

Doctoral Training for Resilient Flood Futures (FLOOD-CDT) PhD

Academic Year 2026/27

Programme Summary

Awarding body	Loughborough University
Delivery partners	Flood-CDT consortium partners: University of Southampton (lead partner), University of Bristol, University of Newcastle, National Oceanography Centre, the UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, and the British Geological Survey.
Owning school/department	School of Social Sciences and Humanities
Participating Schools	School of Architecture, Building and Civil Engineering School of Sport Exercise and Health Sciences Loughborough Business School
Details of accreditation by a professional/statutory body	Not applicable
Final award	Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) Master of Philosophy (exit award only)
Programme title	Centre for Doctoral Training for Resilient Flood Futures (FLOOD-CDT)
Programme code	
Programme length	Full-time: 3.5 years Part-time: 7 years Note that UKRI expects thesis submission within the funded period
Admissions criteria	https://www.lboro.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/research-degrees/
Date at which the programme specification was published	22 Sept 2025

Programme Aims

The programme aims to:

- equip students with the skills to design and carry out a research project related to flooding, resulting in a thesis which will provide a contribution to knowledge and contain original work worthy of publication.
- provide training in research methods appropriate to flooding and flood resilience and allow students to become well acquainted with the general field of knowledge to which their research project relates.
- Provide opportunities to attend external networking training with the Flood-CDT cohort of students across the Flood-CDT consortium partners.
- Provide professional experience through a placement related to flooding in an organization outside of the seven consortium partners.

Benchmarks

Relevant subject benchmark statements and other external and internal reference points used to inform programme outcomes:

- The Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degrees
- Doctoral Degree Characteristics Statement (QAA)
- Credit Level Descriptors for Higher Education (SEEC)
- Loughborough University Programme Reviews
- Research Council annual reviews

Programme Learning Outcomes

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of the Flood-CDT PhD programme, students should:

- Lead on the creation, development and implementation of a significant programme of research that will lead to new knowledge related to flooding that is disseminated through the production of a PhD thesis.

Knowledge and Understanding

On successful completion of the Flood-CDT PhD programme, Doctoral Researchers should be able to demonstrate:

- Originality in the application of knowledge at the forefront of flooding.
- How research and enquiry are used in practice to create and interpret knowledge related to flooding.
- A thorough knowledge of the literature and a comprehensive understanding of relevant methods and techniques applicable to their research related to flooding.

Skills and other attributes

Subject-specific cognitive skills:

- Critically evaluate current research and research techniques and methodologies appropriate to their project field.
- Act independently and originality in tackling and solving flooding related problems.
- Critically analyse the effectiveness of methodological developments and appropriate datasets.

Subject-specific practical skills:

- Synthesise and apply appropriate methods used in their field.
- Analyse and manage complex research results relevant to their project.
- Interpret research outcomes in the context of applied research questions.

Key transferable skills:

- Communicate complex or contentious information clearly and effectively to different target audiences in an appropriate way.

- Act autonomously and with initiative in a professional capacity with responsibility for self and others where appropriate.
- Demonstrate reflective practice as independent and self-critical learner.

Programme structure

Cohort training and team building – Parts R1-R3

All students must complete the Flood-CDT core training through participation in Flood-CDT training events. A timetable of Flood-CDT core training events will be made available to all students at the start of their studies and is updated each new academic year informed by a Training Needs Analysis of each cohort.

Part R1

Students will complete the following:

- Attendance at the Flood-CDT induction and core training activities (attendance basis only)
- Submission of a research poster or oral presentation at the annual School PGR seminar day (if requested by the School)
- Submission of a 2,000-word research report at the mid-way point of Part 1 and submission of a satisfactory 10,000-word research report (end of Part report) towards the end of Part 1 in accordance with the provisions of Regulation XXVI.

Typically, the timetable for reports in R1 will follow the schedule below.

Time spent in R1	6 months	12 months	24 months
Full-time	2,000-word mid-part report	10,000-word end of part report	
Part-time	1,000-word research report	2,000-word mid-part report	10,000-word end of part report

Part R2

Students will complete the following:

- Attendance at the Flood-CDT Grand Challenge year 2 training event.
- Attendance at any Flood-CDT core training activities
- Submission of a research poster or oral presentation at the annual School PGR seminar day (if requested by the School)

PhD candidates: Submission of a satisfactory 10,000-word research report (end of Part report) towards the end of Part 2 in accordance with the provisions of Regulation XXVI.

Typically, the timetable for reports in R1 will follow the schedule below.

Time spent in R2	12 months	24 months
Full-time	10,000-word end of part report	
Part-time	5000-word mid-part report	Up to 10,000-word end of part report

MPhil candidates: Submission of their formal MPhil thesis for examination in accordance with the provisions of Regulation XXVI.

Part R3

Students will complete the following:

- Submission of a research poster or oral presentation at the annual School PGR seminar day (if requested by the School)
- Attendance at any Flood-CDT core training activities
- Submission of a written report detailing the plan for submission (mid-Part report, expected 12 months into R3 for full-time students, and at 12 months and 24 months into R3 for part-time students).
- At the end of R3, submission of a formal PhD thesis for examination in accordance with the provisions of Regulation XXVI.

Time spent in R3	12 Months	18 Months	24 months	36 months
Full-time	Mid-Part report	PhD submission		
Part-time	Mid-Part report		Mid-Part report	PhD submission

Criteria for Progression and Degree Award

To progress from Part R1 to Part R2 and from Part R2 to Part R3 and to be eligible for an award, candidates must satisfy the assessment requirements set out in Regulation XXVI. Candidates must complete all the requirements for each Part outlined above in order to progress to the next Part. If an end of Part report does not meet the standards required for progression, candidates may undertake further work and resubmit the report on one occasion only in accordance with the provisions of Regulation XXVI.

The arrangements for revision of final theses which may be required by the examiners are also set out in Regulation XXVI.

Relative Weighting of Parts of the Programme for the purposes of Final Degree Classification

Not applicable