

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WORK

Childhood and Youth PhD

US

UNIVERSITY
OF SUSSEX

Childhood and Youth at Sussex

The specialism of Childhood and Youth has its primary location in the School of Education and Social Work, but it is also part of a warm and caring community of scholars from across the University that prides itself on its commitment to Childhood and Youth as an interdisciplinary endeavor, and to engagement with researchers, policy-makers and professionals locally, nationally and globally.

CHILDHOOD AND YOUTH

The School of Education and Social Work is justifiably proud of its research profile and wide-ranging research activity which informs practice and policy. Our researchers engage with a wealth of current and cutting edge issues, both nationally and internationally. We warmly welcome doctoral researchers to a vibrant research community where research informs teaching, as well as research debates.

For many doctoral researchers, the PhD is an important step in advancing a professional career. They bring a real passion for their area of research interest and a high level of commitment. The PhD in Childhood and Youth gives you the opportunity to develop specialist knowledge in an area of interest and to hone advanced research skills. You'll work with faculty from disciplines across the University who are global in their outlook and experts in their fields.

"The PhD in Childhood and Youth at Sussex allows you to work with multiple and interdisciplinary areas, and with different research approaches. These help you to explore different possibilities and to innovate. It has been a challenging experience that has given me a significant opportunity to grow as a researcher, through exploring and discussing new approaches, perspectives, methodologies, and practices when researching and working with children and young people."

Loreto Rodriguez
Second year PhD researcher: 2019/20

RESEARCH COMMUNITY

The Childhood and Youth PhD is supported and energized by the interdisciplinary Centre for Innovation and Research in Childhood and Youth (CIRCY). CIRCY offers a home to all staff and students interested in children, childhood and youth to support academic development, give impetus to proactive and responsive interdisciplinary research bidding, and provide an interdisciplinary critical friendship to those engaged in academic writing - for the thesis itself, for academic publications, or writing for public engagement. This mission goes along CIRCY's role in connecting with the wider community of scholars, practitioners and policy-makers in this field locally, nationally and globally.

Our researchers come from a wide variety of countries, educational settings and backgrounds. Our interests include the child's/young person's voice, perspective and agency; their social, emotional and material worlds; their safety, wellbeing, and needs; childhood/youth as a social, cultural, legal, political and/or historical phenomenon; and child, family or intergenerational relations.

Doctoral researchers are strongly encouraged to engage proactively not only with the dedicated CIRCY doctoral researchers' network, but with all wider CIRCY activities.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

If you'd like to join us as a researcher, there are two main routes (see back page for details), either of which can be taken full- or part time.

The **+3 route** is suited to those with an academic background at Masters level in an appropriate discipline. To join the +3 route you will need to demonstrate sufficient prior research training and/or relevant professional/research experience.

Whichever route you opt for, you are required to submit an initial research proposal outlining your area of research interest and what makes the proposed study a worthwhile and feasible one.

You can find details of the research interests and expertise of our Education doctoral supervisors, as well as what is required from your initial proposal, and how to apply at www.sussex.ac.uk/education/pgstudy/guidelines. See also www.sussex.ac.uk/socialwork/pgstudy/phdguidelines.

NOTE: Self-funded PhD researchers that are also UK nationals may be eligible for a loan of up to £25,000. See www.sussex.ac.uk/study/phd/fees-and-scholarships/funding

"A PhD in Childhood and Youth at Sussex offered a supportive and enriching environment to further my research interests and ample opportunity for interdisciplinary work across other departments."

Rosie Gahnstrom
First year PhD researcher: 2019/20



If English is not your first language, you will need to meet our English Language requirements. See details at www.sussex.ac.uk/study/phd/apply/international-qualifications/english-language-research

ASSESSMENT

The research proposal developed in the first year of the PhD will be reviewed by academic staff before permission to undertake fieldwork is granted.

Annual reviews of your progress and training needs are conducted.

Final assessment is through submission of an 80,000 word thesis which is judged by an internal and an external examiner. The examination process includes a *viva voce* in which you will give an oral defence of your work.

For the 1+3 route
A grade of B+ or higher in the dissertation of the MSc in Social Research Methods is required for progression to the PhD course.

EDUCATION

Example timeline for doctoral study

+ 3 Route

The +3 PhD route is for applicants who can demonstrate sufficient relevant professional experience, or previous significant research methods training.

Researchers are encouraged to fulfill specific training needs through the undertaking of selected modules from the MSc in Social Research Methods.

1 + 3 Route

YEAR 0: MSc in Social Research Methods

AUTUMN TERM CORE MODULES

- Introduction to Qualitative Methods
- Introduction to Quantitative Methods
- Philosophy of Science
- Social Scientific Research Practice

SPRING TERM CORE MODULES

- Research Design and Ethics
- 3 x advanced research workshops
- 3 optional modules selected in discussion with your Supervisor

SUMMER TERM

- Dissertation (often takes the form of a pilot study or a research outline for the intended doctoral research project)

YEAR 1: PhD

- Induction
- Refinement of Research Proposal
- Formal presentation of Research Proposal
- Submission of Research Proposal + mini viva
- Application for Ethical Approval
- Permission to Begin Fieldwork
- Progression to Fieldwork

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- Formal presentation of Research Proposal
- Submission of Research Proposal + mini viva
- Application for Ethical Approval
- Permission to Begin Fieldwork
- Progression to Fieldwork

YEAR 2: PhD

- Fieldwork / Data Collection
- Ongoing reflection and preliminary stages of analysis

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YEAR 3: PhD

- Data Analysis
- Writing Up Thesis
- Completion and Submission of Thesis
- Viva Preparation

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Exact timelines may vary. The above is a guide only of how a full-time PhD researcher might advance through their doctoral studies.

These modules are running in the academic year 2019-20. We also plan to offer them in future academic years. They may become unavailable due to staff availability, student demand or updates to our curriculum. We'll make sure to let our applicants know of such changes to modules at the earliest opportunity.