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**CISRUL PhD Studentship Application 2023**

**Submission Deadline: 12 noon UTC on 15th May 2023**

**(Submit via email to** [**pgrs-studentships@abdn.ac.uk**](mailto:pgrs-studentships@abdn.ac.uk)**)**

The Centre for Citizenship, Civil Society, and Rule of Law (CISRUL) studies the life in the world of political concepts.  The interdisciplinary Centre examines how political principles function within and beyond the contemporary West. Concepts such as citizenship, civil society, and the rule of law are used as often by journalists, social movements, artists and policy makers as by scholars.

CISRUL brings together an extraordinary range of researchers, including PhD students, to study these and other political principles, including democracy, human rights and pluralism. We consider how they have been fostered historically, debated philosophically and in politics, fought over by social movements, codified in law, transmitted through education and the media, and lived out in everyday life.

CISRUL supports a vigorous community of PhD students, who take a leading role in our many activities. Each year, CISRUL provides funding for its PhDs to design and host a major international conference on a topic proposed by them. Recent conferences were on [Conceptualizing Political](https://cisrul.blog/2019/02/25/conceptualizing-political/) (2019), [Conceptualizing Difference](https://cisrul.blog/2020/06/08/talking-difference/) (2021) and [Conceptualizing Community](https://cisrul.blog/event/conceptualising-community/) (2022).

You may apply for CISRUL funding for a PhD in Anthropology, Divinity, Economics, Education, English, Film & Visual Culture, French & Francophone Studies, Geography & Environment, German, History, Law, Philosophy, Politics & International Relations, Sociology, or Spanish & Latin American Studies. Or you may instead apply to the inter-disciplinary PhD programme in Citizenship, Civil Society and Rule of Law.

Our CISRUL studentships include:

* tuition fees (home or overseas)
* an allowance for research and conference travel (£1000/year)
* partial maintenance (£6600/year). **Note that the UK government estimates that students will need £1023 per month for living expenses in the UK.**
* funding to design and host workshops and/or conferences at CISRUL.

Applicants must hold or be close to completing a postgraduate Masters degree in a relevant field. In most cases, we will be looking for the equivalent of a First Class or Distinction in the Masters, especially in the dissertation.

Our criteria for selection are:

* Quality of application (this includes the 1000-word research proposal and the candidate’s academic record and/or cognate experience).
* Closeness of fit to CISRUL interests. The best way of gauging your closeness of fit is by reviewing [our previous and upcoming events](https://cisrul.blog/events/list/?eventDisplay=past) and our [publications](https://cisrul.blog/publications/).
* Closeness of fit to one or more of [our PhD supervisors’ research](https://cisrul.blog/2020/02/20/supervisors-2/).

Please email your application to [pgrs-studentships@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:pgrs-studentships@abdn.ac.uk) by **12 noon UTC on 15th May 2023** with the following supporting materials**:**

* Transcripts and certificates of your UG and Masters degrees. (If you have not yet graduated from your Masters, you do not need to provide a Degree Certificate, but please send the latest version of your Degree Transcript.)
* 2 letters of reference, preferably from your academic supervisors and ideally including your Masters dissertation supervisor. You may choose either to submit these with your application, or to ask your referees to email them separately to [pgrs-studentships@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:pgrs-studentships@abdn.ac.uk) (preferably by 15 May; at the latest by 19 May).
* CV or resumé
* [Proof of English proficiency](https://www.abdn.ac.uk/study/international/requirements-pg-266.php) if you are not a native speaker. (If you do not already have the appropriate certification, any offer will be conditional on securing it prior to commencing study.)

Applicants are invited to consider [other sources of funding](https://cisrul.blog/2018/11/14/phd-funding/) in addition.

**General information**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Title | First name(s) | | Last name (s) | | |
|  |  | |  | | |
| Title of Research Proposal  (You must attach a 1000-word proposal.) | |  | | | |
| Nationality | |  | | | |
| Do you live in the UK and/or hold a UK passport? (Overseas applicants are eligible for the studentships and will receive a fee waiver, but we need to know because it affects the fees that we pay for you.) | |  | | | |
| Do you intend to study Full Time or Part Time? | |  | | | |
| Have you already applied for Admission to the University? (You are not required to apply for Admission at this stage, but we need to know if you have applied.) | | Yes/no | | If yes, please give your Applicant ID |  |
| If you have already started your PhD studies at Aberdeen, when did you start? | |  | | Student ID Number |  |

##### Contact details

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|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Address |  |
| Tel: |  |
| Email: |  |

**Qualifications**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Undergraduate degree** | | | | **Master’s degree**  Applicants must hold or be close to completing a postgraduate Masters in a relevant field. | | | | **PhD (if already started/completed)** | | | |
| Name of University or College plus country (if not UK) |  | | | |  | | | |  | | | |
| Mode of attendance  (please indicate) | Full-time | | Part-time | | Full-time | | Part-time | | Full-time | | Part-time | |
| Month and year in which your programme started and finished (or will finish) | Start date  mm yy | | End date  mm yy | | Start date  mm yy | | End date  mm yy | | Start date  mm yy | | End date  mm yy | |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Qualification and title of award  (e.g. MA History) |  | | | |  | | | |  | | | |
| Degree classification (where awarded). Include any prizes or academic awards received |  | | | |  | | | |  | | | |

