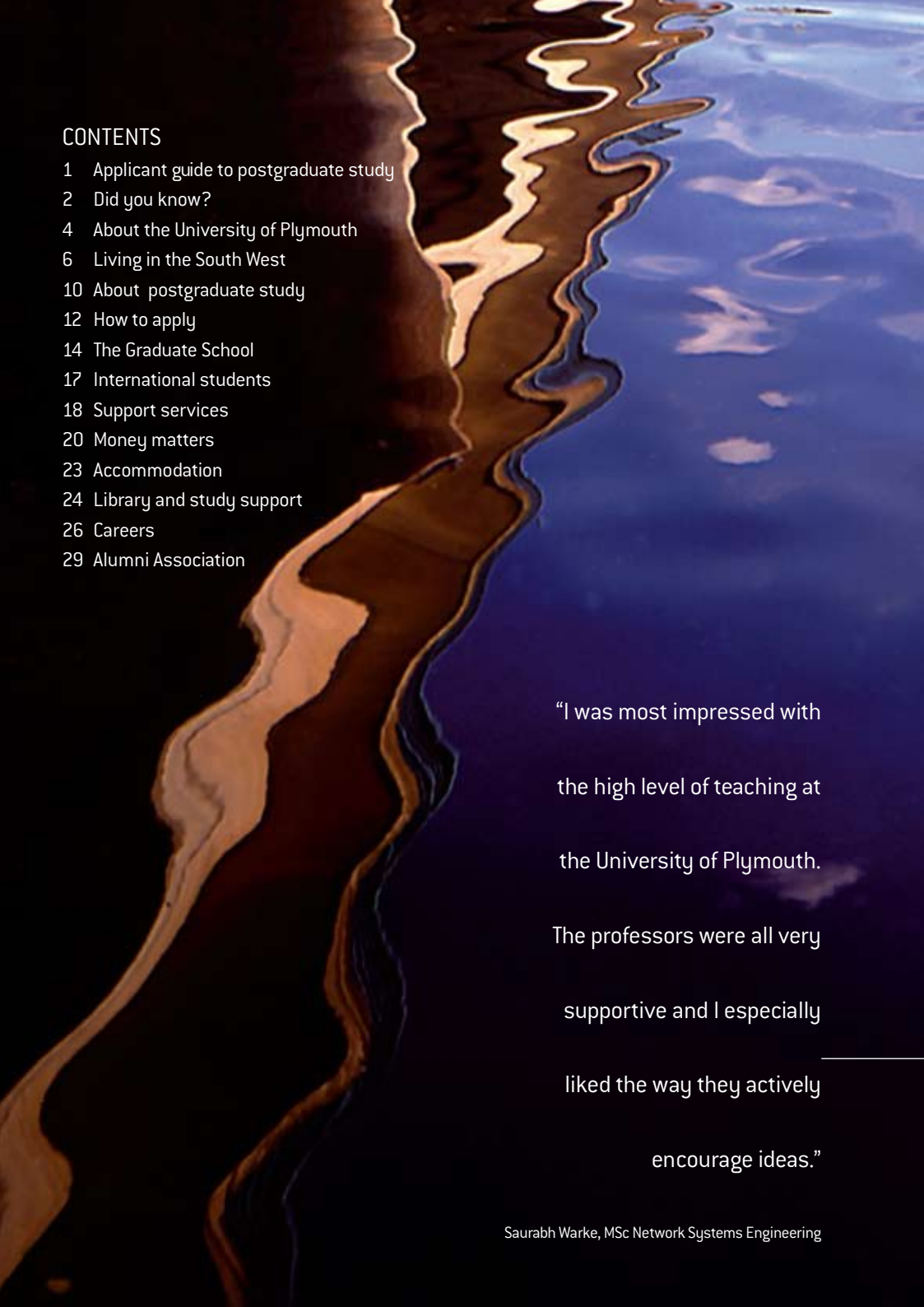




A TIME TO THINK

**POSTGRADUATE OPPORTUNITIES
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PLYMOUTH**



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“I was most impressed with the high level of teaching at the University of Plymouth. The professors were all very supportive and I especially liked the way they actively encourage ideas.”

