



University of
CUMBRIA

TAKE YOUR NEXT STEP WITH US

2024
POSTGRADUATE
RESEARCH

REALISE YOUR AMBITION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CUMBRIA

A postgraduate research programme at the University of Cumbria offers the perfect opportunity to follow your passion, enhance your skills and influence the world around you.

The University of Cumbria delivers a range of postgraduate research programmes, so you can ensure your programme of work matches your interest and ambitions: whether this be a traditional PhD format, a PhD by Art Practice or PhD by publication, a Master of Research, Doctor of Business Administration, or a Professional Doctorate.

We are here to support you every step of the way, from informal enquiries to formal applications, from the start of your programme to its completion and beyond.

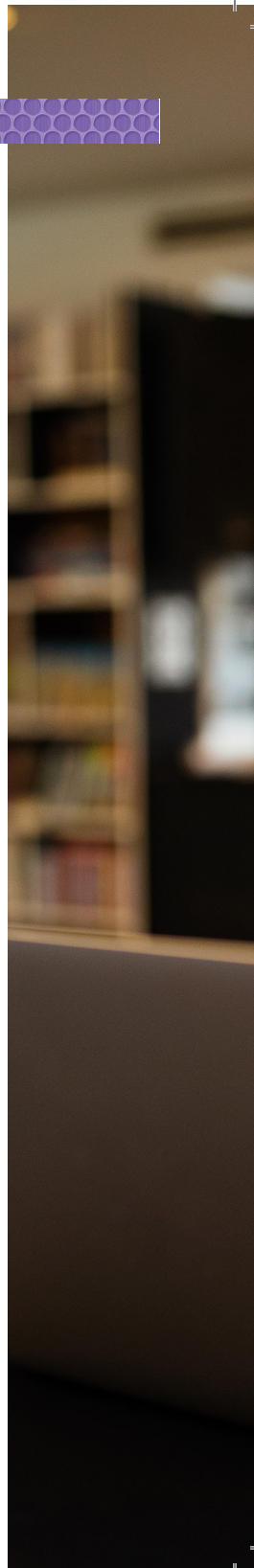
Professor Tom Grimwood
Head of the Graduate School

WHY CHOOSE CUMBRIA'S GRADUATE SCHOOL

Great support - you will become part of our Graduate School, a community of like-minded people looking to change the world for the better. Plus, a PhD supervisor will be on hand to support and guide you throughout your studies.

Great events - join research skills development sessions throughout the year and enrol in our summer school for all research students and staff. During this time, you will be welcome to join our annual Research Student Conference.

Dedicated facilities - you will have access to exclusive 24/7 research facilities at our Lancaster, Ambleside, and Carlisle campuses at times to suit you.





#LOVEYOURSTORY

POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH

Undertaking a postgraduate course enables you to develop your knowledge and advance your specialist skills. This in turn will boost your career prospects

42% OF OUR RESEARCH WAS CLASSIFIED AS 'WORLD LEADING' OR 'INTERNATIONALLY EXCELLENT'

Research Excellence Framework (REF), 2021

FIND OUT MORE



AREAS OF STUDY

Our five specialist areas offer a range of flexible, multidisciplinary courses. Each department is home to expert academics who not only have a wealth of professional experience but are committed to helping you achieve your dream career.



HEALTH

The home of health, social care, sport, and psychology, where you can develop your skills and make a significant difference to other people's lives.



ARTS

Calling all creatives! This is the place where you can refine your craft in collaboration with industry experts and turn your artistic dreams into reality.



SCIENCE & ENVIRONMENT

Whether your passion is science, conservation, forestry, or outdoor studies, our excellent facilities and locations are the ideal place to expand your knowledge.



BUSINESS, INDUSTRY & LEADERSHIP

Lay your pathway to success as a future manager, leader, peacekeeper, or law enforcer.



EDUCATION

With an outstanding reputation spanning more than 100 years, we are a well established, leading provider of teacher training and education programmes in the UK.



ENGINEERING & COMPUTING

We are the home of the inventors and the innovators. Delivering innovation and critical solutions to society's urgent needs across renewables, transport, decarbonisation and medical technologies.

PHD | DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

A PhD at Cumbria allows you to develop your ambitions in a supportive, challenging and innovative research environment.

