

Why do a PhD in Environmental Sciences?

ARIES
DOCTORAL TRAINING

Who does PhDs in environmental sciences?

Why?

What's involved?

What opportunities are there?

Six Good Reasons to do a PhD

1. Achieve something significant
2. Discover or learn something new
3. Improve yourself and your life
4. Take ownership of your professional life
5. PhD is required for a career in academia
6. Analytical and research skills learnt in a PhD are highly desirable in a wide range of careers in industry, commerce, policy, government, NGOs, etc.



Six Bad Reasons to do a PhD

1. Doing a PhD is an easy life
2. Peer pressure; others you know are doing one
3. You don't want a "horrible job"
4. Fulfilling the ambitions of others
5. Rebelling/misplaced genius complex
6. You've done this kind of thing before.

Is a PhD for me?

You have a drive to do research. You get a sense of **excitement** working on a research project, and would enjoy cutting-edge research

You want to become expert in your area. Working for 3+ years on a specific topic means you **will** become an expert

The academic environment. You enjoy the academic environment, intellectual stimulation, flexible working hours, doing something different every day

What will I get out of a PhD?

- **Learn** specific technical, data handling and computational skills
- **Develop important transferrable skills:** problem **solving**; data analysis; **critical thinking**; **communicate** to diverse audiences; meet deadlines; **manage your own time** and **prioritise activities**
- **Take charge of your own work** (supported by your Supervisors)



Is it all plain sailing? Not always

Sometimes it can be:

- Frustrating
- Tedious
- Isolating
- Difficult
- Experiments can fail...

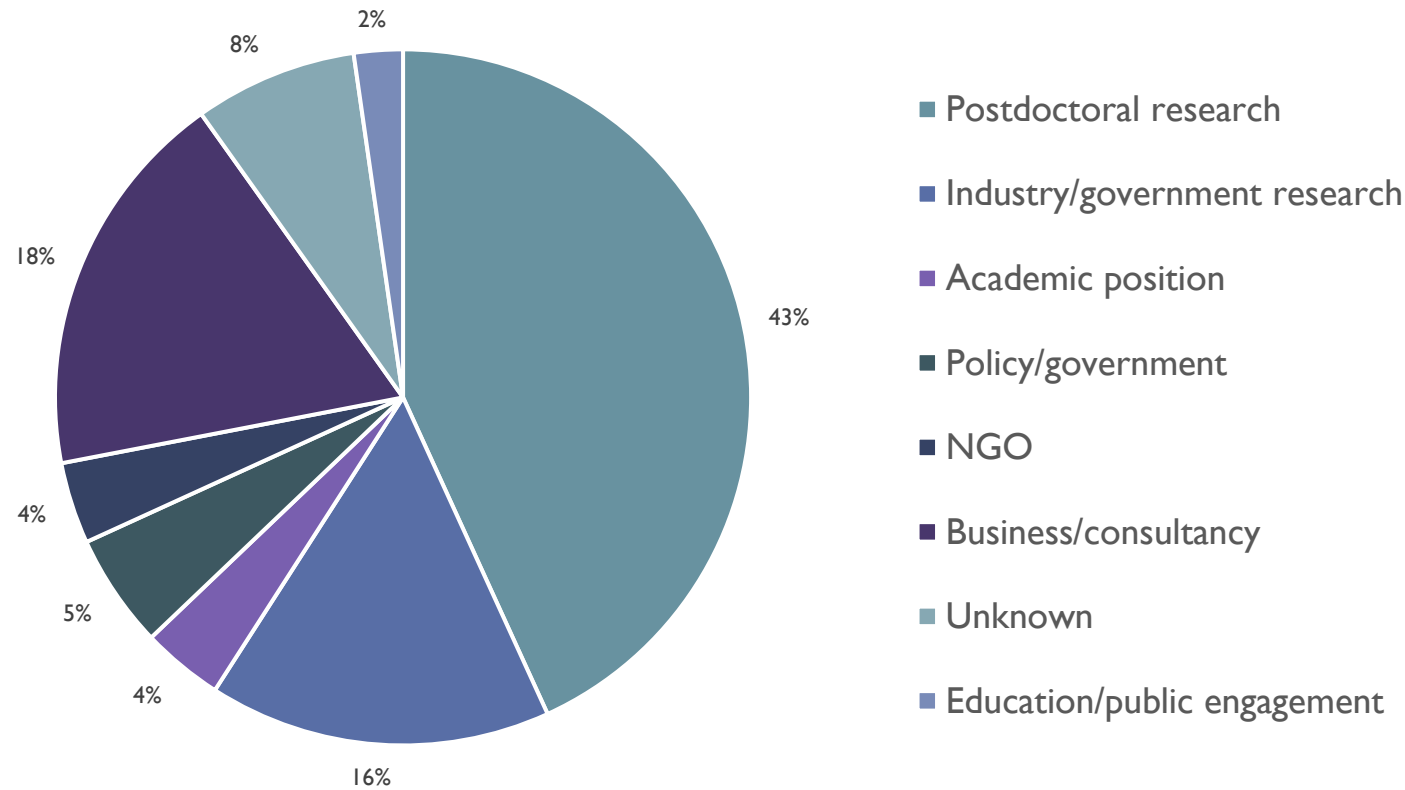
...or don't turn out the way you expected

