

LEVERHULME DOCTORAL SCHOLARSHIPS CENTRE FOR WATER CULTURES

PREPARING A RESEARCH PROPOSAL

Writing a convincing and well-argued research proposal is an essential part of being accepted for a research degree.

1. It helps you to clarify your own ideas on what you want to do and what your priorities are;
2. It helps us judge the quality of your application and the 'fit' of your proposed project with the Centre for Water Cultures;
3. It enables us to determine whether or not we have the expertise to supervise you, and, if so, to identify appropriate supervisors.
4. At an early stage, it allows potential supervisors and other members of the Centre for Water Cultures team to ask questions about content, approach, values and methodology before you embark on the study proper and to determine the facilities required for the research;

Your application should be no more than 1,000 words in length (plus references). Please ensure that:

- a) Your proposed title indicates the field, scope and topic of the proposed study;
- b) You demonstrate an awareness of the significant literature in your chosen field;
- c) You formulate clearly the research question, problem or issue that you wish to address and indicate how it might contribute to the advancement of knowledge and scholarship in this field;
- d) You demonstrate that your proposed project is feasible in the time available and provide an account of the research methods or approaches you propose to use;
- e) You outline how your proposed PhD project aligns with the vision, approach and research strands within the Centre for Water Cultures;
- f) You provide details of the resources you will need to carry out your project. Consider equipment, fieldwork expenses, travel and a proposed budget, to indicate how realistic your research proposal is in terms of financial requirements and whether any adjustments are needed.
- g) You include your *suggested* PhD degree programme in your research proposal, which will be subject to confirmation during the application process (from PhD History, PhD Human Geography or PhD English).
- h) You do not include any personally identifying information such as name, age, gender, nationality etc.