

**Welcome to the Postgraduate Research and Postgraduate Certificate in Research Practice Courses**

Dear research degree student,

Welcome to Birmingham City University and the start of your life as a postgraduate research student, a valued member of our growing research community. We recognise fully the commitment that you have made by choosing to study with us for a research degree, and we understand the support that you will need from our academic staff in faculties, our wider research community and our professional services teams.

At Birmingham City University, we are committed to distinctive, original and rigorous research which discovers new knowledge and which delivers real-world benefits to society. Through your research and advanced practice you will discover new insights and know-how. By sharing your research outcomes effectively through publication and conference attendance, your research could deliver meaningful societal, cultural and economic benefits on a local, national or even global scale.  Increasingly our research findings are being applied by others to address national and global challenges, through interdisciplinary research teams and international collaborations.

The last national exercise to measure research quality, REF2014, judged 60 per cent of our research across 11 subject areas to be of ‘world-leading’ or ‘internationally excellent’ quality and our excellent Impact rating, which positioned us equal 55th in the Impact ranking table, confirmed  the  real-world benefits of our research. Our submission to REF2014 included 40% more staff and 4 additional subjects compared to our submission to RAE2008. We are continuing on our journey to improve the quality and impact of our research; to grow our research community and enhance our research culture. We summarise our research ambitions by the phrase “Better, Bigger, Broader, Bolder” and we look forward to the valuable contributions that you will make.

We hope that you will enjoy being a part of our vibrant and expanding research community and find your research degree programme to be a rewarding and challenging experience. In addition to gaining a much deeper understanding of your chosen subject area and discovering new knowledge, you will also develop a wide range of skills that will set you up for your professional life after your PhD. We look forward also to welcoming you to variety of research events that take place within your faculty and/or Research Centre, student-led events organised by our post-graduate research network, PGRnet and to our annual research conference, RESCON.

Please take the time to read the information below as it will help you settle in to the University more efficiently. Further information can be found on our welcome pages.

We wish you the very best of luck with your coming studies.

Professor Keith A. Osman,

Director of Research

***“If you don't go after what you want, you'll never have it. If you don't ask, the answer is always no. If you don't step forward, you're always in the same place.”    Norah Roberts***

## Starting your Postgraduate research study with us

To find out more about facilities, latest developments and accessibility at your campus, along with maps, travel directions and car parking arrangements, please visit <http://www.bcu.ac.uk/about-us/maps-and-campuses>

The research degree year commences on **6 February 2017**, and you may access the full list of Induction/Welcome events being provided for postgraduate research students at: <https://icity.bcu.ac.uk/research-community/pgr-resources/Welcome-and-induction>

You are encouraged to attend as many of the sessions that are relevant to your study and the faculty in which it is based. Please also remember that your supervisory team (or Doctoral Research College contacts – see below) can advise you if any sessions are missed.

Please book you place for **one** of the Doctoral Research College Induction and the PGCert Introduction and Welcoming Session on [6 February 2017](http://bit.ly/2ifIFjM) **OR** [21 February 2017](http://bit.ly/2ije0p7) from 10:30am to 5:30pm.

# **Student Essentials**

**Research Degrees Handbook**

Your Research Degrees Handbook contains detailed information that will be useful to your throughout your time as a research degree student. Download your copy (as well as other PGR resources) here: <https://icity.bcu.ac.uk/research-community/pgr-resources>

**Doctoral Research College**

As a postgraduate research degree student at Birmingham City University, you will be a student of the Faculty in which your research study is focused, and your supervisory team is the primary point of contact for all academic issues. You will also be a member of the University’s Doctoral Research College (DRC). The DRC is an ‘umbrella’ team whose main focus is to administer, co-ordinate and oversee the full life cycle of the University’s research community of postgraduate research students. DRC staff work in partnership with Faculty-based staff (as well as the University’s other professional service providers) and are embedded within each faculty, as follows:

ADM: Parkside (P241) Tel: 0121 331 5517

BLSS: Curzon (C207) Tel: 0121 331 7721

HELS: Seacole (SW0/008) Tel: 0121 331 6103

CEBE: Millennium Point (level 4) Tel: 0121 331 7599

The DRC Manager and additional DRC support are based at University House – Tel 0121 300 4314

**Your University ID card**

Remember to keep your University ID card with you at all times as you will need it to access all campuses and libraries, as well as using printers on campus. Using your ID card also helps us to record your attendance at teaching sessions, making sure you get the best out of your studies.

**Your University email address**

Your University e-mail address will be used for ALL communications. Remember to check your e-mail account regularly to ensure that you don’t miss important updates and information about your studies. You can even [link it to your smartphone](https://icity.bcu.ac.uk/cict/students/Email).

**Rules and regulations**

One of your responsibilities as a student at Birmingham City University is to follow the [rules and regulations](http://www.bcu.ac.uk/Download/Asset/a18a0d75-363c-e511-80cd-005056831842) which apply to all students. It's really important that you’re aware of these, so we've picked out some of the key areas to help you: [www.bcu.ac.uk/about-us/corporate-information/policies-and-procedures/rules-and-regulations](http://www.bcu.ac.uk/about-us/corporate-information/policies-and-procedures/rules-and-regulations)

Please note that Health, Education and Life Sciences students will need to do an additional in-person ID check to complete their full enrolment once their online element is completed. Further details regarding what to bring and where and when the check can be completed will be sent in due course. In the meantime any queries regarding the check should be sent to HELSgradschool@bcu.ac.uk

**Key University Services**

There's a lot to get your head around in your first few weeks at university, but don't worry - help is at hand. We have a number of services at the University to help you get started, find answers to questions and receive general advice and support.

More information: [icity.bcu.ac.uk/marketing/Student-Essentials](https://icity.bcu.ac.uk/marketing/Student-Essentials)

**Information for International Students**

**Meet and Greet service**

We operate a free ‘Meet and Greet’ service at Birmingham Airport for all of our new international and EU students starting a course at the University from July to September only. If you have any queries about the service or travelling to the University please email meet.greet@bcu.ac.uk.

More information: [www.bcu.ac.uk/international/preparing-for-the-uk/meet-and-greet-service/](http://www.bcu.ac.uk/international/preparing-for-the-uk/meet-and-greet-service/)

**Orientation Week**

Our January Orientation Programme gives you the opportunity to meet other students, get essential information and learn more about the University, Birmingham and the UK. If you have any questions regarding orientation please email orientation@bcu.ac.uk.

More information: [www.bcu.ac.uk/international/preparing-for-the-uk/orientation](http://www.bcu.ac.uk/international/preparing-for-the-uk/orientation)