

Thank you for taking an interest in applying for a PhD degree at Edinburgh University. Before approaching me as a potential PhD supervisor, please make sure that your work falls broadly within my research interests as specified on my personal profile page. UoE PhD supervision requires at least two supervisors, so I also encourage you to consider who may be an appropriate co/assistant supervisor from within the subject area ([Politics/IR](#)) School (especially [South Asian Studies](#)) or beyond. Explore the School [staff pages](#) or [Edinburgh Explorer](#) (Pure) to find out profile and research interests of staff.

If you wish to be considered for funding, you should approach me between September-November in the year BEFORE you seek to start your studies. Please note that University of Edinburgh funding is very competitive (with many excellent proposals being turned down) and you should also explore external funding. Income from tutoring may contribute towards meeting cost of living expenditures but it will not be enough to (also) cover (overseas) PhD registration fees.

To guarantee a relatively swift response (within ten days), what you send me should cover the following.

-a CV (including your most degree and degree classification).

-Most importantly, a **research proposal** of not more than 4 pages + academic references in Times New Roman, Font 12. This proposal should cover each of the following points:

1. In approximately one third of a page: Your main **thesis or research question**: explain what you will be exploring and what you will try to establish.
2. In approximately one and a half page. Specify how **original** is your project and how **significant**: give your assessment of the existing literature on your topic (literature review) and explain in what way your own research will enrich the topic's scholarly knowledge. Say what **theoretical** view will inform your research: explain how you locate yourself in the theoretical field and suggest what contribution you intend to bring through your specific research. Put differently, what is the gap in the literature that you seek to fill?
3. Optional If you propose one or several case studies, **justify your case selection** and consider using the literature on the (subnational) comparative method for doing so.
4. In approximately one full page: Specify how you will **develop** your thesis: explain what methods you wish to use and how your methods align with your main research question and sub-questions. Be as precise as you possibly can be (e.g. if you wish to apply critical discourse analysis specify what documents you will apply this to, what you seek to gain from doing so and how you may analyse text; if conducting interviews specify your interview population and for what purpose, if statistical analysis specify the datasets that will be analysed and what for etcetera.

5. In about a third of a page: **specify ethical** considerations linked to your proposed research, especially if based on field research (ethnography, elite-interviews) or experiments. More information on our ethics procedures in the school can be found here: <https://www.sps.ed.ac.uk/research/ethics>
6. In about a third of a page Your work **schedule** or time-line. Explain how you intend to research and write your thesis within the **three-year** period allocated for a full-time PhD research (six years part-time), and demonstrate that this schedule is feasible knowing that:
  - the first year is a preparatory year during which you will take part in seminars, and focus on the literature review and the planning of the next two years. These will make the core of your end of year review paper.
  - the second year is the one during which you will conduct your field research (common for PhD theses other than political theory or philosophy).
  - the third year is devoted to writing your thesis
7. In about a third of a page Why Edinburgh? Tell us why Edinburgh is the right place to conduct this research (including but *moving beyond* supervisory expertise).

+ References (not more than 2 pages)