With supervisory expertise at the intersections between theory and practice, the University offers a range of doctoral programmes to suit your research needs. These include full-time and part-time options for PhDs, PhDs by Art Practice, PhDs by Publication, PhDs by Alternative Format and Professional Doctorates (DProf).

COURSE OVERVIEW:

The University of Cumbria delivers a range of postgraduate research degrees, so you can ensure your programme of work matches your interest and ambitions:

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD): A doctoral-level award assessed through a research thesis and oral defence.

Alternative Format PhD: A doctoral programme where the body of work to be assessed is in a format other than the traditional single volume thesis.

PhD by Art Practice: A doctoral programme where the body of work to be assessed comprises a negotiated set of research outcomes mediated by individual creative and art practice.

PhD by Publication: A doctoral-level award comprising an assessment of a student's published works within a related field of study. To be eligible for consideration, applicants must be a University of Cumbria alumni and graduate of at least five years' standing and have already obtained a master's degree or show evidence of having received research training or equivalent.

ON THIS COURSE, YOU WILL...

- Benefit from excellent supervision by a supervisory team.
- Become a part of a dedicated Graduate School.
- Have access to our research repository, networks, and facilities.
- Have the opportunity for supervised involvement in teaching.
- Have the option to study at our Ambleside, Carlisle or Lancaster campuses.

FIND OUT MORE



UNIVERSITY OF CUMBRIA DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PHD) STUDENT, DAVE MCPARTLAN TALKS ABOUT HIS EXPERIENCE ON THIS PROGRAMME.

What, or who inspired you to study a PhD?

Having been a teacher for over 35 years I decided to retire and concentrate on training work regarding mental health in schools. I was at a conference and met Prof Kaz Stuart and in the subsequent discussion I mentioned my plans. Kaz gave me details of a funded PhD at the University of Cumbria to complete research related to health strategy. Having just introduced a mental health strategy into my school Kaz suggested I apply. After much soul searching and encouragement from Kaz, I made a successful application and as they say, 'the rest is history'!



"THE SUPPORT OF THE STAFF WAS ABSOLUTELY AMAZING. QUITE LITERALLY EVERYONE I CAME ACROSS, FROM LIBRARIANS TO SUPERVISORS, OTHER LECTURES, GRADUATE OFFICE STAFF AND ALL THOSE WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE EXTENSIVE SUPPORT PROGRAMME WERE BOTH PROFESSIONAL AND ALSO EXTREMELY HELPFUL."

What would be your top 3 tips for people thinking of doing a PhD?

- 1) Find something to study that you are passionate about.
- 2) Throw yourself in into the work, immerse yourself in it and enjoy it for what it is, an opportunity for self-development.
- 3) Believe in yourself! PhDs are unique to the individual and if you get the chance to do one, you will be able to shape it in the way you want to.

Please can you briefly describe your thesis/research area?

I went into my research looking to investigate the efficacy of the 'Whole School Mental Health Strategy'. I wanted to do this from the young people's perspective but was concerned that my previous position as Assistant Headteacher would negatively impact the research. The feeling was that the young people may not 'open-up' to me or be honest with me as they would view me as the teacher who used to be in charge of behaviour and attendance. After discussion with different groups of young people from the school we came up with the idea of asking sixth formers to volunteer to work with me as co-researchers and they would collect the primary research data with younger students. This resulted in findings related to the mental health strategy and findings to do with my unique methodology; something I called Youth Participative Dialogic Action Research (YPDAR), a nuanced form of YPAR.

How have your tutors supported you during your studies?

This is almost impossible to quantify! For various reasons I had six different supervisors as a number of them moved on to other roles during my four years. Two of them stayed with me throughout the journey and were an inspiration to me. They took me from being a research novice to completing my PhD with minor corrections. They taught me how to be an academic, how to study and how to succeed, challenging and prompting me whilst also suggesting avenues to explore. They also gave me massive support, particularly in the final write up stages, when I started doubting myself! I really cannot talk highly enough about them!

What have you done since graduating and how did your PhD prepare you for this?

As an older graduate I am now less interested in an academic career path. Instead, I am working as an independent researcher trying to develop my research further. I have taken my methodology and have applied it in another school as well as pitching to other formal youth organisations. As a result of my PhD, I have also been asked to contribute to wider research projects as well as to papers and book chapters. It really has opened up a very different 'work stream' from that which I was used to.

