

POST GRADUATE DEGREES: PRELIMINARY APPLICATION

The London Institute of Space Policy and Law (ISPL) offers research MPhil and PhD degrees in space policy or law topics, in association with the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, London University (IALS). The preliminary Application process is primarily based on the candidate's Proposal.

Instructions for the Preliminary Application follow. These are for the applicant's guidance, and should not be returned with the application.

Please sign this form and include it in your application.

FORM OF CONSENT TO HOLD AND PROCESS PERSONAL INFORMATION			
I understand that The London Institute of Space Policy and Law will retain and use the personal information I submit in this Preliminary Application as follows.			
Unless otherwise indicated, any personal information you provide to ISPL will be used only for the purpose of assessing your Application and may be shared with IALS, or a person named or referred to in the material you provide, including the current or former educational institutions attended by you.			
Your Proposal may be shared with persons with appropriate expertise, without identifying you.			
Your personal information contained in the Preliminary Application and material provided by you will be retained by ISPL for a period not exceeding five years. Your personal information will be removed from any of the material retained by ISPL thereafter.			
Signature:		Date:	

An electronic or typed signature on this page will be acceptable.

Submit this page, with your Proposal and CV by email to: Applications@Space-Institute.Org

The material should be e-mailed as a single pdf file, titled with your name in the following format.

"last name_ first name_Preliminary_Application.pdf"

Example: "Smith_Maria_Preliminary_Application.pdf"

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ASSOCIATED WITH THE INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED LEGAL STUDIES
UNIVERSITY OF LONDON



FURTHER INFORMATION AND INSTRUCTIONS FOR PRELIMINARY APPLICATION

THE APPLICATION PROCESS

An application process begins with the submission of several documents. These include an up-to-date CV, proof of English Language Proficiency, details of previous academic qualifications, a signed agreement permitting us to hold personal information, and a detailed research Proposal. **Until we receive all of these, we cannot begin to process an application.**

Once we evaluate the Proposal and other documents, there is a formal application to the School of Advanced Studies. Their requirements are set out in the link below. It is not possible to apply directly to the SAS for a research degree with our Institute. All applications must be made to us in the first instance.

Before making an application, applicants should satisfy themselves that they will meet the requirements relating to academic qualifications and language proficiency, and should be aware of the costs involved as well as visa requirements.

FEES

There is no fee for submission of a Preliminary Application.

Degree fees will be payable to IALS for the period of study. These can be found on the SAS website. <http://www.sas.ac.uk/graduate-study/prospective-students/tuition-fees>

ISPL fees are currently under review.

LAW COURSE REQUIREMENT

Successful applicants who do not have a law degree will be required to take a course in law provided by ISPL, in the first year of study. There may be a fee for this course.

CURRICULUM VITAE

The CV should ideally be no more than 3 pages. Please give complete details of the educational institutions and organisations cited in relation to experience and qualifications. Include your current contact details. The Europass format for the CV is preferred but not mandatory.

REFERENCES

References will be requested at a later stage. Please do not include references with this Preliminary Application.

If an application is submitted to us and is accepted, a letter stating that fact can be provided for the purposes of obtaining funding. We cannot provide references for anyone whose application has not been accepted.

CONTACT

All correspondence should be sent to Applications@space-institute.org.

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

1. MPhil:

1.1 The Offering

The MPhil may be undertaken as a distinct degree, or may be a precursor to a PhD. Candidates for the PhD who do not already hold an MPhil are registered as an MPhil candidate for the first year, then are entered as PhD candidates.

1.2 Entry Requirements

Admission requirements for an MPhil are:

- (i) Upper second (2.1) from UK university, or equivalent from non-UK university or institution after 3 year programme of study; or
- (ii) Masters degree or equivalent; or
- (iii) Professional qualification approved by the Academic Policy and Standards Committee (APSC) (Barristers and Solicitors meet this requirement); or
- (iv) Other qualification approved by the Institution or the Chair of the APSC.

1.3 Taught Element

Candidates without demonstrable knowledge of law are required to complete in their first year a law course taught by ISPL.

1.4 Thesis and Oral Examination

For the MPhil degree, the length of thesis should normally be about 60,000 words, and not exceed 80,000 words including footnotes and appendices, but excluding bibliography and references.

The thesis should be an account of the student's own investigations showing:

- (i) A record of original work; or
- (ii) A review of existing work, showing the field studied and its scope; collated in an original way.

1.5 Period of Study

The minimum period of study for the MPhil is two academic years of full-time study, or the equivalent. For students entering upon a course at any time other than the beginning of a session, the minimum length is two calendar years. In principle the requirement is for the Thesis to reflect research normally done over that period. Therefore, it can be done in a shorter period.