Why I chose to do a PhD

- *“To wanted to be a researcher of the future”*
- *“I am passionate about protecting the environment and wanted to contribute to the knowledge needed to achieve that”*
- *“I valued the ability to work independently and implement my own ideas”*
- *“I wanted to learn new things that nobody else would have known”*
- *“I have always wanted to pursue an academic career”*
- *“There is no limit to research. It feels great to be a part of it.”*

Your job options after PhD

Destinations Data for EnvEast/ARIES
Employment at April 2024



PhD Opportunities

Numerous opportunities, catering to all interests, UK and world-wide:

- Find-a-PhD, Nature, web sites, Twitter, etc.
- Faculty Studentships on your, or other, University web pages.
- **ARIES** (Advanced Research and Innovation in Environmental Sciences)

Applying to ARIES



- Projects and all application information at **aries-dtp.ac.uk**
- International applicants are eligible. (Please note funding does not cover visa, relocation or other additional costs associated with moving to the UK)
- Degree in an appropriate subject (varies by project) or, in some cases, any quantitative
- Nominees interviewed in mid-February
- Studentships start in following October

Who gets a place? (ARIES)

Interview Panels look for potential, enthusiasm, & engagement over experience and paper qualifications

Highest award	Applicants	Offered a studentship
BA/BSc	17.4%	30.0%
MSci	26.1%	35.0%
MSc/MRes	56.5%	35.0%

