

# PhD and MSc by Research

## Open to the World

University of Edinburgh  
Business School



UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH  
Business School



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# Welcome

The University of Edinburgh Business School, located in one of the world's leading universities, has an outstanding doctoral programme. With approximately 145 students from around the world, we are able to provide internationally renowned supervisors, excellent facilities, and a vibrant research culture.

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## Great Ideas Start Here

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I am delighted that you are considering our MSc by Research or PhD in Management programme. You will be joining a group of talented, dynamic students who are very much at the heart of the community here.

Our students work on projects across six broadly defined areas - Accounting and Finance, Entrepreneurship and Innovation, Management Science and Business Economics, Marketing, Organisation Studies, and Strategy - so there are opportunities to work with groups of like-minded scholars in whichever discipline you choose.

We also have several interdisciplinary centres and working groups that, collectively, will allow you to develop your ideas in a supportive and productive environment. In addition to the scholarships awarded to many of our students, we offer generous support to fund travel to conferences around the world.

When you have read through this brochure, please contact us to discuss how we can help you further your research interests.



Professor Chris Carter  
Director of the Doctoral Programme

Visit our website for  
more information  
about our programmes



PhD

MScR



# The University of Edinburgh

Granted its Royal Charter in 1583, the University of Edinburgh which we are a key part of is one of the oldest in the United Kingdom. Today that legacy inspires a modern, forward-looking institution, world-class academics and more than 40,000 students from across the globe who have chosen to study at Edinburgh.

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## Facilities for 21st century learning

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Throughout the University campus you will find an inspiring mix of historical buildings alongside more contemporary environments that are purpose-built with studying, learning, networking and relaxing in mind. New facilities like our award-winning Edinburgh Centre for Carbon Innovation sees the University joining partners across government, business and communities to help drive policy, innovation and solutions.

Internationally recognised for first-rate research, development and innovation, the University belongs to the Russell Group of leading UK research-intensive universities. Alongside a commitment to robust academic research is a dedication to enterprise and entrepreneurship.

One hundred years ago our first business graduate Margaret Stevenson Miller walked through our doors. Her unique story shares the same spirit, determination, and business impact of those that followed her.

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## A centre of excellence for teaching, research and innovation

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Ranked 16th in the 2021 QS World University Rankings, Edinburgh is home to some of the most influential academics in their fields and our students are exposed to challenging ideas and inspired thinking.



# Edinburgh

A thriving European capital city, Edinburgh blends history, culture and a world-class arts scene with the entrepreneurial energy and fresh thinking you'd expect from the UK's second-largest financial centre. Easy to reach and well connected to Europe and beyond, it's no surprise that for generations creative thinkers have made Edinburgh their home.

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## A capital with character

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A World Heritage Site, Edinburgh's Georgian and Victorian architecture characterise much of the city. Despite its status as a contemporary capital, here is a city whose centre is home to a royal palace, an extinct volcano and a truly iconic cliff-top castle.

Bursting with life, Edinburgh hosts major international arts festivals and boasts a number of galleries, theatres and concert halls. People from all over the world have settled here – a fact celebrated by the strong ethnic flavour of the city's restaurants, bars and cafés.

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## 1M

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The city's population exceeds one million during the peak of the festival season in August.

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## A country to discover

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Within just a few miles of the Business School await East Lothian's beaches, villages and famous golf courses.

Further afield, Scotland, authentically one of Europe's last great wildernesses, delights the inquisitive with mountains, lochs, wildlife and seven thousand miles of stunning coastline. Combined, they result in a breathtaking natural backdrop for activities including hiking, mountain biking, surfing and kayaking.

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## A place of inspiration

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With so much innovation, research and collaboration going on, it's natural that the city attracts the world's leading thinkers and business people. The School is perfectly placed to both contribute to first-rate research and thinking, and to connect with those working at the very top of their sectors. Guest speakers regularly present to our students, engage in debate with our faculty and lead our aspiring entrepreneurs by example. This engagement that has paid dividends; year-on-year the University has inspired and supported a record number of business start-ups.



# The Business School

The University of Edinburgh Business School has been welcoming students since 1919 and has over 100 years of teaching and research experience in the business world.