Saurabh Warke, MSc Network Systems Engineering

APPLICANT GUIDE TO POSTGRADUATE STUDY

Postgraduate study offers real benefits to any student. In addition to the sense of self-fulfilment and the more in-depth knowledge of your chosen subject, a postgraduate qualification will help set you above the rest when you are seeking employment.

Recent research carried out in the UK has shown that students with postgraduate qualifications significantly increase their likelihood of finding meaningful employment within six months of graduating.

At the University of Plymouth we are committed to providing high quality postgraduate opportunities with the right mix of specialist knowledge, research training and professional development to suit the personal career needs of our postgraduate students. We offer a wide selection of taught masters, professional doctorates and research degrees, plus a range of Continuing Professional Development courses on a full-time and part-time basis.



This guide has been produced to help answer some of the general questions you may have about applying for a postgraduate programme, the support available to you and the opportunities offered by the University of Plymouth.

I hope that, having read this guide, we will hear from you soon.

Professor Mick Fuller

Head of the Graduate School
and Director of Graduate Studies



DID YOU KNOW?

- The University of Plymouth has nearly 6,000 postgraduate students and 25,000 undergraduate students, including those students studying at our partner colleges. Our student population represents over 100 countries.
- We have a higher than average employment rate for our postgraduates, with 84% of full-time and 93% of part-time students employed within six months of completing their studies.*
- The university employs over 3,000 members of staff.
- We have won nine National Teaching Fellowship (NTF) Awards. That is, on average, one award every year since the scheme started.
- We have a higher than average PhD completion rate in comparison with the rest of the UK with 76.5% completing in 2006 (71.8% across the sector). **
- We provide extensive postgraduate support, particularly through the Graduate School. This plays an important role in the development of the postgraduate community within the university.
- We founded, with the University of Exeter and the NHS in Devon and Cornwall, the Peninsula College of Medicine and Dentistry .
- The university has been awarded four Centres for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETLs). The government has awarded an extra £18 million funding for the university centres, which will be used to boost the institution, the South West and higher education in the UK.



Opposite: Roland Levinsky Building

*Source: Higher Education Statistics Agency, Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education published 2005. Data based on graduates in 2003/04 with a known destination from full-time degree courses.

**Source: HEFCE





ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY OF PLYMOUTH



Our campus

Unlike many other universities, our campus is based right in the heart of the city ensuring that you are never too far from the action. The campus forms part of the city centre and is only a few minutes' walk away from the pedestrianised shopping area and train station. In addition, Plymouth's spectacular waterfront, The Hoe and historic Barbican area are within walking distance of the campus.

New developments on the campus

Our students are already benefiting from over £100 million of recent investment in facilities. The campus has been redesigned and modernised, to create improved study and leisure amenities including:

- new fitness complex
- sailing and diving facilities
- refurbished science and engineering building
- new open-access computing facility
- new arts building
- new food technology and dietetics laboratory
- new nursery facilities
- extended library facilities with 24/7 access
- research facilities for health and medicine students
- Students' Union extension
- new purpose-built education studies building [completion 2008]
- wireless technology across 40% of the campus, increasing to 100% during 2008.

“The university is recognised internationally for its research profile. To actually be included in the research groups that maintain this profile is an invaluable experience for any postgraduate student.”

Luke Sloan, PhD Politics

Peninsula Postgraduate Health Institute (PPHI)

The Peninsula Postgraduate Health Institute is an exciting new partnership between the Universities of Plymouth and Exeter, and the NHS in Devon and Cornwall. The institute is committed to facilitating outstanding postgraduate health and social care education, and was developed through fusing local expertise to create a dynamic and multi-professional postgraduate learning environment. The NHS funds a number of opportunities at the Peninsula Postgraduate Health Institute, and many private health and social care employers are encouraging staff to develop their skills and bring 'best practice' back to their organisation through postgraduate study.

The institute offers taught certificate, diploma and master programmes, plus research degrees and a wide selection of short courses. The programmes are offered from Plymouth, Exeter, Truro and NHS sites across the Peninsula.

