



**CENTRE FOR REPRODUCTION RESEARCH**  
**POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES**

## Welcome from Professor David Mba

At De Montfort University Leicester (DMU), we want our research to make a difference to people's lives.

In addition to my role as Pro Vice-Chancellor for Research and Enterprise, I am a Professor of Engineering and actively engaged in research.

I see research as central to the university's identity. DMU has an abiding commitment to work in the public good – locally, nationally and globally – and I'm determined our research community should play an ever-stronger role in just that kind of engagement.

At DMU our PhD students form an integral part of that research community, and are supported and encouraged to build something new on the strong foundations and reputation we have established.

The pressing problems of our future need critical-thinkers and convention-challengers in every field ready to turn their attention, imagination and effort to better answers for everyone. If that's you, I hope you'll consider joining us.

### **Professor David Mba**

Pro Vice-Chancellor for Research and Enterprise



## Introduction from Professor Nicky Hudson

As Professor of Medical Sociology, my expertise lies in the social and cultural significance of reproduction, infertility and assisted reproductive technologies, with my current research focusing on egg donation in Europe. I also look at how the sociology of chronic illness intersects with reproduction. My work has been funded by the Economic and Social Research Council, the Wellcome Trust, the Foundation for Sociology of Health and Illness, and the National Institute for Health Research.

The Centre for Reproduction Research was launched to examine the social, cultural and political aspects of human reproduction. The centre spans expertise in sociology, psychology, anthropology, science and technology studies, nursing, midwifery, health policy and health sciences. We aim to develop informed research with real world impact and generate global debate.

We have global links with many other academic research groups, including in the US, Australia, Europe, India, South Africa and South Asia, giving our students the opportunity to meet with visiting researchers, collaborators and speakers from around the world.

### **Professor Nicky Hudson**

Director of the Centre for Reproduction Research



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# Research at DMU

Research is rightly at the heart of teaching and learning at DMU and the life and global outlook of our university. Its quality was reflected in the last Research Excellence Framework (REF) exercise – with nearly 60 per cent judged to be of international quality, and 18 per cent internationally leading.

The DMU Research Strategy sets out our mission to challenge conventional thinking, to search for new knowledge, and to apply that knowledge to our world for the better. The strategy was developed by staff and students across the university and is designed as a clear and confident statement of our ambitions for research and the actions we will take to achieve them.

We are now working to embed the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into all aspects of DMU research, teaching and learning. We are committed to these objectives, which aim to address pressing global challenges including poverty, hunger, health, education, climate change and social justice.

Reproductive health continues to be central to the strategies of national and global public health organisations and is embedded in the UN's SDGs.

The Centre for Reproduction Research carries out research recognised as impacting society and as making a real difference to people's lives through improvements in access to reproductive health care services, with a particular emphasis on minority groups. We are well placed to help meet these and other challenges through our theoretically informed interdisciplinary research and via our of expertise in reproductive health, endometriosis and the social impact of infertility.

Central to DMU's approach to research is its investment in the future and its commitment to the development of a continuing pipeline of talent and skills – in both its staff and student bodies. All of this is underpinned by DMU's abiding values of creativity, professionalism, pride, respect and aspiration.

## Why study for a PhD at DMU?

DMU is a scholarly community with a culture of research excellence, where postgraduate research students are nurtured and recognised by scholars and research leaders.

If you're looking for an opportunity to pursue a future as an academic, to further your understanding or your professional career, or simply to change others' lives through the power of research, then DMU is the place for you. We provide an inclusive and stimulating learning and research environment to ensure that our students develop the broad range of skills needed for research which impacts on the world around us.

