



Brunel
University
London



الجامعة الأهلية
AHLIA UNIVERSITY
BAHRAIN

Brunel/Ahlia PhD without residence







Welcome from Andrew George

Brunel University London is very pleased to have a close partnership with Ahlia University, which allows students in the Gulf region to undertake a Brunel PhD with supervision and training given by our academic members of staff. We are glad that this gives students the ability to study and research for a UK degree, while based in Bahrain, and proud of the success of the graduates from the programme.

I have enjoyed meeting many of the alumni of the programme when I have visited Bahrain, and also when the students visit the UK. It is inspiring to hear about the difference that the Brunel/Ahlia PhD without residence has made to them, often transforming their lives and giving them new opportunities in their careers.

When Brunel was awarded its Royal Charter in 1966 we were given a distinct purpose. We were tasked to be the home of technological education, championing innovation and advancement, and developing the knowledge base needed to compete on the international stage.

We conceived a brand of education and research, which was geared towards the needs of industry and, echoing the spirit and vision of our namesake Isambard Kingdom Brunel, we did so with flair and rigour. Our ambition remains to equip students for

the world of work and to address society's challenges on a global scale.

Our aim is to develop research and educational programmes informed by, and tailor-made for, those who benefit; and to give students the academic education and personal skills needed to become a success in the world. I hope that you want to join us in this journey so that you can contribute to the success of both Brunel and Ahlia universities through your research and studies.

Andrew George
Deputy Vice-Chancellor,
Education and International



MANAMA POST OFFICE

Introduction from Ahlia Founding President



Our partnership with Brunel University London began with what is known as the 'two plus two' programme involving a single academic School at Brunel. This humble beginning soon led Ahlia and Brunel to launch the PhD without residence in 2007. The PhD without residence was an instant success as it met the aspirations of many young men and women in the GCC region, who are looking to attain skills in doing high quality research. The PhD without residence is a great opportunity offered locally by a highly reputable and an international institution. 10 years after its inception, the programme is well recognized in the region including recognition by the Ministry of Education, Kingdom of Bahrain. The PhD without residence has produced graduates in many fields of study who contributed to the local economy.

Ahlia, in affiliation with Brunel, has made important strides in the area of research through this programme in this region. Our rationale for the PhD without residence is simple: Brunel is a well-established, research-led university with an international

reputation whereas Ahlia is a young, visionary institution with research being an integral part of our policy and philosophy. One of the main benefits of the PhD without residence is of course that it offers someone who is unable to travel the chance of researching and achieving a PhD in Bahrain. The benefits for Bahrain and the Middle East as a whole go wider. In my opinion, we have not been very good at addressing some of the problems we face in the Middle East and I believe university research can definitely make a contribution. We are therefore delighted to be working alongside such a well-known research-led university and we consider our partnership to be an excellent example of genuine collaboration between the Middle East and the West which will serve the interests of our region. I am confident that the programme will expand and we will be able to offer PhDs in other areas of research.

Prof Abdullah Al Hawaj
Founding President of Ahlia University





The Brunel/Ahlia partnership

Ahlia University - for excellent academic support and facilities

Ahlia University is the first private university licensed by the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain under the Cabinet decision no. 03-1626, dated 25th March 2001. It is an autonomous university which is independently chartered and which is funded and managed by the private sector. The founders have articulated their vision of a distinctive institution of higher education to ensure that science and technology on the one hand and humanities and social sciences on the other take their rightful place in the building and advancement of Kingdom of Bahrain's society. They aspire to create a centre of research and learning which naturally links up with the economic, cultural, scientific and industrial sectors of society in productive co-operation.

Successfully completing your PhD

The key requirements for obtaining a PhD are:

- ▶ Creation and interpretation of new knowledge - which should be of a standard sufficient for publication in peer reviewed academic journals;

Main benefits

- ▶ It represents a unique opportunity for anyone who is unable to spend three years abroad - maybe due to work or family commitments - to be awarded a PhD by a UK university with an international reputation.
- ▶ It has been judged to meet the standards set by the UK's Quality Assurance Agency (the organisation responsible for upholding academic standards and quality of higher education in the UK).
- ▶ You can choose from a wide range of research topics - research interests of academic staff span all the main areas of business and management, economics, finance, sociology, law, environmental and computer science research.
- ▶ You will have access to the research expertise of Brunel academics without having to leave the Kingdom of Bahrain except for examination: members of Brunel University London have published extensively and are recognised as leaders in a range of research fields.
- ▶ You will receive support from research active academics at Ahlia and be entitled to make full use of Ahlia's excellent facilities.

How does it work?

