

Joint Ph.D. Programme at London South Bank University for BUE Teaching Assistants

The BUE and LSBU have embarked on establishing a full partnership that includes research and enterprise collaborative activities in addition to validation of BUE programmes. One of the main pillars underpinning such research collaborative activities is the joint supervision of PhD students. It is envisaged that BUE teaching assistants could benefit from a joint PhD framework that allows them to study at LSBU, on a part time basis, while being engaged in their teaching responsibilities at BUE. Such an opportunity shall provide BUE TAs with the necessary training, as future module leaders in a UK education system, in addition to the needed resources and access to the state of the art facilities that might be required for completing their research.

Specialty areas that are expected to support BUE TAs shall be identified in light of mutual research interests and ongoing collaborative research activities.

General Framework

- Students will enrol on the LSBU PhD programme on part-time basis.
- LSBU will employ their normal admissions criteria to determine whether to accept BUE TAs as PhD students.
- Academic staff from LSBU and BUE will jointly supervise students.
- Students are normally required to spend one semester the first year during the Ph.D. programme at LSBU. The duration of stay, for the following years, will be determined based on the nature of specialization and progress by the two supervisors.
- LSBU & BUE will identify programme coordinators who will be responsible for managing all aspects of the programme at their respective institutions.
- LSBU's part-time tuition fees apply at the home fee (GBP 2150).
- LSBU shall subsidise accommodation fees at LSBU dormitories during the summer by 50%.
- BUE to finance 50% of the approved expenses for students enrolled in this programme, subject to preset ceilings.
- BUE teaching assistants enrolled in this programme will be on paid leave while at LSBU.
- LSBU will not employ former BUE TAs who have been sponsored to study for a PhD by BUE without BUE's final approval.
- The progress of students will be reviewed annually by both LSBU and BUE supervisors and continuation in the programme will depend upon the successful assessment.
- Selection of potential applicants shall be done at BUE.
- Strategic specialty areas shall be identified by both institutions in light of joint research collaborative activities.

General Requirements

- Applicants holding an undergraduate degree with a minimum of ‘very good’ cumulative grade.
- Applicants who are 35 years of age or younger.
- Applicants should be able to finance 50% of the approved expenses.
- Applicants must work at BUE for five years after earning the Ph.D. degree; otherwise they will be obliged to pay all expenses related to their education under this programme.
- Applicants will sign appropriate legal documents to guarantee the university’s rights. The embodiment of that will include the availability of the nearest kin as collateral.
- Candidates for the programme must have at least one year of working as a TA at BUE.
- A limited number of applications will be approved annually.
- Faculties shall nominate and rank their potential applicants to be sent to the research committee.
- Nominations of the research committee will be forwarded to the president for awarding.

General Guidelines for Ranking Applicants

The joint BUE-LSBU PhD programme was established to help support BUE teaching assistants to pursue their postgraduate studies under a joint supervision programme as part time students at London South Bank University. The programme guidelines which were approved by both the BUE & LSBU suggested a ranking mechanism to be established and implemented by the individual faculties to help nominate their applicants for the programme.

The following constitutes a set of guidelines and ranking system for the above mentioned objective:

- The BUE will announce for 10 positions, annually, at the joint BUE-LSBU PhD programme.
- The available positions shall be distributed among the three faculties, validated by LSBU, by the University Research & Post Graduate Studies Committee (URPGC).
- Faculties are responsible for ranking their applicants, as per the recommendation of approved guidelines, and nominating those applicants to the URPGC.
- Ranking of applicants shall be executed by an internal committee established at each individual faculty with representatives of all major specialty areas within the faculty.
- A set of general and academic criteria are proposed to constitute the basis of such nominations. Such criteria are outlined in a proposed evaluation form attached to these guidelines.
- Each committee shall rank all applicants with standby nominees in case one of the applicants was not able to carry out his/her proposed research plan at LSBU.
- The proposed guidelines are considered the bare minimum with the possibility of imposing more stringent criteria if any faculty sees fit for its own applicants.
- The applicant shall submit the following documents to his/her faculty for consideration for the programme:
 - Application to LSBU (RES 2-attached).
 - TA registration request form (BUE-PGREG-002-attached).
 - Acceptance letter from LSBU.
 - Updated Curriculum Vitae.
 - Abstract of Master's thesis if applicable.
 - List of publications if applicable.

This evaluation form is the basis of all subsequent qualitative reviews of the applicant. Therefore, it is important that any ratings are supported with short and constructive comments. The committee's comments given here will be shared with the non-selected applicant if s/he requests information about weaknesses in the application.

Name of Applicant: _____

Field: _____

Faculty/Department: _____

(A) General

Rating: 5 4 3 2 1

Item	Yes	No
Availability of BUE staff in area of research		
Seniority		
Commitment		
Multiplier Effect (Expected benefit of her/his study and/or professional development in LSBU to the BUE and its students)		

(B) Quality of Research Plan

Rating: 5 4 3 2 1

The following factors shall be considered when rating the applicant.

- (1) Academic significance of proposed research
- (2) Clear statement of objectives
- (3) Clear methodology
- (4) Contribution to BUE's strategic research objectives
- (5) Contribution of LSBU in the proposed research
- (6) Timeline plan for research activities.

(C) Academic and/or Professional Background
Rating: 5 4 3 2 1

The committee should comment on the appropriateness of the applicant's academic and/or professional background for the proposed research.

Overall Rating

(5) Outstanding	(4) Very Good	(3) Good	(2) Average	(1) Not Recommended

General Comments:

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