For further information about the Peninsula Postgraduate Health Institute, visit www.pphi.ac.uk

University of Plymouth Colleges Faculty (UPC)

You can also study for a University of Plymouth MPhil or PhD based at our partner colleges throughout Devon, Cornwall, Somerset, Dorset or Jersey, subject to the approval of the University Graduate Committee. Your supervisory team will consist of at least one member of staff from the university as your Director of Studies.

Research Nodes

The university has a number of nodes around the world, which facilitate the distance study for a PhD in certain disciplines. Nodes currently exist in Zurich, Milan and Darmstadt. New ones are proposed for Beijing, Sao Paulo and at Greenwich in London.



Peninsula Postgraduate Health Institute

Your study location

Information on where you will study is given on the postgraduate programme pages on our website, visit www.plymouth.ac.uk/postgraduate and within the postgraduate prospectus.

LIVING IN THE SOUTH WEST

A vibrant waterfront city, Plymouth is accessible by rail (only 3½ hours from central London), by coach, (only 4½ hours from London Victoria), by car (from the M5 straight onto the A38 Expressway via Exeter) and by air (Plymouth airport is just 20 minutes from the city centre and serves various domestic destinations within the UK and the Republic of Ireland).

In addition, some of Europe's most spectacular countryside and beaches are on the university's doorstep. Dartmoor National Park, with its breathtaking views, is great for walking; climbing; cycling; mountain biking; canoeing and horse riding. If you prefer the beach life, there are many beaches in the area providing plenty of opportunity to go swimming; surfing; sailing; water-skiing; windsurfing; kitesurfing or just for sun and relaxation. It's no wonder millions visit the region every year!

What the city of Plymouth has to offer:

- a lively city
- superb beaches and glorious Dartmoor
- huge variety of sporting and recreational activities
- direct ferry links to France and Spain.

The South West's largest city offers everything you would expect from a thriving and energetic community. Our campus is centrally located with the pedestrianised city centre a few minutes' walk away. Yet you can escape from it all – within 20 minutes you can be on the south west coastal path in Devon or Cornwall or in a remote part of Dartmoor.

Shopping

Among the usual high street shops and fashion boutiques, Plymouth city centre boasts Drake Circus, a new multi-million pound indoor shopping complex. In addition there are some quirky boutiques and antique parades in the historic Barbican area of the city.



Smeaton's Tower on the Hoe







LIVING IN THE SOUTH WEST

Waterfront

A leisurely stroll from the city centre brings you to the Hoe, Plymouth's waterfront. Here you can enjoy superb views across the natural harbour to some of Devon and Cornwall's finest coastlines.

History and culture

A little further on you will find the Barbican, Plymouth's historic heart, where narrow Elizabethan streets house small quirky shops, art galleries, café bars and restaurants. The Barbican is also home to one of the UK's foremost exhibitions of underwater life – the National Marine Aquarium. Plymouth's city centre boasts an impressive museum and art gallery. The city is home to the famous Smeaton's Tower, which forms a centrepiece on the Hoe and has become one of the West Country's most well-loved landmarks. Plymouth shaped the lives of famous people throughout history including Sir Francis Drake, the Pilgrim Fathers, Charles Darwin and many more who set sail from Plymouth's harbour.

Sports and recreation

The university is surrounded by some of the country's best natural environments in which to enjoy a wide range of outdoor activities on both land and sea. On land you can enjoy a wide range of activities including horse riding, climbing, mountain biking, and also snowboarding and skiing at Plymouth's dry ski slope. A new driving range has also opened in Plymouth, providing you with the best place to practise golf.

If you enjoy watersports, the University of Plymouth has strong links with the Mount Batten Centre, which offers sports such as sailing, windsurfing, gig rowing, kayaking, diving, water-skiing and wake boarding. The coast also offers a number of top surfing beaches.

If you are a fan of spectator sports, Plymouth Argyle Football Club, Plymouth Albion Rugby Club and Plymouth Raiders basketball team play at venues close to the campus.

The newly built fitness complex on the campus offers state-of-the-art resistance and cardiovascular fitness equipment. There are also squash courts available and a wide range of instructor led fitness classes including circuit training, aerobics, body combat, body conditioning, t'ai chi and yoga.