The University of Edinburgh Business School holds triple accreditation, awarded by:

- The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB)
- The EFMD Quality Improvement System (EQUIS)
- The Association of MBAs (AMBA)

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## Our Mission

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Developing effective and responsible leaders by creating insightful knowledge and inspiring minds in dialogue with the world around us.

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## Our Vision

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To be recognised as a progressive and connected community for thought leadership on the international business stage.

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## Our Values

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- Visionary
- Inspirational
- Collaborative
- Impactful
- Sustainable

# Research Profile

**Our research programmes attract a diverse community of students from many different nationalities.**

Current research students have hailed from:



Click the dots  
to see where  
our students  
are from

# Research Areas

## Our Research

At the University of Edinburgh Business School there is a lively and thriving research culture. Research underpins the whole School and we benefit from collaborations with several research centres and networks, such as Data-Driven Innovation (DDI).

## Our Mission and Strategy

The Business School's research mission is to produce theory-led, practically relevant research that addresses contemporary organisational and management challenges faced by businesses, public organisations, regulatory bodies, and policy-makers.

Our research strategy is focused on creating and sustaining a supportive, collaborative, and vibrant research culture through raising the quality and quantity of our research output and by developing and managing all faculty to achieve our goals.

## Subject Areas

There are six broad subject areas of research within the Business School. They are:

### Accounting and Finance

Focuses on areas such as accounting in society, carbon accounting and corporate finance.

### Entrepreneurship and Innovation

Researches innovative, growth-orientated entrepreneurship and innovation around new information and communication technologies.

### Management Science and Business Economics

Considers the development of methodologies and frameworks to analyse business and policy decision-making issues.

### Marketing

Focuses on marketing and consumption practices, often looking at the food and services sectors.

### Organisation Studies

Provides insight into major challenges in human resources and public policy in the fields of leadership, governance and diversity.

### Strategy

Studies contemporary issues of societal and organisational importance at local, national and global levels.



# PhD Journey

## Why a PhD?

Completing a PhD will be one of the most rewarding experiences of your life. Upon entry into one of our PhD programmes, you will be surrounded by talented colleagues who are experts in their field.

This in turn will allow you to develop a unique research programme centred on your academic interests, and supported by those around you. Our objective is that when you graduate as an alumnus of the University of Edinburgh Business School, you will enjoy international recognition for your achievement.

## What we offer

Our PhD students work closely with their supervisors and are offered top level training opportunities. We encourage our students to design and develop their own research strategies in conjunction with their supervisors, pursue original lines of thought, and present novel research findings. We strongly encourage, and support, our students to publish during their programme. A large number of seminars and workshops delivered by eminent experts from around the world are available throughout the year providing ample opportunity for advanced learning and networking. The Doctoral Society ensures that there are social opportunities and contributes strongly to the positive culture in the School.

In addition to the support available for your professional and personal development in the Business School,

you will also have access to training across the University. The Institute of Academic Development have a dedicated schedule of events and workshops for research students which are free to attend.

With strong links to industry partners, our students have the benefit of being able to gain real world industry experience through specific industry-sponsored opportunities linked to our PhD Financial Technology programme. We also regularly hold seminars with industry experts and alumni now working in non-academic careers, offering all our students the opportunity to network.





## Structure of our PhD programmes

### Before you apply

- Study over three years full time, with an additional 'writing-up' year available to all
- During your first year, attend a comprehensive set of taught courses designed to train you in the theory and methods necessary to conduct high-quality research
- Access numerous database subscriptions to support your research, such as Bloomberg, Capital IQ, Datastream, Eikon, Morningstar Direct, SNL Financial, and Wharton Research Data Service (WRDS) which features, among others, access to Boardex, Compustat, CRSP, and Sustainalytics data
- Support and access to a wide range of professional and personal development opportunities during your studies

- We encourage our students to aim higher, presenting papers at prestigious conferences and submit articles for publication

### PhD in Financial Technology

- Study over three years full-time or six years part-time, with an additional 'writing-up' year available to all
- Study an independent research topic or participate in fully funded opportunities working with leading industry partners
- For those on the industry pathway, study both at the University of Edinburgh campus and at an industrial partner's location, with guidance from academic colleagues and industry specialists at all times

#### YEAR ONE

#### **Year 1 (Years 1-2 for part-time students):**

Students take 60-80 credits of taught courses to build on their research proposal and research skills. Between 9-12 months from their start date students complete their annual review and doctoral presentation which formally allows them to progress to year 2.

