



## The University of Sheffield TUOS) Doctoral Research Student Proposition

### Summary

TUOS Doctoral Researchers contribute to improving the world by carrying out original high quality research, and becoming the world's future intellectual and professional leaders. TUOS sets itself high standards for the quality of its provision for Doctoral Researchers and has correspondingly high expectations of its Doctoral Researchers. Doctoral Researchers are welcomed into a supportive culture, as new members of a scholarly community, are encouraged to lead activities, are supported by academics, and given access to tailored high quality training. Doctoral Researchers are themselves expected to contribute to TUOS's ambitions on research, teaching and innovation.

TUOS's Doctoral Research Student Proposition applies to all Doctoral Researchers; it is flexible to accommodate different preferred ways of study, whether on or off-campus. TUOS is committed to the Doctoral Researcher experience remaining mutually beneficial to the Doctoral Researcher and TUOS. In short, study at doctoral level is a partnership between the University and Doctoral Researchers, wherein Doctoral Researchers make the transition to professional research colleagues.

### 1. The importance of Doctoral Researchers to TUOS

Doctoral Researchers are important to TUOS for their high quality research, the impact of their activities on the wider world, and their passion for innovation. Doctoral Researchers are the lifeblood of TUOS's research environment and are key to its future sustainability. They inject vibrancy into the intellectual climate, and enrich the international dimension of TUOS's community.

Through a high number of Doctoral Researchers delivering original, quality research with impact, Doctoral Researchers contribute to the critical mass of research and sustain TUOS's ambition to remain one of the best global research-intensive Universities. Doctoral Researchers enterprise and entrepreneurship activity sustains TUOS's reputation for excellence in innovation and for the impact of its work.

TUOS has a culture of being pragmatic and straightforward within a friendly and supportive environment, with people seeking to make a difference by working together across disciplinary boundaries and with partners in the city of Sheffield, the Yorkshire and Humber region, nationally and globally. TUOS's culture is guided by its *Mission, Vision and Identity*: <http://www.shef.ac.uk/strategicplan/mvi>

### 2. What all Doctoral Researchers can expect of TUOS

Undertaking doctoral research at TUOS is a life changing experience: intellectually, professionally and personally. Working with leading researchers, with a reputation for international research excellence, and supported by excellent supervisors, TUOS Doctoral Researcher student experience is an exciting journey towards becoming an independent researcher.

#### Doctoral Researcher students can expect:

- i) To undertake research that makes a positive difference in the world, changes the way people think about the world and enhance the standing of the research profession.
- ii) To develop intellectually, professionally and personally through the experience of studying at TUOS, and from the opportunities made available to them.
- iii) To have access to a range of intra or inter-disciplinary research expertise and support in the form of a supervisory team, including access to a personal tutor. Each supervisory team includes two supervisors, one of whom leads in providing advice on training and skills development.

- iv) To be treated as professional colleagues and members of an intellectually stimulating community of scholars, drawn from the UK and internationally, that encourages Doctoral Researchers to push the boundaries of their research.
- v) Access a high quality doctoral development or training programme that supports them through their journey from student to professional colleague and is individually tailored to their needs.
- vi) Access to high quality professional support services, covering the whole range of needs that support progression at TUOS (includes a professional development team providing access to opportunities for preparing for future career paths).

### **3. What TUOS expects of all its Doctoral Researchers:**

The TUOS invests considerable financial and intellectual resources into its partnership with Doctoral Researchers. It does so because it sees them as essential in its aim to make the world better through research and innovation.

#### **TUOS expects Doctoral Researchers to:**

- i) Be motivated and passionate about their research, to be inquisitive, to be proactive and to persevere, developing into independent researchers.
- ii) Undertake original high quality research, including communicating their research within the wider academic community and the wider public, and demonstrating its benefit to the wider world.
- iii) To display at all times the highest standards of research ethics and integrity.
- iv) Contribute to TUOS's research outputs in other ways, for example by authoring journal publications.
- v) Use opportunities to acquire new professional skills and knowledge.
- vi) Play an active part in contributing to the governance and running of TUOS (for example through participating in collective decision-making committees and groups).
- vii) Use opportunities to contribute substantially to TUOS's ambition (for example through enterprise activities or supporting teaching) and use opportunities to participate in TUOS's community (the research community and the wider community).

### **4. The future**

TUOS is committed to recruiting talented Doctoral Researchers because they are vital to TUOS remaining one of the best universities in the world. As a consequence, TUOS recognises how important it is to only attract and recruit from the most talented pool of prospective Doctoral Researchers. Our Doctoral Researchers are equipped with the theoretical knowledge and practical skills that employers most value, and which are relevant to research, teaching and innovation. TUOS Doctoral Researchers graduate with the qualities that are of the utmost importance intellectually, societally and economically: including the confidence to lead, the willingness to challenge ways of thinking, a lasting refusal to accept the ordinary and a commitment to applying their research for the public good.