MRES | MASTER OF RESEARCH

The MRes degree blends independent research with learning activities delivered by world-class researchers, while allowing students to shape their studies in part around their other priorities, making it an ideal qualification for early career academics and professionals alike.

The programme provides a firm foundation for developing personal and professional skills towards business, public service, third sector, research sector or doctoral study.

COURSE OVERVIEW:

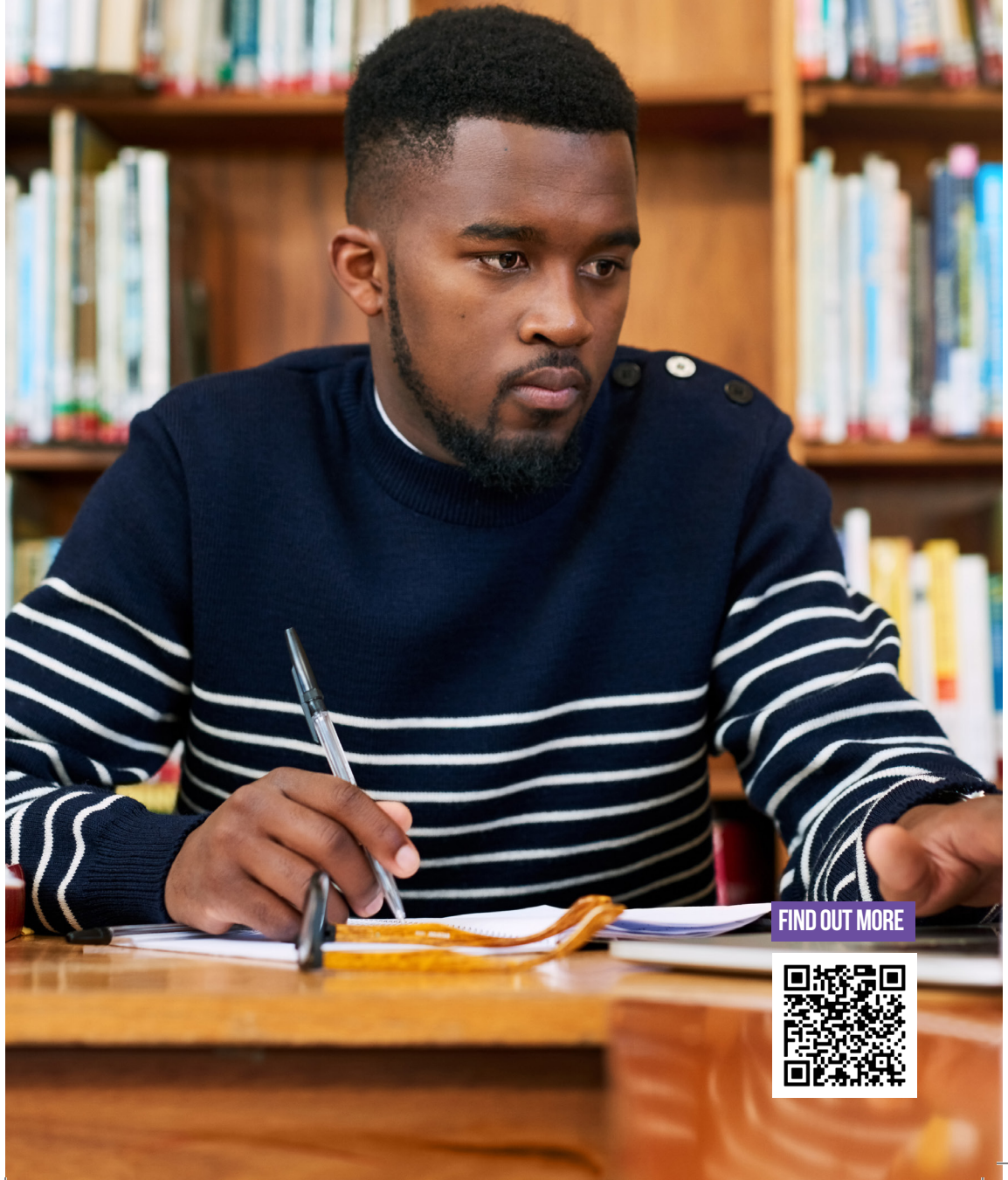
The University of Cumbria's research master's programme aims to develop participants as researchers capable of designing, leading, and communicating research and development projects. You will contribute new knowledge, whilst also having an impact on practice within your subject area, professional field or workplace context.