#### YEAR TWO

#### **Year 2 (Years 3-4 for part-time students):**

Students work on their research and data gathering, meeting regularly with their supervisory team. The annual doctoral review and presentation takes place at the end of year two to allow progression to year 3.

#### YEAR THREE

#### **Year 3 (Years 5-6 for part-time students):**

Students continue with their data collection and writing up their findings with guidance from their supervisors. Some students will submit their thesis at the end of the third year.

#### YEAR FOUR

#### **Year 4 (Year 7 for part-time students):**

During the 'writing up' year, students work on producing and submitting their thesis for examination. A viva voce, or oral examination, is held following submission of the thesis. Successful completion of the viva allows students to submit their final thesis and graduate with a PhD.

# PhD Accounting

Our Accounting and Finance subject group is one of the largest in the Business School, with approximately 50 academic colleagues providing high quality teaching and research, and a range of research centres and networks which create real-world influence in business, government, and the public sector.

The programme offers credited research training for those researching an accounting topic, such as the applications of accounting in society and the historical methods and strategies used by those practising in the profession. Supported by experts within the field, you will have the opportunity to develop a doctoral thesis based on original and relevant research.

## 1st Year Training Courses\*

### Semester 1

- ✓ Introduction to Research in Business\*\*
- ✓ Foundations of Econometrics
- ✓ Supervised Reading: Refining the Proposal

### Semester 2

- ✓ Applications of Econometrics
- ✓ Supervised Reading: Literature Review

#### Additional Optional Courses

- Empirical Asset Pricing
- Qualitative Research
- Analysing Qualitative Data
- Core Quantitative Data Analysis 1 and 2

\*Students study 80 credits of taught courses in their first year.

\*\*Mandatory course.

Please note that courses are subject to change and are correct at the time of printing.



**More information about our PhD Accounting programme**

## PhD in Accounting at a Glance

Applicants for the PhD in Management programme should hold a postgraduate master's degree from an accredited institution in the UK or overseas showing evidence of above-average academic achievement. This includes:

- A degree classification with a mark of 65% or more overall (University of Edinburgh level, or overseas equivalent)
- Normally a master's dissertation at the distinction level (University of Edinburgh level, or overseas equivalent) in accounting, finance, or related disciplines
- Degrees in quantitative disciplines (such as economics or mathematics) or business studies will be considered if you can demonstrate a strong background in accounting and finance throughout your degree

**September start date**

# PhD Finance

The programme offers credited research training for those researching a financial topic, such as behavioural finance, asset pricing, corporate finance and governance, and aspects affecting financial markets and institutions. Supported by experts within the field, you will have the opportunity to develop a doctoral thesis based on original and relevant research.

## 1st Year Training Courses\*

### Semester 1

- ✓ Introduction to Research in Business\*\*
- ✓ Foundations of Econometrics\*\*
- ✓ Supervised Reading: Refining the Proposal

### Semester 2

- ✓ Applications of Econometrics\*\*
- ✓ Empirical Asset Pricing\*\*
- ✓ Supervised Reading: Literature Review

#### Additional Optional Courses

- Qualitative Research
- Analysing Qualitative Data
- Core Quantitative Data Analysis 1 and 2

\*Students study 80 credits of taught courses in their first year.

\*\*Mandatory course.

Please note that courses are subject to change and are correct at the time of printing.



**More information about our PhD Finance programme**

## PhD in Finance at a Glance

Applicants for the PhD in Finance programme should hold a postgraduate master's degree from an accredited institution in the UK or overseas showing evidence of above-average academic achievement. This includes:

- A degree classification with a mark of 65% or more overall (University of Edinburgh level, or overseas equivalent)
- Normally a master's dissertation at the distinction level (University of Edinburgh level, or overseas equivalent) in finance, economics, informatics, mathematics, engineering, or other relevant programmes with significant quantitative elements

September start date

# PhD Management

Our established PhD in Management programme challenges students to make the most of their potential and conduct an original piece of research under the guidance of leading supervisors in the field.

