

Westmere Scholarships supporting document 2017-18

Postgraduate researchers are part of the life-blood of the University of Birmingham. They play an essential role within UoB research communities, and need to be nurtured as the next generation of field leaders. The presence of high-quality postgraduate researchers (PGRs) is necessary for the University to meet its key research goals, and invaluable to the atmosphere of UoB as a world-class research university.

The Westmere PGR Hub is an essential element of the University of Birmingham's PGR strategy, acting as a flagship for UoB PGR activity. The Westmere hub enables PGRs from across the University to integrate and cooperate, intellectually and socially. Westmere supports PGR-led interdisciplinary workshops and conferences, social events, training, and networking. In addition it is open to all UoB PGRs, as well as providing essential work space for PGRs from the College of Arts & Law.

The University Graduate School (UGS) is offering five Westmere Scholarships (one for each College). These scholarships are designed to support high calibre UoB PGRs. Each scholarship attracts a fixed bursary of £5,000 for a twelve month duration: from the beginning of August 2017 to the end of July 2018. In return for this bursary the PGR Westmere Scholars are asked to support community building and researcher development activities within the Westmere PGR Hub. To take full advantage of the opportunity and make a valuable contribution to the scheme, the successful scholars will need to commit time to these activities throughout the year.

These scholarships will provide an ideal opportunity for postgraduate researchers to develop professional skills in a number of areas including: organising and promoting events; communication; project management; and budget management. The scholarship holders will be able to improve and expand their



professional research networks and gain valuable insight and knowledge of issues affecting PGRs.

The scholarships are open to Birmingham postgraduate researchers who are currently normally registered and intend to stay normally registered until the end of July 2018. Applications should take the form of a **750-word statement and CV (maximum 2 A4 sides)** demonstrating the applicant's potential to support the key aims of the Westmere Scholarship Scheme outlined below. Applicants are also asked to submit **two signed references supporting their Scholarship application**, one of which should be from their Lead Supervisor. These documents will need to be [submitted](#) online, along with your full name, student ID number and College.

The closing date for applications is **5pm on Friday 28 April 2017**. Although the scholarship will not begin until August 2017, the successful Scholarship recipients will ideally be able to meet informally with the University Graduate School team in July 2017 to discuss the Westmere PGR Hub. For an informal discussion about the scholarships, please contact Dr Georgina Hardy, Interim Head of the University Graduate School (g.c.hardy@bham.ac.uk).

Key aims of Westmere Scholarship Scheme

The Westmere Scholars will work together to:

- Contribute to promoting and raising awareness of the Westmere PGR Hub by working closely with the University Graduate School and key contacts in the Colleges/Schools (e.g. promoting the Westmere PGR Hub as part of Welcome inductions/events and open days, and through social media)
- Initiate and organise relevant researcher development and community building activities within the Westmere PGR Hub
- Produce an annual evaluation of the Westmere PGR Hub and its usage



- Support existing formal and informal researcher activities held by the University Graduate School and wider UoB researcher development partners
- Promote the existence of both physical and virtual researcher communities within UoB
- Use social media to engage PGRs, promote discussions and facilitate peer support
- Refer researchers to other support available within the University as appropriate (e.g. Student Services, Careers Network, IT Services, the Guild of Students...)

Shortlisting criteria

Essential:

- Normally registered as a postgraduate researcher at UoB and intending to remain normally registered until the end of July 2018
- An understanding of the challenges and issues facing postgraduate researchers
- Ability to work both effectively and flexibly within a team and independently
- Ability to engage with the diverse range of postgraduate researchers at the University of Birmingham
- Excellent written and oral communication skills
- Time management skills

Desirable:

- Experience of organising and promoting events
- Experience of managing projects and budgets
- Experience of using social media to build an online community
- Demonstrable knowledge of University support services