The National Marine Aquarium

ABOUT POSTGRADUATE STUDY

Why study at postgraduate level?

After graduating with a postgraduate degree from the University of Plymouth, a number of different career opportunities will be opened up to you. Recent research carried out in the UK showed that students with postgraduate degrees significantly increase their likelihood of finding meaningful employment within six months of graduating. The university has a higher-than-average employment rate for postgraduate students, with 84% of full-time and 93% of part-time students employed within six months of completing their studies.

Your postgraduate study

Postgraduate opportunities at the university take a number of forms which include taught masters of research, professional doctorates and research degrees including NewRoute PhDs. We offer a wide range of postgraduate programmes that encompass professional development, research training and specialist knowledge. Programmes can be undertaken full-time, although some part-time and distance learning modes are also available.

Postgraduate taught degrees (MSc/MA/MRes)

Taught programmes lead to a masters degree qualification and are usually studied over one year, although part-time opportunities are available. Taught programmes offer flexible opportunities for learning vocational skills, provide advanced learning in a subject area and can set the foundation for further research. A wide range of masters degree programmes are available at the university, which reflect the diversity of disciplines and expertise of our academics.

Postgraduate research degrees (MPhil/PhD)

Research degrees are designed to equip graduates with the skills and methods necessary to carry out further research within a research environment, or to move into a range of other professional careers in academia or business. They are characterised by the requirement to undertake a substantive research project together with a taught skills element. Many of those who achieve a masters degree progress to this level of study. This incorporates PhDs, three to four years full-time and MPhils, two to three years full-time, and NewRoutePhDs.





Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

The needs of professionals in the workplace change with the demands of the business, and the updating of staff skills and knowledge is of prime importance. You may therefore be interested in pursuing professional development through the short courses, workshops and seminars that the university offers.

To find out more about a taught masters, a research programme or CPD in your area of interest, please contact us on +44 (0)1752 585858, or visit www.plymouth.ac.uk/cpd

HOW TO APPLY

Applying for a postgraduate taught programme

Most postgraduate taught programmes begin in September, although some January starts are available. Application deadlines will be specific to your programme. Application forms can be obtained from the Central Admissions Office or the university website www.plymouth.ac.uk/postgraduate. On completion, the form should be posted to the university and should include two references, and supporting documentation.

Applying for a research degree

If you are considering applying for a PhD or an MPhil, you will find information about the research opportunities that we offer described in each subject area by visiting www.plymouth.ac.uk/postgraduate

Our research opportunities refer to a research group or research centre and other students working on allied research projects. Each group welcomes a dialogue with students before they apply and identifies a contact person who would be keen to discuss any potential application with you.

Entry requirements

Taught programmes

To study for a taught degree (MSc/MA/MRes) you should have:

- a first- or second-class honours degree in a relevant subject, or
- an equivalent qualification and/or professional experience.

Research degrees

To study for a research degree (MPhil/PhD) you should have:

- a first- or upper second-class honours degree or a masters degree from a UK higher education institution in a relevant subject, or
- equivalent qualifications and appropriate research or professional experience may also be considered, or
- other UK or overseas qualifications equivalent to the above, with academic references.

English language proficiency

A satisfactory knowledge of English is vital for successful postgraduate study. For students whose native language is not English, the university has a minimum English language requirement of 6.5 in the IELTS test (with a minimum writing score of 5.5), 575 in the TOEFL paper-based test, and 90–91 in the TOEFL internet-based test. Equivalent qualifications are also considered. For further information, visit: www.plymouth.ac.uk/elr

For students who have 5.0 or 5.5 in the IELTS test (with a minimum of 5.0 in writing), we offer an eight or a twelve week summer school that allows students to raise their English language ability to an equivalent of IELTS 6.5. For further information, visit: www.plymouth.ac.uk/elc

For further information on the specific entry requirements for individual programmes, visit: www.plymouth.ac.uk/postgraduate



THE GRADUATE SCHOOL

The Graduate School operates across the entire university and has an executive role in assuring quality and due process for postgraduate research degrees. It also plays an important role in the development of the Postgraduate Society and provides a range of support for postgraduate students creating a vibrant and inclusive postgraduate community.