As a student on the PhD in Management you can pursue a research project in one of these subject areas:

- Entrepreneurship & Innovation
- Management Science & Business Economics
- Marketing
- Organisation Studies
- Strategy

## 1st Year Training Courses

### Semester 1

- ✓ Introduction to Research in Business\*\*
- ✓ Supervised Reading: Refining the Proposal
- ✓ Foundations of Econometrics

### Semester 2

- ✓ Qualitative Research
- ✓ Supervised Reading: Literature Review
- ✓ Applications of Econometrics

#### Additional Optional Courses

- Strategy Processes, Practices and Power
- Innovation and Entrepreneurship Masterclass
- Analysis Qualitative Data
- Core Quantitative Data Analysis 1 and 2
- Research Design

\*Students study 80 credits of taught courses in their first year.

\*\*Mandatory course.

Please note that courses are subject to change and are correct at the time of printing.



More information about our PhD  
Management programme

## PhD in Management at a Glance

Applicants for the PhD in Management programme should hold a postgraduate master's degree from an accredited institution in the UK or overseas showing evidence of above-average academic achievement. This includes:

- A degree classification with a mark of 65% or more overall (or UK equivalent)
- Normally a master's dissertation at the distinction level (or UK equivalent). Those with an MBA or masters' students without a dissertation are welcome to apply but should provide evidence of distinction-level work within their degree

For all our PhD programmes, those currently studying for a master's degree may submit an application; however, any offer will be conditional on the successful completion of the degree at the required standard.

September start date



# Professional Pathway

**The Professional Pathway is an exciting new route on our PhD Management programme which allows students to continue to work in their professional role while pursuing a PhD. Designed with flexibility in mind, the pathway allows for full- or part-time study.**

As the core courses are not classroom based, there is no requirement for students on the Professional Pathway to be based in Edinburgh for the full duration of the programme. Students will be required to spend some portion of the programme in Edinburgh, however this will be agreed with the supervisory team.

The Professional Pathway is particularly suitable for those already in a senior management or research role.

The training foundation given to all PhD students in the Business School is tailored for those on the professional route and focuses entirely on the development of their research proposal. As a student on this route you will undertake four compulsory Supervised Reading courses to build your research skills, under the guidance of your supervisor.

## 1st Year Training Courses

### Semester 1

- ✓ Supervised Reading: Refining the Proposal
- ✓ Supervised Reading: Methods 1

### Semester 2

- ✓ Supervised Reading: Literature Review
- ✓ Supervised Reading: Methods 2

Those studying part-time will take two courses in the first year and the remaining two courses in the second year.

As your supervisor will play a large role in your training, any formal application to this route should be made along with support from your proposed supervisor.

## How to Apply

Those wishing to apply for the Professional Pathway should make an application to the PhD Management programme. In addition to the application documents required for the PhD Management programme, please also provide the following:

1. A one-page statement detailing why this route is a good fit for you, and how your proposed supervisor will help to provide a supportive and challenging environment for your particular research topic. Please ensure that this statement includes any specific training needs.
2. A supervisory CV to demonstrate how this particular supervisor is a good, if not the best, fit with your particular topic.

# PhD Financial Technology

Our PhD in Financial Technology programme offers you the chance to pursue an original piece of research within the field. The programme aims to prepare students for a diverse array of careers in finance. Opportunities to join the programme as part of a specific industry project are available and allow you a chance to gain real-world industry experience.

## 1st Year Training Courses

### Semester 1

- ✓ Introduction to Research in Business\*
- ✓ Supervised Reading: Refining the Proposal
- ✓ Foundations of Econometrics

### Semester 2

- ✓ Qualitative Research
- ✓ Supervised Reading: Literature Review
- ✓ Applications of Econometrics

#### Additional Optional Courses

- Strategy Processes, Practices and Power
- Empirical Asset Pricing
- Analysis Qualitative Data
- Core Quantitative Data Analysis 1 and 2
- Research Design

\*Mandatory course.