- ▶ You will be based for your studies at Ahlia University and have full access to all of Ahlia's facilities including its extensive library.
- ▶ You will have full online access to Brunel facilities including the library.
- ▶ You will be assigned two academic supervisors who will support and guide you over the course of your PhD: your principal supervisor will be based at Brunel University London and local supervisor will be based at Ahlia University, Kingdom of Bahrain.
- ▶ You will also be encouraged to attend conferences and to disseminate your research.
- ▶ Brunel regularly runs seminars and workshops in the Kingdom of Bahrain to help you with your study and research skills.
- ▶ You are strongly encouraged to visit Brunel whenever possible throughout your studies; your viva will take place at Brunel University London.

- ▶ A broad and in depth understanding of your field including relevant methodologies, an ability to critically discuss research, research methods, their implications and limitations;
- ▶ The preparation of a well written thesis providing a critical analysis of your work, the methods used, observations made, critical discussion in the context of the broader field, and your original contribution to knowledge.

Support from your supervisors

To support you in your research you will be assigned two research active supervisors. One of your supervisors will be an academic from Ahlia University; the other will be an academic from Brunel. PhD students are expected to work independently, with guidance from your supervisors. Your Ahlia supervisor will be on hand for regular face-to-face meetings and you will have regular contact with your Brunel supervisor by email, Skype or telephone.

In addition, your supervisory team will include a Research Development Advisor who will assist you in determining appropriate research and professional development training opportunities.

Based in the Kingdom of Bahrain

To encourage critical analysis and independence of thought, staff from Brunel University London regularly organise and deliver innovative workshops and seminars. All of these take place at Ahlia University. Whilst many students take the opportunity to visit Brunel University and meet their supervisor face-to-face, this is not strictly necessary. The only time you are required to come to Brunel is for your viva defence once you have submitted your thesis.

Brunel University London

Brunel University London provides PhD students with a wealth of research experience and academic excellence. Brunel is named after the 19th century engineering genius, Isambard Kingdom Brunel and in 2016 we celebrated our 50th anniversary as a university. Today, Brunel is a leading international university dedicated to education and research that is relevant to the global economy. As one of the world's most international universities (Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2016), we attract renowned academics from around the world to lead our research programmes. Their work provides students with the latest thinking and an exceptional learning experience.

Key features

- ▶ The result of a collaboration between Ahlia University in the Kingdom of Bahrain and Brunel University London, a world renowned research-led university in the UK.
- ▶ Up until very recently, studying for a UK doctorate meant spending up to three years in the UK and anyone who was unable to do this simply had to forego the opportunity. Fortunately, thanks to Ahlia's collaboration with Brunel, this is no longer the case.
- ▶ Unrivalled opportunity of a PhD from the prestigious UK based Brunel University without the need to leave home.
- ▶ Exceptional chance to work alongside top researchers.
- ▶ Full support, supervision and excellent facilities provided by Brunel University London and Ahlia University, Kingdom of Bahrain.

Brunel's research highlights

Research at Brunel is conducted in our three interdisciplinary Research Institutes and our three academic Colleges. Academics, who are often from different disciplines, collaborate on specific projects. Some of our research highlights include:-

Queen's Anniversary Prize winner

Research by Brunel's Institute for the Environment revealing the link between chemicals in rivers and reproductive health has won the Queen's Anniversary Prize for Higher and Further Education.

This biennial award is part of the UK's national honours system and is the most prestigious form of national recognition open to a UK academic institution.

By uncovering a link between exposure to water pollution and sex change in male fish in UK rivers, Professor John Sumpter's research team provided the impetus for human health research also linking chemical exposure with declining sperm counts, increased incidence of male genital abnormalities, and testicular, breast and prostate cancer in human populations. This ground-breaking new area of research, continuing under the Institute's new Head, Professor Susan Jobling, now shows that a plethora of chemicals in everyday use are inefficiently removed by sewage treatment, passing into rivers and eventually into the drinking water supply.

Professor Sumpter said: "The long-term aim of our research and teaching is to ensure that society thinks more carefully about the use of chemicals and the impact they have on the environment."

The Institute's work was selected for the Queen's Anniversary Prize as a leading example of excellence not just in research, but also in its global impact.

A Plastic Ocean

A project to investigate how plastic enters the environment has resulted in a feature documentary A Plastic Ocean. This award-nominated film features environmental science pioneered at Brunel, and aims to raise public awareness of the problem of polluting our seas.