Graduate School support includes:

- the provision of good facilities for learning access to scholarships, studentships and bursaries for research degrees, professional doctorates and taught masters programmes
- opportunities for research students to develop professional skills through a free comprehensive programme of generic skills workshops and study days
- assurance of the quality of our provision through codes of practice and feedback from research students
- social space in which to meet fellow postgraduates
- support from the Postgraduate Society through monthly exchange sessions.

Through its activities, the Graduate School promotes a stimulating environment that will enable you to engage with other students from other disciplines and a range of backgrounds. You will also be encouraged to make contact with colleagues inside the university and within the wider academic and professional communities.

Further support

The Graduate School also facilitates links to external support for postgraduate students including UKGRAD, UK Council for Graduate Education (UKCGE) and National Postgraduate Committee (NPC), through the postgraduate portal.

Welcome and induction events for postgraduate students

The Graduate School holds welcome events in April and October to give you a chance to think about your needs as a postgraduate research student. There are opportunities to talk to representatives from a wide variety of student support services and a welcome to the university from the Office of the Vice-Chancellor and Head of the Graduate School, Professor Mick Fuller. This is also an opportunity to meet the staff members of the Graduate School, meet other new students, join the Postgraduate Society, learn about the university's regulations and procedures, and start to think about your professional skills development needs. It is also an opportunity to familiarise yourself with the campus, its facilities and Plymouth itself, if you are new to the area.



Postgraduate Society

The Postgraduate Society (better known as PG Soc) has been set up to provide representation within the Students' Union for postgraduates. PG Soc organises social get-togethers, such as the lunchtime exchange sessions and various excursions.

It also provides an ideal place to meet new people and discuss your postgraduate study, amongst other things.

If you would like to find out more about PG Soc, email: pgsoc@plymouth.ac.uk





INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

The International Student Advisory Service (ISAS)

Travelling to another part of the world to study is an exciting and challenging opportunity. But it can also have its challenges – not least in adapting to a new language, and becoming familiar with the customs and traditions of the host country. The International Student Advisory Service supports international students with all aspects of settling into life on campus and in the UK generally. The specialist team has wide experience of dealing with students from all over the world and can provide friendly, expert and confidential advice on:

- English language support
- immigration
(from authorised immigration advisors)
- applying for visas to travel abroad
- work regulations and work permit schemes
- council tax
- financial issues
- health concerns
- schooling and other family issues
- culture shock/adapting to life in the UK
- national HOST programme
- general academic issues and
- personal worries.

Through ISAS you will be able to access confidential advice through appointments and drop-in sessions. ISAS also organises social, cultural and support events, including an international student orientation session before the term starts.

If you are new to the University of Plymouth, ISAS can help you with any concerns about studying here. Visit our website to find a complete range of advice including essential immigration advice on obtaining your entry clearance visa.

For programme enquiries and admissions, visit:

www.plymouth.ac.uk/internationalstudents

Telephone: +44 (0)1752 588014

Email: international@plymouth.ac.uk

For International Student Advice, visit:

www.plymouth.ac.uk/isas

Telephone: +44 (0)1752 233343

Email: international.advice@plymouth.ac.uk



SUPPORT SERVICES

Disabled students

Disability ASSIST is a service supporting students with disabilities, during the application process and whilst you are at university. Disability ASSIST will help you to access any available funding and resources to help you with your study.

Visit: www.plymouth.ac.uk/disability
Telephone: +44 (0)1752 587677
Email: das@plymouth.ac.uk

Childcare

Freshlings, the university's nursery, is based on the campus. Its qualified staff can look after children up to five years of age.

The service is flexible to meet timetable requirements, and offered to students at a competitive rate.

Visit: www.plymouth.ac.uk/childcare
Telephone: +44 (0)1752 588500
Email: barbara.macpherson@plymouth.ac.uk

Health care

There are medical facilities on the campus, with university nurses offering advice, support and information. If you are re-locating to the Plymouth area, we recommend you register with a doctor as soon as possible and let us know if you have any specific health problems.