Please note that courses are subject to change and are correct at the time of printing.

## PhD in Financial Technology at a Glance

Applicants for the PhD in Financial Technology should hold a postgraduate master's degree from an accredited institution in the UK or overseas showing evidence of above-average academic achievement. This includes:

- A degree classification with a mark of 70% or more overall (or UK equivalent)
- Normally a master's dissertation at the distinction level (or UK equivalent) in finance, economics, informatics, physics, mathematics, engineering, or other relevant programmes with significant quantitative elements

September and January start date



More information about our PhD Financial Technology programme

# MSc by Research

The MSc by Research (Management) develops your ability to pursue original research in a critical and scholarly way. This one-year programme may be taken either as a free-standing Masters or as the stepping stone to a PhD programme.

## Programme Structure

### Semester 1

- ✓ Research Skills in the Social Sciences: Data Collection\*

### Semester 2

- ✓ Supervised Reading\*
- ✓ Research Design\*

### Summer

- ✓ Dissertation\*
- Additional Optional Courses**
  - Foundations of Econometrics
  - Applications of Econometrics
  - Strategy Processes, Practices and Power
  - Empirical Asset Pricing

\*Mandatory course.

Please note that courses are subject to change and are correct at the time of printing.

## MSc by Research at a Glance

- Study 120 credits of taught courses in semesters one and two, including supervised reading and research methods courses
- Produce a 60 credit dissertation on an original research topic over the summer
- Opportunity to progress to the PhD programme following successful completion of the MSc by Research programme with a mark of 65% overall in the taught courses

September start date



More information about our MSc by Research programme



# Development Opportunities

In the Business School we are dedicated to helping you develop professionally and personally during your research degree. We have a number of opportunities to help you develop and transition into a career following your degree, whether that be in academia or industry.

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## Professional Development Opportunities

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The Business School offers opportunities for anyone interested in gaining Teaching Assistant or Research Assistant experience. Posts for Teaching Assistant roles are advertised annually, in the spring and you can apply from the end of your first year. All Teaching Assistants are given training and are paid for their work, allowing you a chance to lead tutorials for our Postgraduate Taught and Undergraduate students.

The Research Assistant pool allows you the opportunity to work alongside academic colleagues on a current research project. Posts are advertised as they become available and all opportunities are paid, allowing you the chance to boost your research skills and experience.

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## Business School Recognition Awards

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Every year we offer financial awards up to the value of £100 to research students through our Business School Recognition Awards. These awards were created to recognise the positive impact our research students make on wider society. Awards are given for publications in leading journals, community building and initiatives to aid wellbeing, diversity and inclusion.

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## Personal Development Opportunities

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### Peer Mentor Scheme

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All first year PhD students are given the opportunity to be mentored by a later stage PhD student. The scheme was launched to help new PhD students transition into their





research degree by providing them guidance from a student in the later stages of their research journey.

“My Mentor was extremely knowledgeable and supported me [...] to understand the system as well as my work and the PhD in general.” – Mentee, academic year 2019-20.

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### Careers Service

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The University has a dedicated Careers Service who are available to help you at any time during your research programme and for two years after you graduate.



# The Doctoral Society

When you join the Business School as a doctoral student, you automatically become a member of the Doctoral Society. This inclusive nurturing group works to promote research and build a social community. It is run by doctoral students, for doctoral students.



“As a first-year doctoral student representative I am deeply impressed by the sense of community and support that takes place not only within the doctoral society but through events and interactions with doctoral researchers from first year students to alumni. The knowledge transfer and communication have enabled me and my cohort to feel included and welcomed while starting our PhD in a period where in person contact was not possible though COVID-19.”