**English language proficiency**

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| --- | --- |
| Please explain how you satisfy the University’s [English language requirements](https://www.abdn.ac.uk/study/international/requirements-pg-266.php). |  |

**PhD Research Area/s and Supervisor/s**

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| --- | --- |
| Which [PhD Research Area or Areas](https://www.abdn.ac.uk/study/postgraduate-research/research-areas/) do you instead to study in?   * You may apply for CISRUL funding for a PhD in Anthropology, Divinity, Economics, Education, English, Film & Visual Culture, French & Francophone Studies, Geography & Environment, German, History, Law, Philosophy, Politics & International Relations, Sociology, or Spanish & Latin American Studies. * Alternatively, i your research sits within another discipline or is inter-disciplinary, you can instead select Citizenship, Civil Society and Rule of Law as your Research Area. |  |
| Please write the name of the [University of Aberdeen staff member or members](https://cisrul.blog/2020/02/20/supervisors-2/) whose interests are closest to yours. (We encourage you to approach possible supervisors in advance, but this is not required.) |  |

**Research Summary**

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| *Please provide a summary in 100 words of your proposed research project that will be comprehensible to non-specialists. If you are successful, this will be published in your profile* [*on the CISRUL page*](https://cisrul.blog/2018/02/04/about/)*.* |

**Research Proposal**

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| --- |
| *This is the most important part of your application:*   * *We are seeking original, innovative, coherent and well-written proposals. The word limit is* ***1000 words*** *(not including references or bibliography) – please do not exceed this.* * *You must define and explain your research question(s) or problem(s) in the context of the current research literature, explaining how you propose to make a contribution to scholarly knowledge.* * *You should explain in detail how your chosen approach or methodology is appropriate to your research question or problem. Completion of the project should be feasible within 3 years.* |

**Fit with CISRUL interests**

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| --- |
| *Please explain* ***in 300 words maximum*** *how you consider your research project to fit with CISRUL's research profile, as reflected in* [*our previous and upcoming events*](https://cisrul.blog/events/)*, our* [*publications*](https://cisrul.blog/publications/)*, and our* [*PhD supervisors’ interests*](https://cisrul.blog/2020/02/20/supervisors-2/)*.* |

**Preparedness for proposed doctoral project**

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| --- |
| *Please explain* ***in 300 words maximum*** *how your previous study and/or professional experience have prepared you for* ***your particular doctoral project****. You might discuss your UG and Masters study and dissertation topics, specific methodological training and/or expertise (e.g. proficiency in a relevant language, particular IT skills etc.), work-based learning or employment in a relevant occupation, etc.* |

**Training needs**

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| *However well-prepared applicants may be to undertake the research they propose, it is expected that they will need to develop new skills during their programme of study. Please detail* ***in 300 words maximum*** *the specific skills will you need to develop to ensure that you are able to complete your research project successfully, as well as what skills you seek to develop for your professional career goals.* |

**Applicant's declaration**

I confirm that the information I have provided in this application is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge at this date. I have discussed my application with my proposed University of Aberdeen supervisor who has agreed to support my application.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Signature** |  | **Date** |  |

**Equality and Diversity Monitoring form**

We require the following information for the purposes of monitoring the implementation of the University's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy. Gaining information on the diversity profile of applicants is important to the University so that the effectiveness of the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy can be measured and compliance requirements can be met. Please be assured that the data you supply will be used for monitoring purposes only and will not be available to evaluators or members of the Independent Review Panel. By providing the requested information you are consenting to its use as stated in this paragraph.

<https://www.abdn.ac.uk/staffnet/documents/policy-zone-governance-and-compliance/Equality_Diversity_Inclusion_Policy.pdf>

1. Age

18-24

25-34

35-44

45-54

55-64

Age 65 and older

Prefer not to disclose

3. Disability

Known disability

No known disability

Prefer not to disclose

4. Ethnic Origin

Please note the following are the main classification categories used by the Census 2011. Please specify how you would describe your ethnic origin if this differs from the choices given.

Asian British - includes any Asian background, for example, Bangladeshi, Indian, Pakistani

Asian Other - includes any Asian background, for example, Bangladeshi, Indian, Pakistani

Arab

Black African

Black British

Black Other

Chinese

Latin American

Other Black background

Mixed British/Multiple ethnic groups - includes any Mixed background

Mixed Other/Multiple ethnic groups - includes any Mixed background

White British (includes Scottish and Irish)

White Other

Other Ethnic background

Prefer not to disclose

5. Gender

Female

Male

Other

6. Is your gender identity the same as the gender you were originally assigned at birth?

Yes

No

Prefer not to disclose

7. Marital Status

Civil Partnership

Co-habiting

Divorced

Married

Separated

Single

Widowed

Prefer not to disclose

8. Sexual orientation

Bisexual

Gay man

Gay woman/lesbian

Heterosexual

Other

Prefer not to say

9. What is your current mode of study?

Full-time

Part-time

Prefer not to disclose

10. Do you have caring responsibilities? If yes, tick all that apply

None

Primary carer of child/children (under 18)

Primary carer of older person

Prefer not to disclose

11. In completing this form you are agreeing to the University using the data and information provided only for the purposes stated above. The information shared in this document will be held as per the University’s Privacy Notice which is provided at the link below. It will be used to monitor the effectiveness of the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy and then securely destroyed.

<https://www.abdn.ac.uk/about/privacy/index.php>\