You will be working with a core interdisciplinary programme team and drawing upon the established expertise of University of Cumbria's academics and researchers.

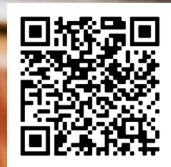
For students with further study ambitions, it is possible to gain Accreditation from Prior Learning (APL) from the MRes degree into either a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) or a Doctor of Professional Practice (DProf). To progress from the Master of Research to the PhD or DProf, you will require 60% average overall, Merit or above, on successful completion of the MRes.

ON THIS COURSE, YOU WILL...

- Contribute new knowledge and understanding of key disciplinary and interdisciplinary theory, and research relevant to your professional field, workplace context and chosen focus.
- Advance your critical knowledge and understanding of research methodologies and skills enabling you to contribute to new knowledge through research.
- Influence research-informed change in practice within your professional field.
- Develop professional researcher attributes and skills in planning, critical and creative thinking, communication, and self-management of your continuing professional development.
- Exercise a high level of professional values and dispositions related to diversity, integrity, leadership and good practice.



FIND OUT MORE



UNIVERSITY OF CUMBRIA MASTER OF RESEARCH (MRES) STUDENT, GEORGIA YOUNG TALKS ABOUT HER EXPERIENCE ON THIS PROGRAMME.

Who or what was your inspiration to study a Master of Research (MRes)?

Tom Grimwood (University of Cumbria, Head of Graduate School) himself! I listened to Tom speak at a conference I had attended, whilst I was in the throes of deciding what my educational “next step” would be. I can’t really explain why, but I felt a draw to the programme Tom was presenting and felt the MRes aligned to what I was trying to get out of my educational journey. I emailed off for more information the next week.



“OVER THE COURSE OF THE MODULE, WE HAVE HAD AN INCREDIBLY DIVERSE RANGE OF SPEAKERS. EVERY SINGLE ONE BROUGHT A DIFFERENT ELEMENT TO THE JOURNEY AND EVERY SINGLE ONE WAS MORE THAN WILLING TO SUPPORT OUR NICHES. THIS IS ONE OF MY FAVOURITE THINGS ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY OF CUMBRIA; A SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITY ETHOS IS CLEAR, AND IT IS ABLE TO BE TAILORED TO MY NEEDS.”

What is your research area?

I wanted to focus on paramedic education and development but didn't really know where to start. The programme has stepped us through from foundations of research itself, to narrowing down topics and considering philosophical perspective, which has led me to my final project where I will be looking, ironically, at the paramedic journey into research and all the factors (both hindering and helping) along the way. Ideally, this will be able to provide our education system with some foundations of what aspiring/current research paramedics need to make that jump into a key part of their professional development. Every paramedic has a "thing", and this is my attempt at finding the core of how to best support that paramedic to move their own interests forward to improve practice and patient outcomes.

What would be your top 3 tips for people thinking of doing an MRes?

The MRes will be setting up my academic career to support me to take my research where I want to, and more confidently.

Nearing the end of the programme, my top 3 tips would be:

- 1) You get out of the programme what you put in. Commitment will ensure success.
- 2) Ask the question, don't assume everyone else in the room knows what is going on!
- 3) Don't be afraid of your weak points. In this programme, knowing what these are gives you space to consciously develop your weaknesses and come out with greater depth of knowledge under your belt and a significant critical self-awareness. It is a safe place to practice and to get it wrong.

DBA | DOCTOR OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

Our doctoral-level programme is tailored for seasoned executives and accomplished professionals in management aiming to enrich their insights and expertise.

Equivalent in prestige to a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), this programme offers participants extensive opportunities for engaging in applied research that not only advances their individual knowledge but also contributes significantly to the evolution of related theories and concepts.