*Laura Fey,  
Doctoral Society First Year  
Representative 2020-21*



Joining the DocSoc team helped me learn from diverse team members and understand the underlying dynamics of different events held by the Business School and the critical role DocSoc society can play in bridging the gap between the PGR team and postgraduate students. DocSoc society is not just restricted to holding the social events but also acts as a platform for PGR students to develop skills, expertise and form ties with current and alumni peers. Being a part of this spectacular team, helped me develop my communication skills, become a content writer for DocSoc newsletter and led me to hold events which I hadn't experienced before. Therefore, for those who want to learn, listen, and be listened to, should become part of this wonderful society!

*Mehwish Sultan,  
Doctoral Society 2020-21 after Representative Communications &  
Events Representative*

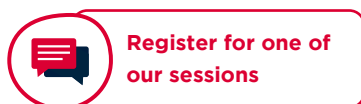
# Making an Application



## Finding out more

We hold regular Introduction to Postgraduate Research Programmes at the Business School online sessions to allow you to hear more about our programmes and application process. Held twice a month September to May and then monthly June to August, these sessions are an opportunity to hear from one of our admissions team and ask any questions about making an application. A current student will also be present to share their experiences both as an applicant and student at the Business School.

As well as these regular sessions you can meet with the PGR Office at one of the University's Open Days in March and November.



Register for one of  
our sessions

## Entry Requirements

Entrance to the research programmes is competitive. While academic credentials are important for a successful application we also pay great attention to the fit of students to both the programme and the research interests of our academic faculty.

## Minimum Entry Requirements

### PhD Accounting

Applicants for the PhD in Management programme should hold a postgraduate master's degree from an accredited institution in the UK or overseas showing evidence of above-average academic achievement. This includes:

- A degree classification with a mark of 65% or more overall (University of Edinburgh level, or overseas equivalent).
- Normally a master's dissertation at the distinction level (University of Edinburgh level, or overseas equivalent) in accounting, finance, or related disciplines
- Degrees in quantitative disciplines (such as economics or mathematics) or business studies will be considered if you can demonstrate a strong background in accounting and finance throughout your degree

### PhD Finance

Applicants for the PhD in Finance programme should hold a postgraduate master's degree from an accredited institution in the UK or overseas showing evidence of above-average academic achievement. This includes:

- A degree classification with a mark of 65% or more overall (University of Edinburgh level, or overseas equivalent)
- Normally a master's dissertation at the distinction level (University of Edinburgh level, or overseas equivalent) in finance, economics, informatics, mathematics, engineering, or other relevant programmes with significant quantitative elements

### PhD Financial Technology

Applicants for the PhD in Financial Technology should hold a postgraduate master's degree from an accredited institution in the UK or overseas showing evidence of above-average academic achievement. This includes:

- A degree classification with a mark of 70% or more overall (or UK equivalent)
- Normally a master's dissertation at the distinction level (or UK equivalent) in finance, economics, informatics, physics, mathematics, engineering, or other relevant programmes with significant quantitative elements

Take the  
next step...

*continued on page 18*

# Making an Application *continued*

## Minimum Entry Requirements *continued*

### PhD Management

Applicants for the PhD in Management programme should hold a postgraduate master's degree from an accredited institution in the UK or overseas showing evidence of above-average academic achievement. This includes:

- A degree classification with a mark of 65% or more overall (or UK equivalent)
- Normally a master's dissertation at the distinction level (or UK equivalent). Those with an MBA or masters' students without a dissertation are welcome to apply but should provide evidence of distinction-level work within their degree

For all our PhD programmes, those currently studying for a master's degree may submit an application; however, any offer will be conditional on the successful completion of the degree at the required standard.

### MSc by Research

The minimum entry requirements for the MSc by Research programme is a UK first-class undergraduate degree or an equivalent overseas qualification. Applicants with a 2:1 undergraduate degree may be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Those in the final year of their Bachelors degree may submit an application, however any offer made will be conditional on the successful completion of the degree at the required grade.

## English Language

We require all applicants to demonstrate English language competency at a level that will enable you to succeed in your studies, regardless of your nationality or country of residence.



Visit our website for more information about English language requirements

## Submitting your Application

Before submitting your application there are some key steps you should consider.

### 1. Identify a potential supervisor/research area

We strongly encourage you to reach out to potential supervisors in advance of applying. Please send them a copy of your CV and research proposal by email in the first instance.