2. PHD:
 - 2.1 The Offering

The PhD is offered for research in the chosen area of research. It has no taught element.
 - 2.2 Entry Requirement

See the requirements for an MPhil.
 - 2.3 Thesis and Oral Examination

This normally consists of a thesis and an oral examination. For the PhD degree, the thesis should not normally exceed 100,000 words, including footnotes and appendices, but excluding bibliography and references.
 - 2.4 Period of Study

The period of study for a PhD will be between 3 and 4 academic years of full-time study, or the equivalent. As indicated in relation to the MPhil, it could be done in a shorter time. Many candidates take longer.

THE PROPOSAL

The Proposal for either an MPhil or PhD should be no more than 1500 words. It will clearly articulate the following points.

1. The research question or research problem that will be addressed.
2. The main objectives of the research.
3. The specific focus of the research:
 - (i) the hypothesis to be tested;
 - (ii) issues to be resolved;
 - (iii) material to be generated, such as surveys, databases, comparative studies.
4. The research context in which the question or problem will be addressed, including:
 - (i) why the question or problem is important;
 - (ii) what other research has been done in the area (supported by a short bibliography of not more than one side of A4); and
 - (iii) how this particular project will contribute to understanding in the area.
5. The research methods to be used, and the justification for using them:
 - (i) a fully articulated plan of the proposed research and its methodology;
 - (ii) how the research will progress;
 - (iii) the source material forming the basis of the work, and its availability.

LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

Before you apply to study at our Institute, you will need to satisfy us that you are proficient in English. Please read the information here:

<http://www.sas.ac.uk/graduate-study/prospective-students/entry-requirements>

Your previous academic degree(s) and English language proficiency must meet the stated standards. A Masters Degree is normally required to undertake an MPhil or a PhD. However, applications may be considered from candidates who do not meet the formal academic requirements, but who offer alternative qualifications and/or relevant experience.

One way to demonstrate language proficiency is a satisfactory score on the TOEFL. For information about test centres:

http://www.ets.org/toefl/ibt/register/centers_dates?WT.ac=toeflhome_centersdates_121127

If you prefer to take the IELTS examination, you should take the Academic Test, not the General Test. For more information:

<http://takeielts.britishcouncil.org/choose-ielts/ielts-academic-or-ielts-general-training>

Please visit this website for IELTS test locations and fees:

<http://takeielts.britishcouncil.org/book-your-test/book-now>

For information on how to study for the test, including some free material:

<http://takeielts.britishcouncil.org/prepare/road-to-ielts>

FUNDING

We hope to attract the best scholars to our specialist research program, but unfortunately our Institute cannot provide direct funding for students. We offer part-time degrees for those who wish to continue working while pursuing a degree. There is a good deal of information on the web, and applicants are urged to pursue as many options as possible. While ISPL is not able to apply on behalf of students, we will promptly contribute any information requested by funding bodies in support of an approved student's application.

The following sources of funding may be available to you.

LAHP / AHRC Studentships

Doctoral candidates who have been offered a place at ISPL may apply for a Studentship. Only those who have been offered a place and accepted it are eligible to submit an application for this funding. The Studentships are processed and awarded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council / London Arts and Humanities Partnership, and are very competitive. Information about the 2014/15 awards will be posted soon. The application deadline will be in January 2015. For more information please see the link below, and the websites of the LAHP and AHRC.

<http://www.sas.ac.uk/graduate-study/prospective-students/funding/arts-and-humanities-research-council-studentships>

Other sources of funding

Other sources of funding may be available from your own country, or through the British Council. For information about British Council funding, please go to <http://www.britishcouncil.org> and click on the "The British Council in Your Country" link.

For EU candidates, the Erasmus Programme may provide funding.

<http://erasmusprogramme.com>

The School of Advanced Studies has posted information for those seeking funding on its website. Please explore the links on the left side of the following page.

<http://www.sas.ac.uk/graduate-study/prospective-students/funding>

VISA REQUIREMENTS

Information about Visas to study in the UK:

<http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/visas-immigration/studying/adult-students/can-you-apply/>

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

When the Preliminary Application has been submitted, it will be reviewed by the Director.

The Institute will respond to the initial submission as promptly as possible, but cannot give a specific response date. If a proposal is considered promising, arrangements will be made for discussion with the Director. This will take place at a meeting, generally in London, but discussion by telephone may be acceptable in some cases. Candidates should be prepared to revise their proposed research projects in the light of any such discussion, and to re-submit the Proposal to reflect those revisions.

If a Proposal is considered sufficiently strong, the Institute will seek to identify a Supervisor. The Supervisor could be the Director, another member of the Faculty of the Institute or IALS, or another competent person.

When a potential Supervisor has been identified, the Candidate will be invited to complete and submit an application to the IALS. This will include a transcript, references, proof of competency in English, and a completed application form. The form may be downloaded here:
<http://ials.sas.ac.uk/study/application.htm>

You will attend an interview at IALS before a final decision is taken. You will receive notification of the result of your application from the Registry Office of the School of Advanced Study.

Please be aware that the process of evaluating the above material may involve more than one round of consultation and revision.

Please accept our thanks for your enquiry, and our best wishes in the advancement of your career.

Please do not hesitate to contact ISPL with any other questions you may have.