

# Pre-Doctorate: how to apply

## Your path to a doctoral degree

[kaplanpathways.com/pre-doc](https://kaplanpathways.com/pre-doc)

Applying for a doctoral degree can be complex, and often requires more information and time than applications for other levels of study. The Pre-Doctorate course includes step-by-step advice on how to make this application, so don't worry! In this guide, we will explain how to complete the application form for the Pre-Doctorate, and give you useful tips on how to present yourself as a strong candidate.

### Your research area

It's very important to decide on your specific research area before you apply. You should also think about how your chosen research area matches up with our Pre-Doctorate partner universities, so it's worth researching their specific departments. This can help you decide if they are the most suitable university for you.

#### Consider the following:

- Will this research area sustain your interest over several years?
- Is it in an area in which there are currently gaps in knowledge or on-going debates?
- Does your research area have a strong reputation at one of our Pre-Doctorate partner universities?
- Are there details of institution and department research activities relevant to this area on the university websites?

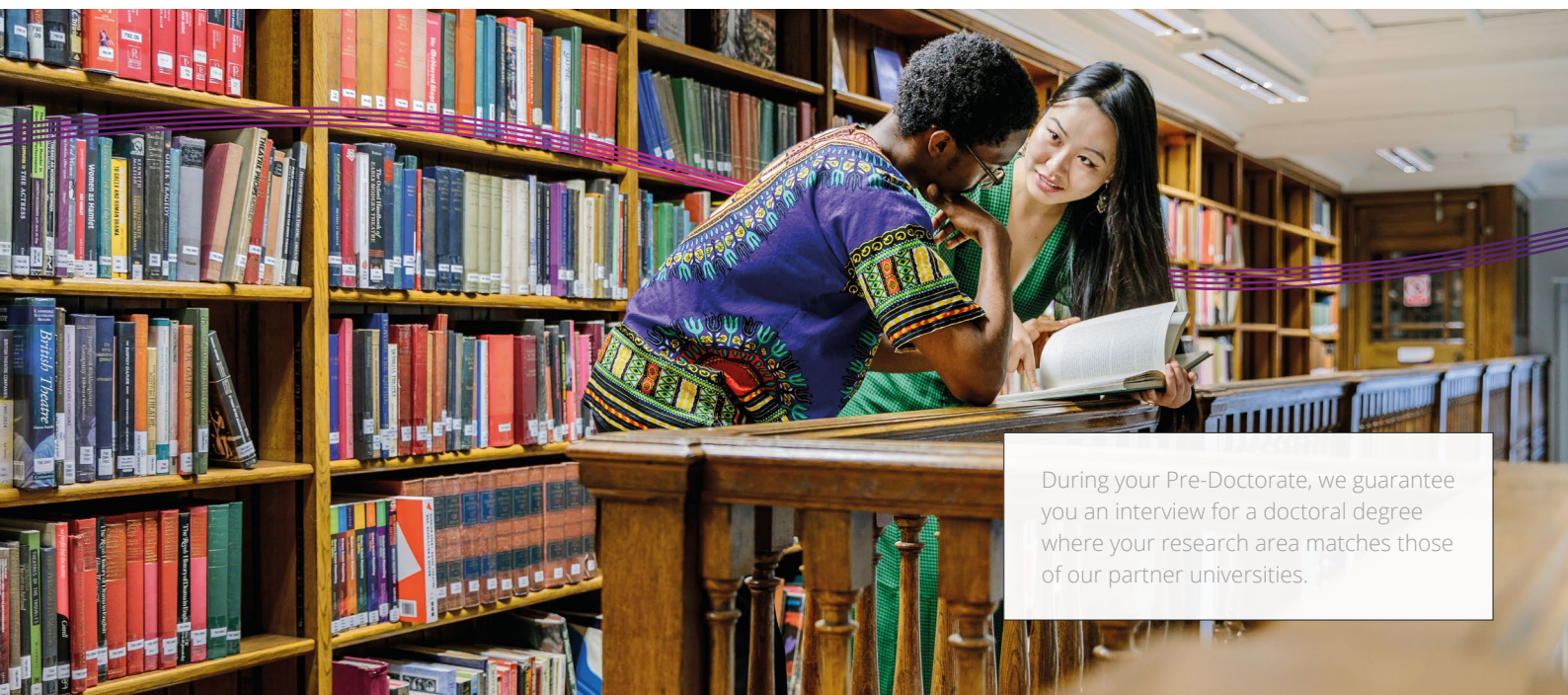
### Your application

As part of your application, you will need to submit a 500-to-1,000-word description of your proposed research area. This doesn't need to be a detailed piece of work, as we are looking just for your insight and understanding of your specific study interest.

#### Here are a few suggestions on what to include in this section:

- Why are you pursuing your research area?
- Are there certain aspects of this area that are important or of interest to you?
- Why do you wish to study at the university or universities you have chosen?
- If you are proposing a specific research project, how would this contribute to the general area of study?
- What previous experience do you have in your proposed research area?
- What else would make you a suitable candidate for a doctoral degree and the Pre-Doctorate?

We also ask that you attach any previous research proposals you may have from earlier doctoral degree applications. This will help us clearly identify the type of support you will need during your Pre-Doctorate.



During your Pre-Doctorate, we guarantee you an interview for a doctoral degree where your research area matches those of our partner universities.



## Pre-Doctorate: application process

### Step-by-step guide to applying to the Pre-Doctorate

Complete all sections of the application form which is available from your Kaplan representative, a local Kaplan International Pathways office, or online at: [kaplanpathways.com/pre-doc](https://kaplanpathways.com/pre-doc)

