & Clinical Language Sciences

The School of Psychology & Clinical Language Sciences has an international reputation for research, with groups working in the areas of Language & Cognition, Nutrition & Health, Perception & Action, and Psychopathology & Affective Neuroscience. Research is underpinned by expertise in child development, psychology over the human lifespan, and the neuroscience of health and disease.

The School has a thriving research community of over 60 research students, as well as state-of-the-art research facilities including a dedicated neuroscience centre offering both fMRI and EEG.

Meet two of the many active staff who engage in research supervision:

Dr Craig Steel, Senior Lecturer

I am a Senior Lecturer, clinical psychologist and the deputy director of the Charlie Waller Institute of Evidence Based Psychological Treatment. My research is focussed on the development of new psychological treatments for mental health problems such as schizophrenia and depression. I am engaged in a number of laboratory based experiments which aim to increase our understanding of how people regulate their own emotions, and how people with mental health problems can be trained to improve these skills. I also work with the local mental health services in order to run clinical trials with patients, so as to find out if newly developed interventions actually work. I bring my clinical experience into my undergraduate teaching, and am able to offer the opportunity of clinically relevant research projects both at undergraduate and postgraduate level.

Dr Eva Feredoes, Lecturer

My research focusses on the cognitive neuroscience of short-term memory. I am interested in both the brain regions and the mechanisms employed to store and protect information across the short term. To do this I use cutting-edge multi-modal brain imaging approaches, such as transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS) concurrent with functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI). Recently, my work has shown that regions of the prefrontal cortex communicate with anatomically remote but connected areas to protect information stored there while we are being distracted. Current research projects are using TMS to examine the basic mechanisms of visual information storage, and more on how during storage we deal with very distracting distractors!
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For more information, please contact:

Mr Jonathan Lloyd
Graduate School
Old Whiteknights House
Whiteknights
PO Box 217
Reading RG6 6AH
United Kingdom
j.d.lloyd@reading.ac.uk
Tel +44 (0)118 378 7348
www.reading.ac.uk/graduateschool

Fees

• During substantial periods when students are working away from the University a 50% pro-rata fee applies.

• If students are present at the University for large blocks of time then a full-time fee will be applied pro-rata.

• The standard full-time fee for overseas PhD students ranges from £11,440 to £13,645, depending on subject area (rates cited are for 2012–13).

• There will also be a charge for making supervisory visits to the candidate’s home institution that will be negotiated on an individual basis.

• In addition to the fee reduction mentioned above, we are also willing to provide a further reduction according to the number of candidates enrolled from the same institution.

Living and working in Reading

Set in a beautiful parkland campus, the University sits right on the edge of the vibrant town of Reading, within easy travelling distance of London (25 minutes by train), and accessible to the rest of the UK and the main international airports.

Research students are provided with office space, library and internet-access when at the University. They are also able to access all of the sporting, support and cultural facilities of the University.

Help is provided to secure accommodation for stays in Reading, either on campus, with a University-approved host family or in a room in a private house (most often shared with other students or local professionals). All accommodation is within easy walking distance, near to local shops, banks, and social facilities.