Visit: www.plymouth.ac.uk/health
Telephone: +44 (0)1752 782046
Email: health@plymouth.ac.uk



“My MSc prepared me well for my chosen career and has helped me to broaden my horizons and take my career up a level.”

Mike Taylor, MSc Construction Management

Counselling

The university also offers a personal counselling service for emotional and personal issues. This service is available from the university and the Students' Union.

Visit: www.plymouth.ac.uk/counselling

Telephone: +44 (0)1752 587456

Email: studentcounselling@plymouth.ac.uk

Chaplaincy

Chaplaincy support is offered on campus by members of the Chaplaincy team, who come from a wide variety of local Christian churches. They also have good links with other world faith communities locally, and offer help and support to all students, whether you have a faith or not.

Visit: www.plymouth.ac.uk/chaplaincy

Email: chaplaincy@plymouth.ac.uk



MONEY MATTERS

Scholarships and funding opportunities

To study for a postgraduate degree you will need to find the necessary funding to cover the costs of fees and living costs.

There are two different types of funding available, they are:

- studentships (Home/EU fees and subsistence) and
- bursaries (part-contribution to fees or subsistence).

The University of Plymouth offers a range of scholarship opportunities for prospective students who have applied for either a taught masters programme or a research degree at MPhil/PhD level. There are a number of student Graduate School scholarships (Home/EU only) available for studying master programmes.

There are also seven fully funded full-time Graduate School scholarships (minimum stipend of £12,940 per annum and Home/EU fees for 2008/09) available for studying research programmes at the university.

Please visit www.plymouth.ac.uk/pgfunding for further information.

Faculties also offer scholarships, studentships and bursaries. Please visit www.plymouth.ac.uk/money for further information.



The main source of financial support for full-time UK postgraduate students is in the form of studentships offered by research councils and funding bodies. To be eligible you should normally be a UK citizen and expect to have obtained a first- or upper second-class honours degree. You should check with the school/faculty to which you are applying whether any such awards are available to you.

To find out more about studentships for your interest area, please visit: www.plymouth.ac.uk/pgfunding

Some trusts or charities may be able to contribute to the costs of postgraduate research. The Awards Almanac and the Grants Register provide further information and are available in libraries and careers offices.

Many employers sponsor employees as part of their career development. If you are in employment, you should consider asking your employer whether they can assist you with the funding of your postgraduate study.

You may also obtain funding from personal sources or from a sponsor you find individually.

To find out more about the specific funding opportunities available at the University of Plymouth, please visit: www.plymouth.ac.uk/pgfunding

Postgraduate tuition fees

Postgraduate tuition fees are paid on enrolment.

Fees can be paid in full, or half on enrolment and the second half at the start of the next term.

Supporting evidence is required if you are a sponsored student.

Details of standard fees for both postgraduate taught programmes and postgraduate research opportunities can be found on our website: www.plymouth.ac.uk/pgfees.

Living expenses

Accommodation, meals and other personal expenditure are not included in the tuition fees. We recommend a minimum maintenance allowance of approximately £7,000 each year for a single student (for the full calendar year) and more for students with families or dependants.

For further information about money matters at the University of Plymouth, please visit: www.plymouth.ac.uk/pgfees





ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation for postgraduate students

Once you have accepted your offer from the University of Plymouth, we would like to encourage you to think about where you are going to live. If you are relocating to study for your postgraduate qualification, the university can help you with your accommodation search.

We understand that the housing needs for postgraduate students are often different to those of undergraduates who are entering higher education for the first time. Our accommodation office therefore offers you a service that includes:

- providing quality accommodation within a one mile radius of the campus
- providing areas of university-managed halls or flats only occupied by postgraduate or mature students

- liaising with our approved landlords to keep a record of properties that house more mature or postgraduate students, and are looking for others to share
- developing a wide a range of approved accommodation, including many studio flats that provide individuals with their own kitchen and bathroom facilities.

More detailed information about the different accommodation choices at Plymouth and an information booklet is available separately. This covers the different types of accommodation and gives you an idea of the price ranges.