COURSE OVERVIEW:

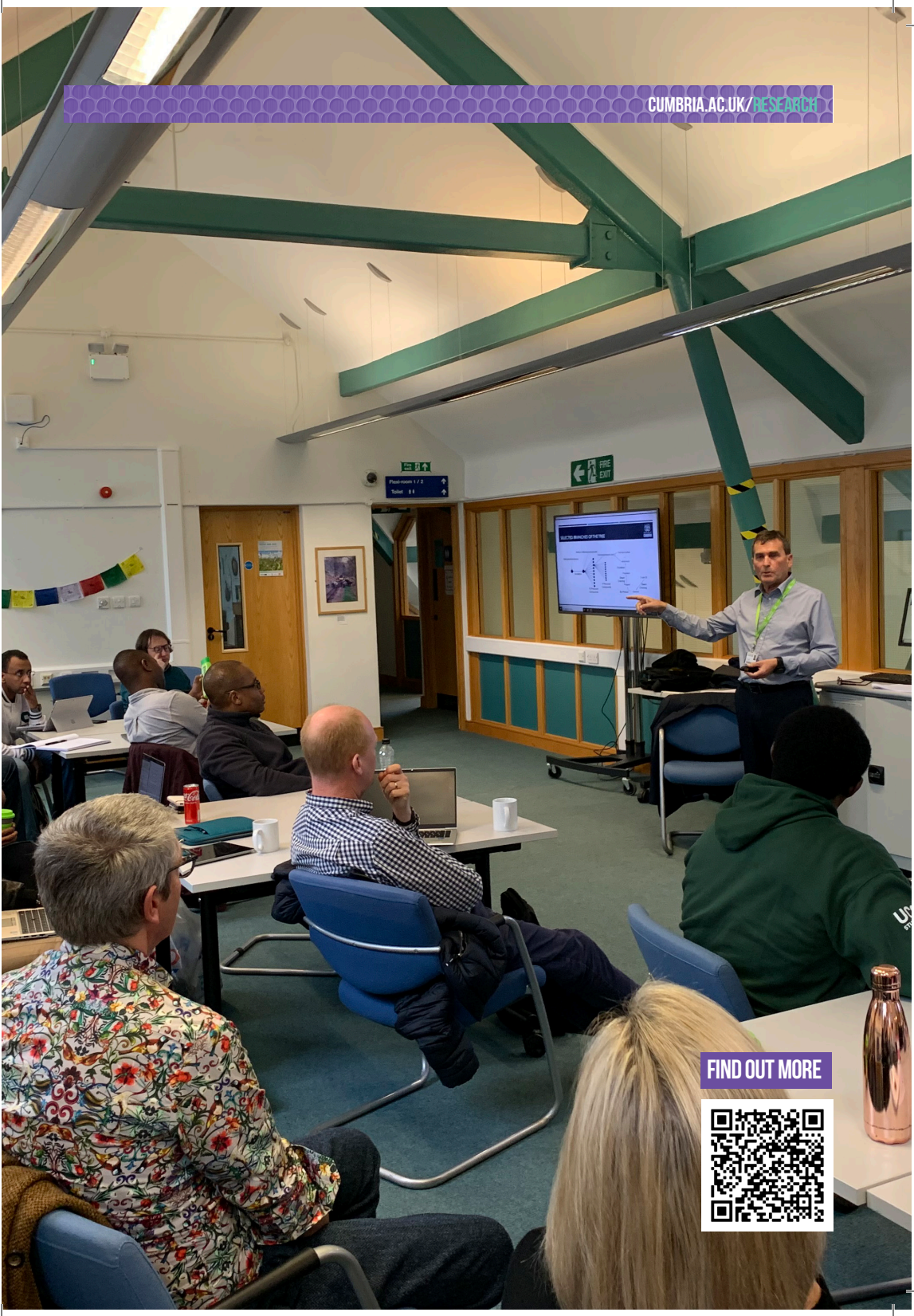
Embark on a distinctive doctoral journey tailored for accomplished leaders. Customise your research in business, management, or leadership to fortify your organisation and enhance stakeholder engagement. This program is more than traditional learning; it's a personalised experience where you refine critical thinking, strategy development, and problem-solving skills.

Join an exclusive community of senior leaders, creating a dynamic space for shared experiences and profound insights. In this collaborative environment, explore and apply cutting-edge business ideals, models, and strategies directly relevant to your role. This isn't just a doctorate; it's a transformative pathway that equips you with tangible skills and actionable knowledge.

