

## School of Biosciences Research Degrees

### About MPhil and PhD Degrees

The period of full-time registered study for an MPhil is between 1 and 3 years; for a PhD it is between 2 and 4 years. All full-time students have ten meetings per year with their supervisor during each year of their registration.

Doctorial level awards are made to students who have demonstrated:

- the creation and interpretation of new knowledge, through original research or other advanced scholarship, of a quality to satisfy peer review, extend the forefront of the discipline, and merit publication;
- a systematic acquisition and understanding of a substantial body of knowledge which is at the forefront of an academic discipline or area of professional practice;
- the general ability to conceptualise, design and implement a project for the generation of new knowledge, applications or understanding at the forefront of the discipline, and to adjust the project design in the light of unforeseen problems;
- a detailed understanding of applicable techniques for research and advanced academic enquiry.

Typically, holders of the qualification will be able to:

- make informed judgements on complex issues in specialist fields, often in the absence of complete data, and be able to communicate their ideas and conclusions clearly and effectively to specialist and non-specialist audiences;
- continue to undertake pure and/or applied research and development at an advanced level, contributing substantially to the development of new techniques, ideas, or approaches;
- have the qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring the exercise of personal responsibility and largely autonomous initiative in complex and unpredictable situations, in professional or equivalent environments.

A student is not permitted to count the same period of registration for both the degree of MPhil and the degree of PhD. However, a student registered for an MPhil degree may, with the permission of their School, be allowed to transfer their registration to a PhD degree. There is a formal review process which is held between 9-12 months of registration, and another review process within the first 24 months of registration. Students must pass these reviews in order to have their registration on either the MPhil or PhD confirmed.

Students who have completed their period of registered study as required by regulations may enter the thesis-pending period. In this period of 12 months (full-time students) or 24 months (part-time students) or less, the student will be entitled to the use of library facilities and University computing facilities but not to facilities for primary research. The student will also be entitled to a minimum of six meetings (either face-to-face or electronically) with their supervisor and for the supervisor to read and comment on one draft of their thesis prior to submission.

## About MRes Degrees

The School of Biosciences offers 3 types of MRes degrees:

### (a) non-specific MRes in Biosciences (C102)

This is a one year full-time (or up to four years part-time) research degree. It provides an excellent alternative for potential students to bridge the gap between undergraduate and PhD study and offers a unique opportunity to gain a taste of research at postgraduate level. The course offers:

- Training in generic techniques for research
- Discipline-specific research techniques
- Transferable skills - for future research study and employment within or outside the academic environment

### (b) MRes in Biosciences with a named pathway(C102)

Available pathways are: Applied Bioinformatics; Agricultural Systems and Management; Crop Science; Dietetics; Food Sciences; Global Food Security; Microbiology

NB Please state which pathway you would like to follow in the personal statement section of your application

### Mode of study (a & b)

Each candidate will be allocated a supervisor, or supervisors. The supervisor will normally be the person directly responsible for the project component of the course, and will advise regarding the relevant taught components.

The course is weighted so that you will spend at least two-thirds (120 - 160 credits) of your time on your research project, in the subject of your choice.

The MRes is examined by dissertation and by coursework, and examinations in any of the taught modules undertaken.

The course comprises:

- 20 credits of general research training modules (Graduate School or School modules, or a combination of both)

- Up to 40 credits of optional subject-specific taught modules
- A research project/dissertation of 30,000 - 35,000 words, worth 120-160 credits. This dissertation will embody the result of the candidate's advanced study and research

### (c) MRes with a subject specific taught element

These MRes degrees are: Advanced Genomic and Proteomic Sciences; Brewing Science; Food Science and Engineering; Industrial Physical Biochemistry; Sensory Science; Sustainable Bioenergy; Techniques in Developmental and Cell Biology. More detailed information at: [www.nottingham.ac.uk/pgstudy/courses/biosciences/research-courses.aspx](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/pgstudy/courses/biosciences/research-courses.aspx)