



UNIVERSITY OF GUYANA

RESEARCH POSTGRADUATE DEGREES

MPhil/PhD DEGREE IN BIODIVERSITY

**Faculties of Natural Sciences, Earth and
Environmental Sciences and Agriculture and
Forestry**

phdbiodiversity@uog.edu.gy

The University of Guyana (UOG) aims to successfully deliver excellent research outcomes in the field of Biodiversity that encompasses a complex approach of hard and soft scientific disciplines that can provide new scientific information and be useful for different governmental, non-governmental organizations and stakeholders in Guyana, regionally and globally.



The international community and more particularly research scientists have long recognized the value of the planet's biodiversity and the threats that have been posed to it by both natural and anthropogenic phenomena. This recognition has led to numerous discussions at various levels with the intention of urging nations to take urgent actions to address the problems and issues confronting the world's biological resources. At the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, concerns for the status of the earth's biodiversity have led 150 governments to sign the International Convention on Biological Diversity. This landmark Convention has highlighted the importance of biodiversity by suggesting that it is more than species and their ecosystems but about people and their need for food, shelter, security and in general its contribution to sustainable development and healthy lifestyles.



The global concerns and experiences in relation to biodiversity utilization have undoubtedly created a new interest and set the context in which higher degree research in biodiversity need to be conceptualized. Research at this level can be justified and supported on many fronts. It can contribute a range of data from which human health and environmental problems such as diseases, air and water pollution, climate change and poverty could be better understood and provide an insight to possible solutions.

Similarly, higher degree level research can open doors to new information previously unknown to humankind. These could include new genetic resources which can assist in addressing the issues of climate change and environmental degradation that confronts a rapidly growing world population. Moreover, and perhaps most importantly, the increased knowledge that research at the higher degree level has the potential to provide can play a pivotal role in policy-making in developing countries such as Guyana where poverty alleviation is at the top of the development agenda and there is always a conflict between resource use and conservation.



The Programme has a clear interdisciplinary and intersectoral focus, that seeks to embed stakeholders and beneficiaries in the research of the doctorates: *“The UG Doctorate in Biodiversity (PhD Biodiversity) is a state-of-the-art doctoral research program for doctoral research training but also seeks for addressing managerial issues of significance for the future of biodiversity, its ecosystems and its services for Guyana, the Guiana Shield, the Caribbean and the world. The mission of the program is to generate primary and cutting-edge knowledge in the complex field of biodiversity. Our ambition is to produce doctors with a new profile reflecting a wide scientific and international breadth on biodiversity issues tackling problems of local and global interest such as global warming and climate change”.*



The Programme seeks to encourage MPhil/PhD Candidates to do research focusing on old and new research lines such as: biosystematics, biogeography and evolutionary explanations of biodiversity, nature conservation and protected areas management, inventories of biodiversity resources at different scales (genetic – species – ecosystems – landscapes – biomes), geographical distribution and the ecological and evolutionary factors involved, use of biodiversity by local communities, marketing and commercialisation of biodiversity, risk of biodiversity alteration or extinction by human populations in urban or rural landscapes, biodiversity conservation, protected areas, land reclamation or ecosystems restoration, their economic potential values in agriculture, food, forestry, health and pharmaceutical, cosmetic, tourist and recreation, mining industries, bioconstruction as well as other connected areas with economics, planning, political governance, education, communication, biotechnological development among others.

The ideal MPhil/PhD student should be able to:

- 1) Design and carry out original, high quality research that contributes to the knowledge base of biodiversity management
- 2) Demonstrate effective communication and presentation skills
- 3) Critically evaluate and use scientific theories and frameworks relevant to biodiversity assessment and management
- 4) Critically analyze research literature
- 5) Apply a set of ethical standards in the conduct and dissemination of research

Programme Profile

The MPhil degree programme requires a minimum of 35 Credits, while PhD requires a minimum of 45 Credits. Full-time students are expected to complete the programme in a minimum of three years and a maximum of six years, while part-time students will be required to complete within five to eight years.

The Degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) is awarded to a candidate who, as per these regulations, has submitted a thesis on the basis of original and independent research in the area of Biodiversity that makes a contribution to the advancement of knowledge, which is approved by Board of examiners, as required.

Criteria for registration

The MPhil/ PhD in Biodiversity is a graduate Programme. Applicants wishing to register for the PhD who do not already have a master’s degree will complete the MPhil level first and may be allowed to upgrade to the PhD upon satisfying regulations.

- 1) A Bachelor's Degree with Honours class IIA
- 2) A Research Master's Degree
- 3) A coursework Master's Degree with a research component of at least 25% of an academic year and an overall GPA (grade point average) above 3.0 on the 4-point UQ scale
- 4) A Post Graduate Degree, of at least one year of full-time equivalent, with a research component of at least 25% of an academic year and with an overall GPA above 3.0 on a 4 - point scale and other demonstrated research experience equivalent to Honours IIA will be considered for Ph.D. entry on a case by case basis
- 5) A Bachelor's Degree plus at least two years of documented relevant research experience including research publications.

All applicants should upload a first concept note on application to the programme presenting a research idea based on a problem to address related to biodiversity issues (no more than 5 pages). The proposed study should be reachable and financially feasible (students are advise to contact potential supervisors from Staff at UG and/or from national, regional or international institutions offering financial support.

Different Pathways

A) Students with M.Sc. in non-relevant areas will go through M.Phil. pathway and will be allowed to upgrade to Ph.D. based on performance. B) Students with B.Sc. with Distinction will go through M.Phil. pathway and will be allowed to upgrade to Ph.D. based on performance. C) Students with M.Sc. in relevant areas will enter Ph.D. pathway directly.

MPhil

Duration: 1 year to 2 years full-time and 3 to 6 years part-time.

Exit Requirements:

Defence and thesis ranging in length between 40,000 to 80,000 words. *viva voce*

PhD

Duration: 3 to 5 years maximum full-time and 7 to 8 years part-time.

Exit Requirements:

Defence and thesis ranging in length between 80,000 to 100,000 words. *viva voce* At least two scientific peer reviewed articles published or accepted for publication in a scientific journal.

Academic Programme

Mphil 35 Credits

PhD 45 credits

| Year | Code | Description | N. Credits |
|------|---------|--------------------|------------|
| 1 - | BDS6001 | Independent Study | 3 |
| 1 - | BDS6002 | Research Methods | 6 |
| 2 - | BDS6003 | Research Proposal. | 3 |
| 2 - | BDS6004 | Research Seminars | 3 |
| 2 - | BDS6005 | PhD Thesis | 30 |
| 2 - | BDS6005 | MPhil Thesis | 20 |
| 3 - | BDS6005 | MPhil Thesis | 20 |
| 3 - | BDS6005 | PhD Thesis | 30 |

Administration and Financial Issues

The offer will opens twice every academic year
Deadlines August 19 and January 19
to start in September or May

Apply Online through:

Students Records Management System (SRMS)
<https://turkeyenonline.uog.edu.gy/srms/student/prospective/application/login.php>

Administration:

Interfaculty Management Committee
Faculty of Earth and Environmental Sciences
Coordinator
Email: phdbiodiversity.fees@uog.edu.gy