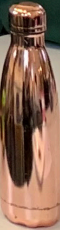
Guided by dedicated academic advisors, engage in a self-directed applied research project, participate in seminars and workshops, and complete modules covering critical thinking, research strategy, and advanced methods. The program culminates in the submission of your DBA thesis and an oral defense, ensuring you not only earn a prestigious qualification but also emerge with refined skills crucial for leadership in dynamic business landscapes.

ON THIS COURSE, YOU WILL...

- Design and implement a research project that explores a specific management, leadership, and/or collaboration question
- Critically assess, select, and implement applied research methodologies and methods within complex organisational, leadership, collaboration contexts or more specific professional settings
- Synthesise, interpret, and rigorously apply relevant theoretical frameworks and research findings in relation to complex business, management and leadership contexts and issues
- Develop high-level analytical and conceptual skills, facilitating questioning and critical debate about established theoretical orthodoxy and challenges to such orthodoxy
- Engage in and manage a process of high level critical reflective personal and professional development leading to the enhancement of your own professional practice within an organisational context or a specific domain



FIND OUT MORE



UNIVERSITY OF CUMBRIA DOCTOR OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION (DBA) STUDENT, ROSAMUND CAREY TALKS ABOUT HER EXPERIENCE ON THIS PROGRAMME.

What, or who inspired you to study for a DBA?

Actually, I was sitting in a meeting with top executives from a world renowned conglomerate. Listening to the depth of knowledge and acumen, the manner in which they were able to pivot seamlessly into different subject areas was interesting. I determined then that I wanted that same level of proficiency, knowledge and impactfulness.



"THE DBA PROGRAMME HAS ENABLED ME TO DEVELOP AND STRENGTHEN A WIDE RANGE OF NEW COMPETENCIES. IT HAS PROVIDED ME WITH DEEPER INSIGHTS INTO APPLYING LEARNED ABILITIES IN PRACTICAL SITUATIONS AND USING VARIOUS THEORETICAL AND CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORKS TO MAKE BETTER STRATEGIC DECISIONS."

Can you briefly describe your thesis/research area?

Healthcare insurance systems are a critical component for citizens to obtain access to affordable, and equitable healthcare. "Strategies in Healthcare Resilience: Exploring a Sustainable Healthcare Insurance System in The Commonwealth of The Bahamas."

What made you choose the University of Cumbria for your DBA?

I perused other DBA programmes. However, with the University of Cumbria, there were several factors in the decision process. The most compelling factors were the composition of the modules, the conducive learning environment, and the keen interest that the professors take in ensuring our success through challenging modules.

What have you enjoyed most at Cumbria?

The diversity of our cohort, the face-to-face interaction at the beginning of each module, and the authentic engagement with our professors.

How have your tutors supported you during your studies?

It is the unwavering support of Dr. David Murphy and Dr. Stephen Taylor. The gentle reminders when they feel a significant time has lapsed between communications. The willingness to engage and offer guidance during difficulties, whether it is academically or personally. This has helped tremendously in the success of the inaugural cohort getting through the proposal stage into the actual DBA thesis. Although we all have our own personal tutors for our specific area of expertise, the guidance and support are still there.

What are your career plans, and how is your DBA preparing you for your future career?

To become a skilled and effective agent of change within the healthcare insurance industry. The DBA programme has enabled me to develop and strengthen a wide range of new competencies. It has provided me with deeper insights into applying learned abilities in practical situations and using various theoretical and conceptual frameworks to make better strategic decisions.

HOW TO APPLY

Check the entry requirements and application deadlines for the course you are interested in on our website. From here you can apply directly using our online application form by clicking on the 'Apply Now' button. Queries regarding the course before you apply can be directed to our Enquiry Centre (enquirycentre@cumbria.ac.uk). If you have any questions regarding your application, you can contact your Applicant Advisor on rsa@cumbria.ac.uk - your Applicant Advisor is here to guide you throughout your application process.

Research proposals

To apply for the university's PhD Programme, please complete the online application form, and as part of this application you will be asked to upload a research proposal and evidence of your academic qualifications. Further information on the research proposal can be found on the course page.

PhD Supervisors

We welcome enquiries from prospective applicants who are interested in becoming a PhD student. Browse our lecturers and professors to find out more information about their research interests, publications, and the areas in which they are keen to supervise PhD students. It is useful to contact a potential supervisor before you apply to discuss your proposed area of research.

