PhD funding

Prospects in Mathematics 2009

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PhD in Mathematics in the UK

Why study for a PhD in Mathematics?

- because being a Mathematician is the best job in the world (according to JobsRated.com),
- to learn more mathematics,
- to start independent research,
- to improve career prospects (?).

Why in the UK?

- high standard in many areas,
- large graduate schools,
- availability of graduate courses,
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Two types of full studentships are available:

- 'generic' studentships, awarded by Mathematics departments across all the areas they cover. Awarded to the best applicants who (typically) can choose their research topic/supervisor.
- project studentships offered to work on a specific project, usually funded by a research grant of the supervisor.

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RC-funded funded full grants are available only to:

- UK citizens (with ties to the UK),
- residents in the UK for at least the last 3 years (not when mainly for the purpose of education),
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- more frequent in applied areas of mathematics,
- mathematics graduates are sought after for projects in other fields (physics, biology. . .).

Some project studentships are available to all, others have restrictions similar to those of RC-funded generic studentships.
To find project studentships, consult web sites such as

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Scholarships schemes

Too many to list them all, but often offering only partial funding: ORS, Commonwealth Scholarship...

Ask PhD admission, check the web, British Council...

Some schemes:

- Overseas Research Scholarship scheme: offered to overseas students, only reduces their fees to the UK/EU level but sometimes complemented by university funding (deadline 15th February).
- Carnegie Caledonian Scholarship: for graduates of Scottish universities (deadline 15th March).

A few tips

- Apply early.
- Apply (reasonably) often.
- Make up your mind about which area(s) you want to work in. (Talk to your lecturers.)
- Don't apply randomly: do some research, identify research groups or academic staff, contact them, ask about PhD project topics offered...
- Find out non-standard funding sources.
- If you're in demand, don't necessarily accept the first offer.
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- $\approx$ 60 PhD students;
- extensive programme of graduate courses (first 6 months: Scottish Mathematical Sciences Training Centre;
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