The film is produced by BBC Blue Planet producer Jo Ruxton and told through the eyes of journalist Craig Leeson and free diver Tanya Streeter. It tells the insidious tale of the millions of tonnes of plastic litter

turning the world's seas into a toxic plastic soup. In it, Ecotoxicology Professor Susan Jobling, explains the hormone-disrupting effects of chemicals linked to plastic pollution. Professor Jobling, Director of Brunel's Institute of Environment, Health and Societies appears alongside other leading scientists and Sir David Attenborough. "It is quite powerful. Shocking even in places," said researcher Dr Christopher Green, one of the Brunel team of scientific advisors.

Energy efficient freezers

Scientists at Brunel have engineered an innovative new method to build the next generation of freezers capable of reaching temperatures as low as -180°C by using advanced cryogenically cooled heat pipe technology.

Explained Dr Hussam Jouhara, of Brunel's Institute of Energy Futures: "At the heart of the new system is the concept that what we needed was to be able to efficiently transfer cold. The cold in our design comes from liquid nitrogen. But unlike conventional cold storage using the liquefied gas we don't need to physically transfer the nitrogen. The cryogenic heat pipe is literally just moving the cold.

In safety terms this has major implications as in the US alone eight deaths a year are attributed to nitrogen asphyxiation. Our innovations mean the gas tanks can be situated safely outside in the open air."

The system's green and money-saving credentials come from a highly efficient energy recovery process which means a potential of up to 50 per cent reduction in liquid nitrogen use compared to conventional equipment.

"Liquid nitrogen is expensive in both cash terms and energy consumption to produce," added Dr Jouhara. "And quite rightly there are strict health and safety rules because of the attendant dangers of asphyxiation. The Brunel system has no such special requirements."

Once installed heat pipes are regarded by engineers as a "fit and forget" technology as they have no moving parts and require no routine maintenance.

The research work is done with direct funding from the industrial gases giant Air Products PLC and has successfully passed laboratory trials. Dr Jouhara is now partnering with Air Products to commercialise the new freezer technology.

Case studies

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Case studies

Salman Ali Salman Shebab

Year of graduation

2017

Why did you choose to study PhD without residence?

PhD without residence is an excellent programme that brings together academic ambition and practical life constraints.

What research did you conduct?

My research investigated the challenges facing expansion in healthcare services and the available opportunities to overcome these challenges by deployment of energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies.

What are the benefits of postgraduate study?

Postgraduate study is very beneficial. It provides the paradigm shift, mind maturity and self-confidence. It also supports the candidates with the required new tools and techniques required to develop professionally.

What advice would you give to others considering postgraduate study at Brunel?

Brunel University is one of the most diversified international institutions with unforgettable postgraduate study and life experience. I am advising my colleagues not to miss it.



Omar Salem AlMutawa

Year of Graduation:

2015

Why did you choose to study PhD without residence?

Brunel provides an excellent learning environment for PhD candidates.

What research did you conduct?

My research subject related to volunteers field, particularly through research I knew the impact of volunteer management practice on volunteer retention and how the motivation and satisfaction aspects could influence retention.

What are the benefits of postgraduate study?

Postgraduate study improved my critical thinking skills and ability to problem solve. Personally, I learned how to structure ideas and address challenges I could face in my life.

What advice would you give to others considering postgraduate study at Brunel?

Deal with your postgraduate study as a discovery journey. Set your goals without limits. Try to learn new skills, involve yourself in the publications and share your research outcome with qualified people in the same field.

Muneera Al Khalifa

Year of Graduation:

2015-2016

Why did you choose to study PhD without residence?

I strongly believe that knowledge is universal and has no boundaries of time and place. This is exactly why I chose this programme, it has liberated me as a researcher and has given me the chance to explore, learn and write without traditional limits.

What did the course provide?

The course has given me the tools and methods to grow as a researcher. It has provided me with guidance and support during the different phases of the research.

What are the benefits of postgraduate study?

It has developed me professionally and transformed me personally; it has given me a great deal of knowledge and the intellect to utilise it. One can never count the benefits of knowledge; one can only thirst for more.

What advice would you give to others considering postgraduate study at Brunel?

When I chose postgraduate study at Brunel, I knew it might not be easy but I went for it anyway, knowing that I would be in good hands. A PhD is a journey with different experiences and struggles for everyone. For me, this journey was not easy at all, yet when I look at myself now, I could not be more proud. And if I had to choose again, I would still choose Brunel.





Entry requirements and application information

Entry requirements

Applicants are normally expected to hold a good honours degree in a relevant academic discipline. Applicants who do not meet these academic requirements but who have significant occupational experience will be considered on a case by case basis. If English is not your first language you will be required to demonstrate an adequate level of proficiency: IELTS score of at least 7.0 with a minimum of 6.0 in all sub-areas or the equivalent TOEFL scores. Please note that in order for your application to be considered, you will need to have already met the English language requirements at the time of application. Should a candidate submit an application without having already achieved the English language entry requirement, the application will be declined automatically.