Scan the QR code to Search for a PhD supervisor on our website

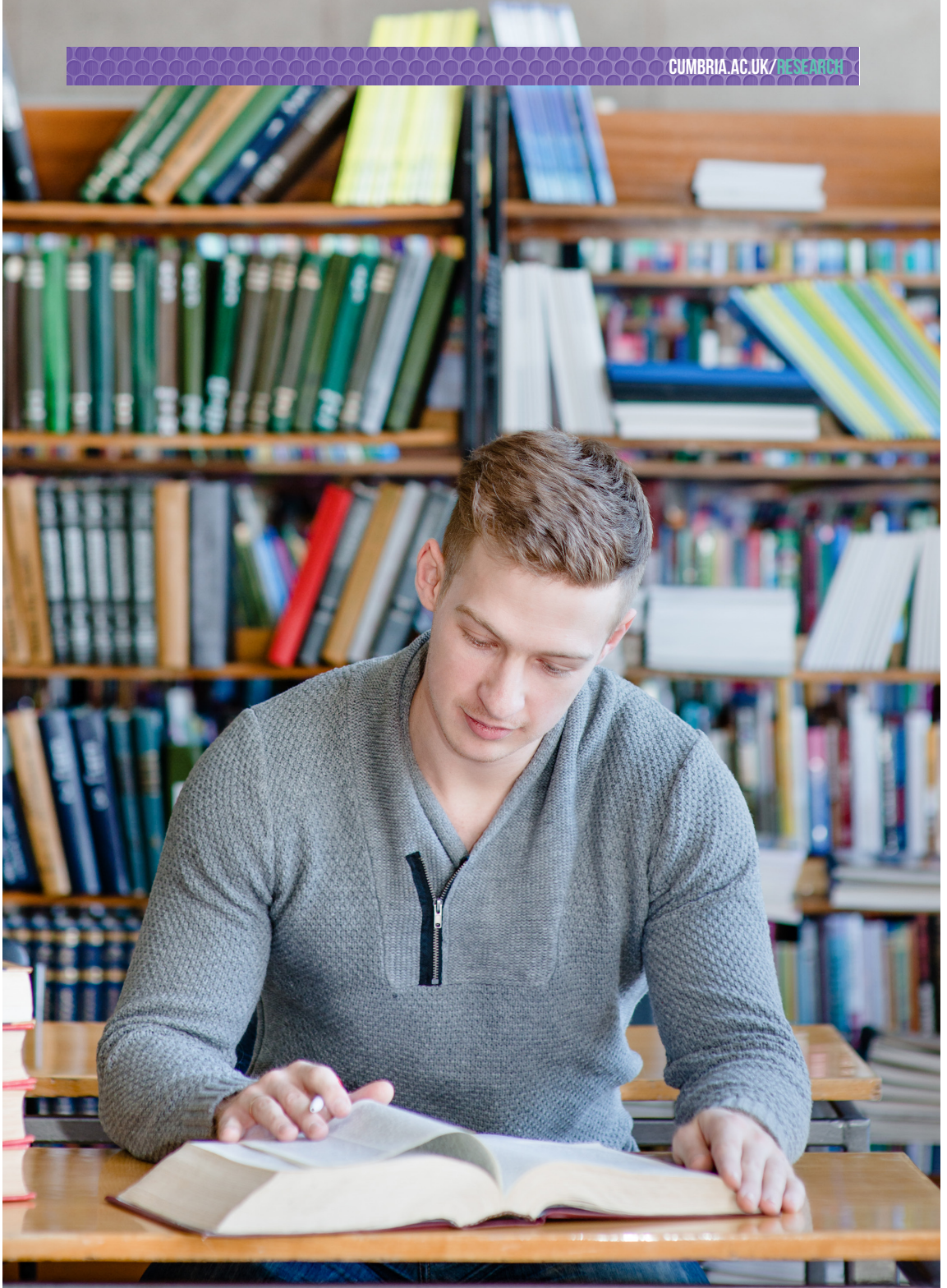


Fees and Finance

For up-to-date information regarding fees and finance for our postgraduate doctorates, including the Master of Research (MRes) please visit our website.

Find out more:







University of
CUMBRIA

01228 588 588 
enquirycentre@cumbria.ac.uk 

@cumbriauni 
universityofcumbria 
@cumbriauni 