Gather the required documents. Please note, you can still apply even if you do not have your academic transcripts or UKVI IELTS results. We can make you a conditional offer, the conditions of which you will need to meet before applying for your visa:

- Secure English Language Test (SELT) results or other accepted evidence of your level of English language – see below right for details
- Your academic transcripts and exam results
- 500-to-1,000-word description of your proposed research area
- Research proposals for any previous or pending doctoral degree applications
- Your own insurance policy if you do not wish to purchase EduTravel
- Certified translations if the originals are not in English

Read and understand the terms and conditions available at: [kaplanpathways.com/uk-terms](https://kaplanpathways.com/uk-terms)

Sign the application form to confirm that you have provided the correct details and that you agree to the terms and conditions.

Send your application and additional documents to one of the following:

- The Application and Admissions Centre
- Your local Kaplan Pathways country office
- Your local Kaplan representative
- See the contact details opposite.

We will contact you within a few days to confirm an admissions decision.

#### Contact us

##### Contact our Application and Admissions Centre

Our London-based centre is home to a great team of education experts. They can tell you about available course options, guide you through your application, and provide useful pre-arrival information.

+44 (0)20 7045 4925

[kaplanpathways.com/contact](https://kaplanpathways.com/contact)

##### Meet us in your country

Let us come to you. Our helpful education consultants frequently travel all over the world to meet students. You can arrange to meet one of them in your country to discuss your study plans.

[kaplanpathways.com/kaplan-in-my-country](https://kaplanpathways.com/kaplan-in-my-country)

##### Find your local country office

For advice close to home, contact one of our country offices. We also have a network of trusted education agents in 100+ countries around the world, so help is never far away.

[kaplanpathways.com/offices](https://kaplanpathways.com/offices)

#### SELT results

As defined by UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI), you need a SELT (Secure English Language Test) result, unless you're from a majority English-speaking country or qualify for another exemption. For a list of exemptions, please visit the UKVI website.

[www.gov.uk/student-visa](https://www.gov.uk/student-visa)

**Find out more online:**

[kaplanpathways.com/pre-doc](https://kaplanpathways.com/pre-doc)