You will also find up-to-date information about accommodation on our website: www.plymouth.ac.uk/accommodation



“I am from India and will be studying in Plymouth for a year. Facilities at the university are really good and the coaching is great – as is the weather, which I find much milder than other parts of the UK.”

Yatish Bangalore Vijaykumar, MSc Mechanical Engineering

LIBRARY AND STUDY SUPPORT

Library

The university library offers direct access to over half a million books and audio visual materials, and more than 18,000 current journals (4,372 print and 13,661 e-journal subscriptions). Increasingly you can access electronic information (e-journals, visual resources and subject indexes) through the student intranet on a PC. New students will be given an introduction to the library, and library staff will provide further support as your programme progresses. Subject-specific librarians are available to advise on your choice of material and help you use the library resources effectively.

The library offers you a high-quality study space, providing a range of study environments from a café and informal seating area to specially designed silent study areas.

Computing facilities and media workshop

There is a wide range of computing facilities for students on campus. In addition to facilities provided by faculties, there are open access computers and high quality printing and photocopying facilities across various locations on the campus. These are available to all university students, some on a 24/7 basis.

Support and assistance is available in open access areas, plus online tutorials and help sheets are provided. There are PCs available 24 hours a day seven days a week throughout the year.

As a student you will have:

- your own electronic email account, file space and access to the postgraduate student portal, better known as 'Gradnet'
- access to the university's extensive software libraries and electronic information services
- access to the university network and the internet.

If you have a PC or laptop of your own, you can connect to the university network from many of the halls of residence on the campus. There are also wireless zones with 40% of the campus set up for wireless connection, increasing to 100% during 2008.



“I have been delighted to find that there are opportunities to participate in collaborative or multi-disciplinary projects and to acquire teaching qualifications early in the PhD programme; I think that Plymouth is a great choice for anyone seeking to expand their areas of expertise.”



CAREERS

Our reputation for teaching excellence and research means that our graduates, at both undergraduate and postgraduate level, are highly sought after by major employers both in the UK and internationally.

The specialist skills and knowledge that you will develop during postgraduate study can give you a competitive advantage throughout your professional life.

To support this, the Careers Service can help you to:

- appreciate your strengths and preferences
- identify jobs, careers paths and employers
- make well-informed decisions about your next move
- sell yourself effectively and make successful applications.

We do this by providing:

- individual careers guidance interviews
- help with Curriculum Vitae, application and interview preparation
- computer-aided guidance and psychometric testing
- access to careers fairs, employer presentations and on-campus recruitment interviews
- occupational and employer information
- access to part-time, voluntary and graduate employment opportunities.

Register with our online job service and we will email appropriate vacancies to you.

Information is provided in careers centres on the campus and on the Careers Service website. For further information visit: www.plymouth.ac.uk/careers





ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

The Alumni Association offers you the opportunity to join a worldwide community of former students of the University of Plymouth, and its associated colleges, by registering with the University of Plymouth Alumni online. To register, visit www.plymouth.ac.uk/alumni

For more information, visit www.plymouth.ac.uk/alumni
Telephone: +44 (0)1752 588020
Email: alumni@plymouth.ac.uk

This free password-protected community enables you to search for friends, make new connections and keep up-to-date with what is happening at your university.

Member services include:

- a University of Plymouth alumni email account
- regular e-newsletters with news, events, graduate success stories and opportunities
- alumni magazine 'InTouch'
- reunion news and invitations
- access to university facilities and expertise
- a 10% discount on a range of postgraduate programmes, including postgraduate diplomas and master degrees
- University of Plymouth memorabilia (visit www.plymouth.ac.uk/gift_collection)



If you require any part of this document in larger print please contact:

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Tel: +44 (0)1752 587677
Fax: +44 (0)1752 587678
Minicom: +44 (0)1752 587679
Email: das@plymouth.ac.uk

University of Plymouth

Postgraduate Admissions Office
Drake Circus
Plymouth
PL4 8AA
United Kingdom

Tel: +44 (0)1752 585858 (Programme enquiries)
Fax: +44 (0)1752 588050
Email: prospectus@plymouth.ac.uk

www.plymouth.ac.uk/postgraduate



A TIME TO ACT

