

**STEM Studentship Application for 2022 Intake**

This form must be submitted along with your CV and either [Home OU application form](https://www.open.ac.uk/students/research/system/files/documents/application-form-uk.docx) (**if you are resident in the UK**) or an [Overseas OU application form](https://www.open.ac.uk/students/research/system/files/documents/application-form-international.docx) (**if you are an international applicant**) by **Friday,** **7th January 2022**.

STEM studentships are open to all and this means we want to do our best to ensure that STEM students reflect our society. The Open University is therefore committed to widening the diversity of our PhD student cohorts.

**Personal details**

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| **Forename** |  |
| **Surname** |  |
| **Email address** |  |
| **Home/ International** | To be classed as a **home** student, candidates must meet the following criteria:  • Be a UK National (meeting residency requirements), or;  • Have settled status, or;  • Have pre-settled status (meeting residency requirements), or;  • Have indefinite leave to remain or enter.  If a candidate does not meet the criteria above, they would be classed as an *International* student.  Please indicate which category applies to you:  **Home:  International:** |

**Widening Participation**

In order to address a historical imbalance, it is our ambition to guarantee interviews for certain under-represented groups of Home-award-eligible students who meet the academic requirements (at least a 2:1 at UK BSc level or at least a pass at UK MSc level or equivalent (see Q1 and Q2 below) and a minimum fit with the selected PhD project; see Q5 below) for up to half of the available interview numbers.

You qualify for this scheme if you identify as BAME & are eligible for a Home award or if the postcode where you went to school or grew up is classified as Quintile 1 in the POLAR4 category of the following website:

<https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/data-and-analysis/young-participation-by-area/search-by-postcode/>

Please note that only Home-award-eligible students (not International students) will qualify for this scheme.

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| **Do you identify as Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic (BAME?)** | **YES/NO** |
| **Postcode of area you grew up in or went to school in** | **e.g. MK41 9LE** |
| **POLAR4 quintile score of that postcode** | **e.g. 2** |

**Project details**

Detailed information for all of our offered projects can be found here ([PHD STUDENTSHIPS | School of Environment, Earth and Ecosystem Sciences (open.ac.uk)](https://www.open.ac.uk/stem/environment-earth-ecosystem-sciences/research/phd-students/current-opportunities-and-how-apply)

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| **Project title** |  |
| **Host institution** |  |
| **Where did you hear about this project?** |  |
| **Have you been in touch with any of the project supervisors to discuss this project?** | Experience shows that students who are engaged in early discussions about the project with the supervisors are more likely to be successful in their application. We therefore encourage you to contact your potential supervisors and ask any questions you may have about the project. Your application will be assessed regardless of your answer.  **YES/NO** |

**Q1. Bachelors-level degrees awarded and grade/classification**

For 4-year integrated masters (MSci, MGeol etc.) please report your *third* year mark here and the final “M” grade in Q2.

Where a final grade is not yet known, please provide a predicted grade justified from your academic transcript. Please ensure your referee(s) are aware of the need to provide reference letters. Please ensure that your academic referee is aware that they should also comment on your predicted grade in their reference letter.

If you gained your Bachelor’s degree at a non-UK institution, please use guidance on UK equivalence provided at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/overseas-degree-equivalency-table-and-methodology>.

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| **Start date** | **End date** | **University** | **Subject** | **Qualification awarded**  **(e.g., BSc)** | **Class/grade awarded**  **(local and UK equivalent)** |
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**Q2. Masters-Level degrees and grade/classification or equivalent experience**

Where a final grade is not yet known, please provide a predicted grade justified from your academic transcript or indicate whether only a pass/fail is awarded. Please ensure that your academic referee is aware that they should also provide a predicted grade in their reference letter.

If you gained your MSc (or are working towards one) at a non-UK institution, please use guidance on UK equivalence at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/overseas-degree-equivalency-table-and-methodology>.

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| **Start date** | **End date** | **University** | **Subject** | **Qualification awarded or predicted**  **(e.g., MSc, MSci, etc.)** | **Class/grade awarded or predicted**  **(local and UK equivalent)** |
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| **Q3. Why do you want to do a PhD?**  PhD is a 3.5-4-year commitment that requires high personal motivation. Please explain in **up to 150 words** how doing a PhD will lead to your chosen career. Why are you interested in research? How did you develop that interest? |
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| **Q4. What interests you about this project in particular?**  Interest in a project will significantly underpin your motivation during your studies. Please provide **up to 150 words** to explain/describe the key aspects or points that drew you to apply for this project. |
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| **Q5. What project-specific skills, aptitude and experience do you bring to this particular PhD project?**  In up to **200** words please tell us how your skills fit with this PhD.  You can use examples from a wide variety of life experience including work, academic study, research, presentations or public engagement activities, wider reading, extra-curricular activities such as sports, volunteering, or other community activities etc. |
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| **Q6. What do you think is one of the key research challenges in the field of the PhD project you are applying for?**  You may use **up to 350 words** for your answer, showing evidence of information found from a wide range of academic or non-academic sources. |
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| **Q7.**  **How do you plan and manage tasks and time during long-term projects?**  Good project and time management skills are key to the successful completion of a PhD, so here is the opportunity to show us how you approach planning and carrying out projects. In **up to 150 words** please describe how you plan tasks and manage your time using evidence from your academic, work or life experience. |
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| **Q8. What strategies do you use to solve problems?**  Experience shows that you will have to solve many problems during your PhD research, so here is the opportunity to show us how you approach problem solving. In **up to 150 words** please describe a problem you have had to solve during your studies, at work, at home or elsewhere. Please describe how you solved the problem and how you might respond differently if you were faced with that problem again. |
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| **Q9. Is there anything else you’d like to tell us about that helps us understand a bit more about you?** For example, you could tell us about any extra-curricular activities such as sports, arts, or other clubs; volunteering; outreach; any grants or prizes you have been awarded; any other skills learned during internships or work placements etc. |
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