**LJMU Vice-Chancellor (VC) Studentships 2025:**

LJMU is now advertising its 2025 PhD VC Studentship scheme and this page should be used to help you prepare and submit your application. We are looking for exceptionally qualified and motivated PhD students to join us here in Liverpool.

**Guidance for potential VC Studentship applicants**

**Submission Process and Eligibility**

Studentships are open to any eligible UK or international individuals who meet the relevant academic requirements to study at PhD level

Students

* Students currently enrolled on Masters’ programmes (Taught or Research M-level awards) must have completed their course prior to the enrolment onto the PhD at LJMU in December 2024
* Students already enrolled on an LJMU PhD (or any other level 8 programme of study) are not eligible to apply.
* This specific scholarship programme does not support Professional Doctorates or any other non-PhD level 8 registrations.

Supervisors

* Lead supervisors must be permanent staff at L/SL status or above. Postdoctoral Researchers or Research Assistants are not eligible to be Lead Supervisors on this scheme, but they may be included in supervisory teams.
* Academic staff can be a supervisor to more than one studentship applicant but must be the nominated Lead Supervisor to only one applicant.

International applicants

* At the same time as filling in your application form, International students (non-UK citizen) must contact [InternationalAdmissions@ljmu.ac.uk](mailto:InternationalAdmissions@ljmu.ac.uk) to clarify any issues associated with the application eligibility (eg English language requirements, VISA requirements and process if successful)
* Details of English Language requirements for international applicants are available [here](https://www.ljmu.ac.uk/study/courses/international-entry-requirements)

**NOTE** – it is the responsibility of the student to check and resolve any issues linked to the process, costs and logistics, with regards to VISA application, English language (etc) requirements

If any of the eligibility criteria for UK student status (e.g. residency) are not met the student must apply as an international student. For more information please visit [**UKCISA**](https://www.ukcisa.org.uk/Information--Advice/Fees-and-Money/England-fee-status#layer-6082) for guidance. For example, If you are a UK citizen but have lived or studied outside the UK (*even if you are a UK national*) for any amount of time in the 3 years prior to starting the programme, you will need to contact [International Admissions](mailto:InternationalAdmissions@ljmu.ac.uk) to resolve any settled status queries.

**All enquiries** should be made whilst in the process of completing the application form.

Students should also start to familiarise themselves with Accommodation facilities – information can be found [here](https://www.ljmu.ac.uk/discover/your-student-experience/accommodation/postgraduate-and-mature-students)

**Full time and part time**

Application forms (and the separate Equal Opportunities monitoring form) for the 2025 Studentship scheme should be **submitted by the lead supervisor by 5.00pm on 29th July 2024**to [VCStudentship@ljmu.ac.uk](mailto:VCStudentship@ljmu.ac.uk)

No further applications will be considered once the 5:00pm deadline has passed.

Applications without an identified supervisor will not be accepted.

* The student **must have approval** from the supervisor to add them to the application and it is recommended that applications are completed jointly as a starting point for collaboration.

**UK students from an ethnic minority background**

In addition to, and in line with our commitment to widening participation, LJMU also supports postgraduate research degree for students from under-represented UK minority ethnic students within LJMU academic and research careers. The scheme will offer full financial support and a skill development programme, designed to promote both academic and alternative-academic (alt-ac) careers.

**Review process**

Applications will be judged via a two-stage process:

* Faculty-based Panel – organised by the Faculty Associate Dean for Research and Knowledge Exchange in association with the Faculty Research and Knowledge Exchange Committee.
* The panel will include staff with relevant academic expertise, extensive PGR experience, and will reflect a broad coverage of equality and diversity within the faculty. Academic decisions will be based on the consistent application of the criteria of excellence associated with both the student and the proposed project. \*
* University Panel - chaired by Professor George (PVC Research and Knowledge Exchange), Associate Deans for Research and Knowledge Exchange and other members of the University Research and Knowledge Exchange committee who will review the highest ranked applications from each Faculty. This panel will consider issues of academic and PGR experience and equality and diversity as noted above. Academic decisions will be based on the consistent application of the criteria of excellence associated with both the student and the proposed project. \*
* **All applicants** and their lead supervisor will be contacted with the outcome of their application (whether successful or not) by the 21st October 2024

**Information on quality and criteria for assessment**

\* Criteria of excellence associated with both the student and the proposed project.

Applications will be assessed using the following criteria of excellence:

* The calibre of candidates based on their academic qualifications and their academic/research achievements, outputs, experience, skills and abilities
* The relevant experience, achievements, and quality of outputs of the supervisory team to lead/guide the project.
* Quality (originality, significance, and rigour) of the research project
* Clarity and quality of the “Lay Summary” of the proposed project
* Clarity, appropriateness, and relevance of the PhD training plan
* Clarity and relevance of the statement about the connection/link with Faculty or University Research and Knowledge Exchange strategies, plans or priorities within LJMU.

**Note:**

* The number of PhD Studentships available is limited (a maximum of 20 for this round)
* Studentship PhD studentships must be filled in the February 2025 fixed Doctoral Academy enrolment point, or the offer will be withdrawn.

Successful awardees will be expected to complete the formal online PGR application form via <https://uaf.ljmu.ac.uk/>, that will then enable formal registration for a PhD. You don’t complete this form until the outcome of the VC studentship process is known

**A downloadable template is available but please note the final application must be submitted via the online portal**

**For further advice please contact** [VCStudentship@ljmu.ac.uk](mailto:VCStudentship@ljmu.ac.uk)