Mode of study

Full-time only. You will be expected to complete your PhD in 3 years. Assessment is based on your submitted thesis and its oral defence in a viva voce. This will be held at Brunel University London in the UK and will be conducted under Brunel regulations.

Fees

Fees are reviewed annually and are subject to a small increase each year. Details of any sponsorship arrangements are required prior to enrolment. Fees are payable to Ahlia University prior to enrolment in full and are subject to a capped increase each academic year. Further details on course fees can be found on our website at www.brunel.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/PhD-without-residence-Ahlia

Your research proposal

To support your application, you should include a research proposal. This should detail the proposed area and structure of your research and should extend to about 1,000 words. Your proposal will be used to assess how consistent your research interests are with the relevant School or Department's current research activities, to judge whether the research is possible, necessary and timely and to decide whether you have the appropriate skills to carry out your proposed study. Please describe your research area and research interests

and also the rationale for your research. You should also identify the relationship between the literature and your proposed research and discuss the importance of your research interest; is it something that is absent from the current literature or something that needs further development? Please also provide information about your proposed methodology and specify any conceptual or technical limitations.

How to apply

Before applying for a research degree, you need to identify the research area and a potential supervisor with whom you would like to conduct your research - you can contact them informally for advice before you make your application. The research degrees are administered by the Postgraduate Research Programmes Office in each College and they will be happy to address your enquiries before you submit your application. When you are ready to apply you can do so using our online application system. Please make sure you have all your personal details, academic qualifications and work experience to hand.

Please visit www.brunel.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/PhD-without-residence-Ahlia to download and complete the application form for international applicants, and for further details.

You will need to support your application with a detailed research proposal and two references. Once you have completed your application form (please take particular care to ensure that your personal statement fully explains why you are interested in studying for a PhD, how a PhD will contribute to your future career plans and why you have chosen Brunel's PhD without residence programme at Ahlia University), please send it together with:

- ▶ Your research proposal
- ▶ Your CV
- ▶ Authenticated copies of your academic qualifications (Master's and Bachelor's degree certificates and transcripts)
- ▶ Proof of English Language proficiency
- ▶ Two references, one of which must be from an academic
- ▶ Your passport

to:

PhD Office, Ahlia University, Office 36,
Kingdom Tower, Building 8, Road 1901,
Block 319,

Hooraa Manama, Kingdom of Bahrain

Tel: +973 1731 3524, +973 17 298999

Mobile: +973 3399 7734, +973 3988 7612

Email: phdwr@ahlia.edu.bh

Please note you will need to apply at least
3 months prior to your preferred enrolment
date.

Programme structure

We expect you to study for around 44
weeks each year, during which time you'll
carry out research work that leads to a full
thesis. You'll be supervised by two members
of academic staff in your specialist area
with whom you will meet with regularly to
discuss progress.

Assessing your progress

Each year you must produce a formal
report of your progress to discuss with your
supervisors and other academic staff. At
the end of your research project, you will
present a thesis for examination and, if
this is judged satisfactory, we will award a
research degree (MPhil or Doctorate).

Your thesis

In your thesis, you must meet the criteria
set out in Senate Regulation 5 and the
Quality Assurance Agency's National
Qualification Framework. You must also
satisfy university regulations and show a
sound knowledge and critical appreciation
of your discipline. The thesis submitted for
the award of PhD must include the creation
and interpretation of new knowledge in
that discipline. It may take the form of a
wholly written dissertation or one that
comprises original, creative work supported
by a written commentary indicating how
the creative work contributes towards
the requirements for the award. You must
complete the major part of your thesis
during your period of registration with the
university, under supervision arrangements
approved by the university. You usually
present your thesis at a viva voce
examination. A candidate may present a
less substantial piece of work for the award
of an MPhil. Additional guidance on the
standard of awards is given in the Quality
Assurance Agency's National Qualifications
Framework at www.qaa.ac.uk and in Senate
Regulation 5.





Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information in this brochure and the University will take all reasonable action to deliver courses and services in accordance with the descriptions set out in it. A contract is made at the point when an applicant accepts an offer from Brunel, meeting any conditions, and the acceptance is communicated to Brunel and this contract is confirmed. All students are required, as a condition of registration, to abide by and submit to the University's statutes, ordinances, regulations and rules, which are published on the University's website (a hard copy is available from the Academic Registrar at the Uxbridge address).

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