Explore academic colleagues' research areas at our Faculty

### 2. Research Proposal

You must submit a research proposal of between 3,000 and 5,000 words (excluding references) as part of your application to one of our research programmes. The research proposal outlines what your intended topic is and how you plan to conduct your research. It is how supervisors will be able to judge whether or not they have the required expertise to supervise your topic, therefore it is important you spend some time drafting it.

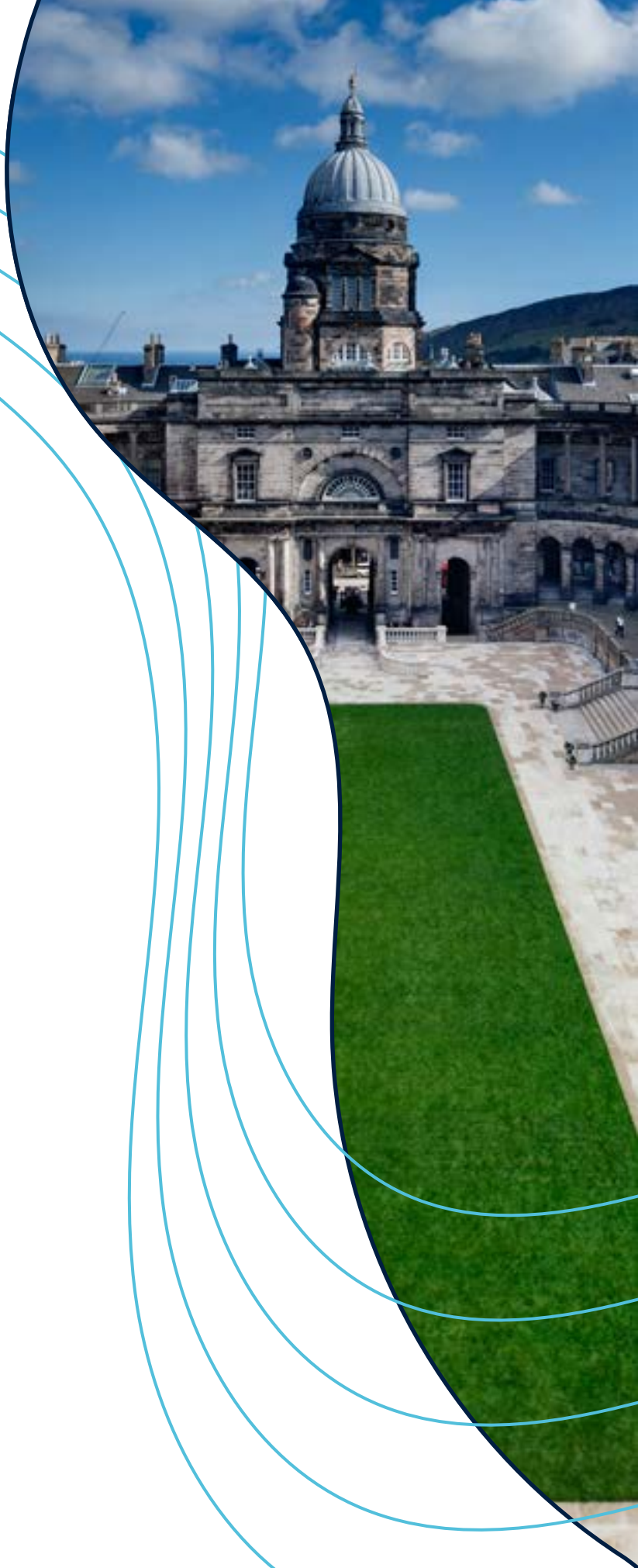
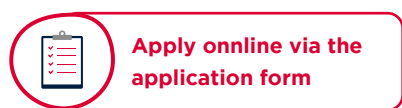


Download the guidance document



### 3. Supporting Documents

As part of your application you are required to submit several supporting documents including copies of your official degree certificate and transcript with grading scheme, a copy of your CV and two reference letters. For those still studying for their masters degree please submit a copy of your interim transcript showing any provisional marks or grades.



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## Contact details

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UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH  
**Business School**