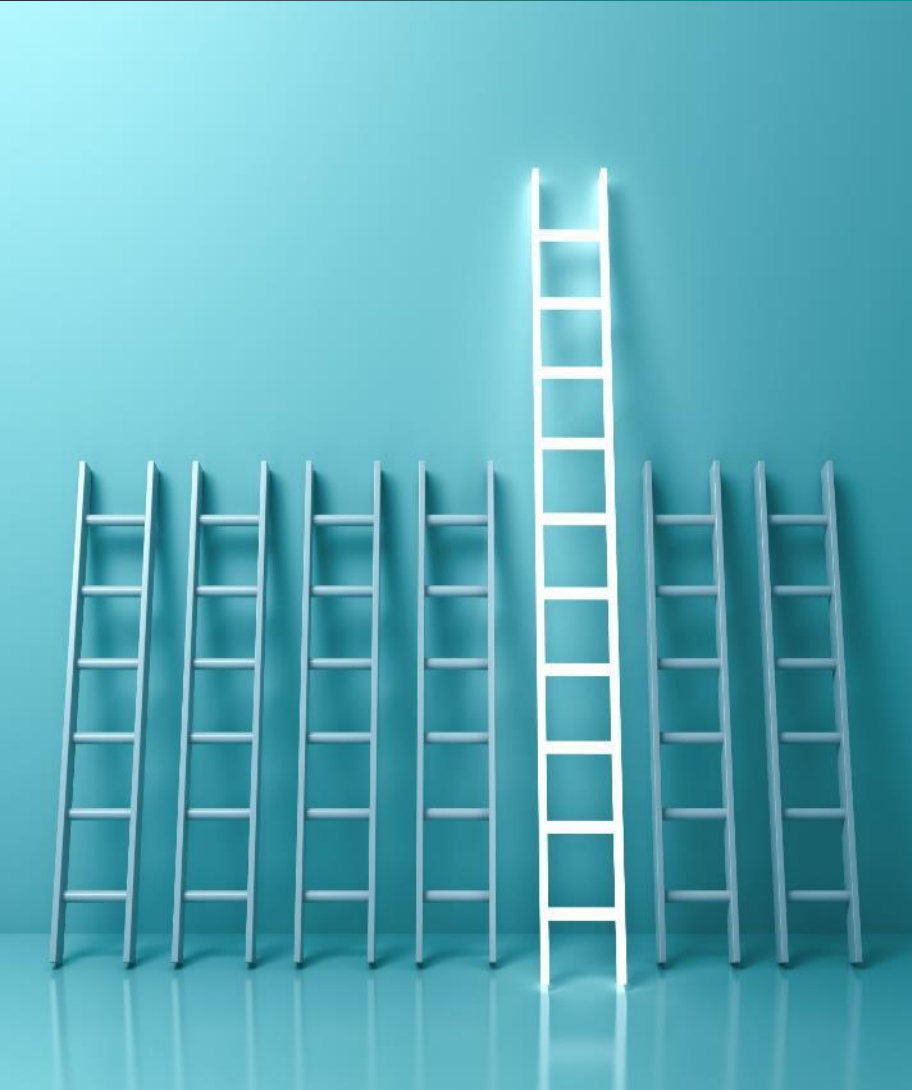
- **“Highly numerate applicant scheme”**; extra 3 months conversion training for those with degrees in Math, Physics, Chem, Eng, Computing, etc., but no environmental science background

What do you get? - Financial

- Fees and stipend (£20,780 pa in 2025) tax-free for 3.5 years (3.75 for “Highly Numerate”)
- Research costs (~£8,000), £2,500 for conferences and training
- Residential cohort training at no cost – travel and accommodation included



What do you get? - support



- A **minimum of three supervisors**, including two where you study, often with other supervisors at other institutes
- ‘CASE’ awardees have **CASE supervisor** (e.g. from industry)
- **Support from your Cohort**; typically ~25 PhD students each year, studying and training together; social events, etc.
- Support from the ARIES team

What do you get? – training to become 21st Century Scientists



ACKNOWLEDGED EXPERT

Understands and creates new knowledge

Leader in their field

Independent, critical and creative thinker

Ethical scientist



EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATOR

Outstanding communication skills

Creates effective narratives and visualisations

Communicates with diverse audiences



SKILLED WITH DATA

Technical proficiency with large datasets

Knowledgeable of modern data tools: AI and machine learning; bioinformatics; cloud computing



BROAD IN VISION

Passionate about multidisciplinary approaches

Cross-disciplinary in team-working

Co-designs and delivers impactful projects with stakeholders



INNOVATOR

Innovative and versatile problem solver

Recognises and delivers research impact

Connects applied and fundamental research

What do you get? – Access to our network (facilities, training, etc.)

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What do you get? – abundant opportunities, broad in range

- Summer/Winter Schools
- Advanced research skills
- Transferable professional skills
- Advanced communication skills
- Enterprise and innovation events
- Experiential learning
- Interaction with other DTPs, e.g. annual joint Symposium with the Cambridge DTP (CREATES)



env.infohackit
Communicating science
through infographics

CA^D DOCTORAL
A^A LLIANCE



What do you get? We think the friendliest DTP in the UK

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Flatford Mill, Suffolk; DTP Cohort "Welcome" Event

Questions?
aries-dtp.ac.uk