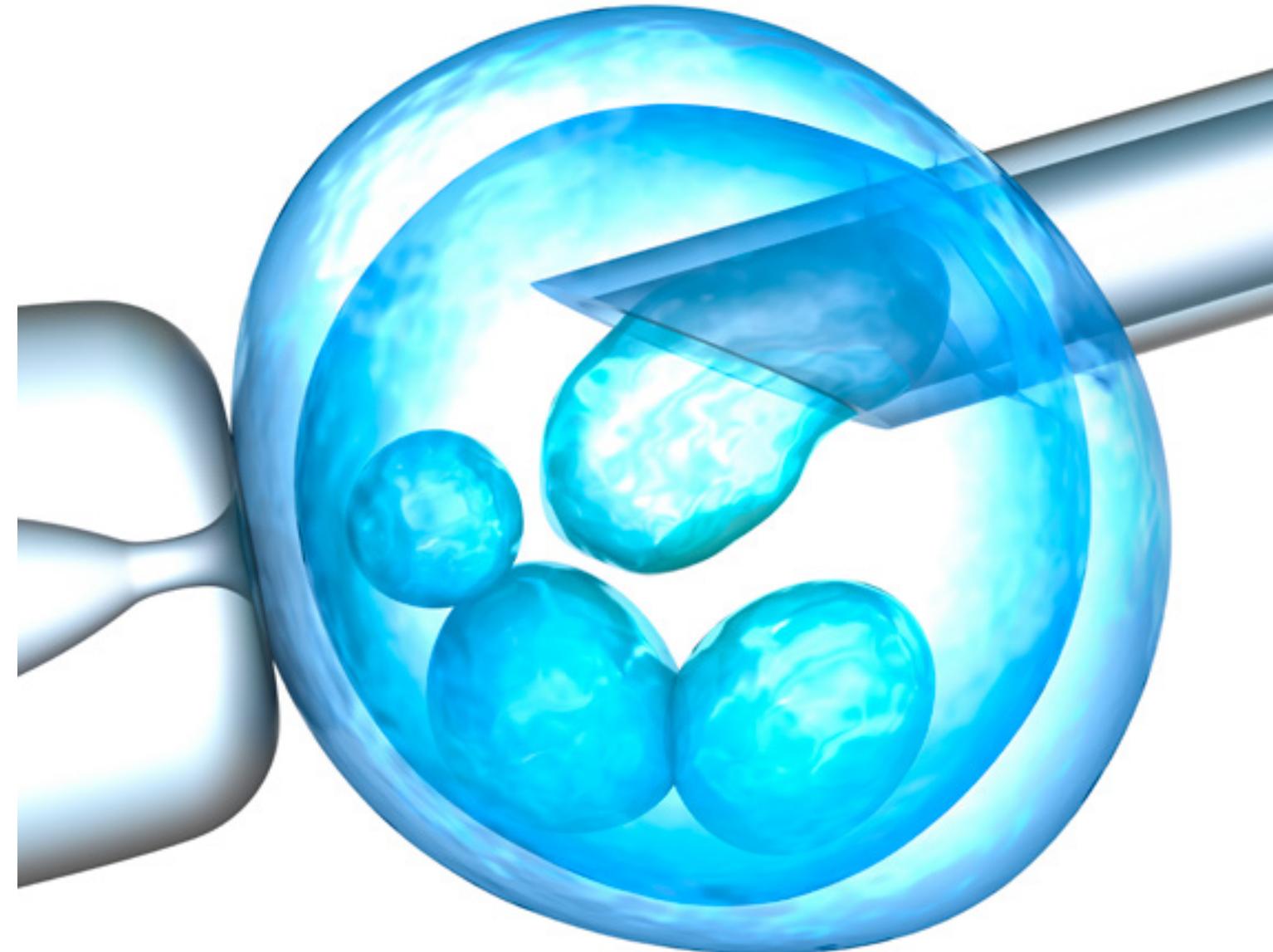
Our dynamic and diverse community of PhD students form part of the DMU Doctoral Training Programmes. With a range of specialist skills on offer, they enjoy close working relationships with their supervisors, who share their passion and can fully support their individual journeys.

- **Doctoral College** – offering expertise, support, training and space for research, professional and career development for all doctoral students
- **World-class research institutes and centres** – contributing to specialised areas of research that are impacting on society and making a real difference to people's lives
- **A range of study options** – including full or part-time MSc by Research and PhD options, see page 11

- **Global opportunities** – take advantage of opportunities through our acclaimed international experience programme DMU Global, visit [dmuglobal.com](http://dmuglobal.com)
- **Competitive fees** – with opportunities of discounts and scholarships, visit [dmu.ac.uk/DCfees](http://dmu.ac.uk/DCfees)
- **Funding for travel and conferences** – through our SDG Global Fellowships and through other grants and subsidies
- **Opportunities to present work** – at regular Doctoral College lectures and research institute seminars
- **Career support** – during and after your studies

### International students

DMU offers flexible ways of studying for international research students. You can either study full-time at DMU's vibrant Leicester campus and enjoy the benefits of being part of a successful research community. Or you can study full-time or part-time in your home country with full remote supervision from DMU. This option offers the potential of studying for a PhD from a UK university while maintaining existing professional and personal commitments.





## Centre for Reproduction Research

The Centre for Reproduction Research aims to develop new ways of thinking about the complexity of human reproduction. Our work covers a broad range of cutting-edge topics and we work closely with the end users of our research. For example, our research is having a direct impact on support that is available for egg donors in the UK.

Members of the centre collaborated with the Sperm, Egg and Embryo Donation (SEED) Trust to produce eight short films which explore the experience of egg donation in the UK. The films premiered at the Fertility Festival at the London Barbican Theatre.

Our work has also had a direct impact on the management and care of women with endometriosis, with evidence from our research about the needs of women and their male partners being cited in both UK (NICE) and European practice guidelines.



**Dr Christina Weis  
(graduated in 2018)**

Christina, a social and cultural anthropologist, is currently a Research Fellow at the Centre for Reproduction Research at DMU.

“My PhD was a feminist ethnography of the social organisation and cultural framing of commercial surrogacy in Russia. I benefitted immensely from the centre’s supportive and vibrant research culture and the encouragement to excel.”

## Areas of expertise

- Age and reproductive timing
- Ethnicity, religion and assisted conception
- IVF add-ons
- Surrogacy
- Egg and mitochondrial donation
- Egg freezing
- Genetic disorders and reproductive technologies
- Socio-psychological aspects of endometriosis
- Pregnancy and childbirth
- Commercialisation of reproductive treatment
- Cross-border reproductive travel
- Gay and lesbian parenthood
- LGBTQI reproduction
- Men, infertilities, technologies and fatherhood

### Primary contact

Professor Nicky Hudson  
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**Dr Kylie Baldwin  
(graduated in 2017)**

Kylie is currently a Senior Lecturer in the School of Allied Health Sciences at DMU.

“My PhD *Ice, Ice, Baby? A Sociological Exploration of Social Egg Freezing* explored how women understand, construct and experience social egg freezing in the context of debates surrounding reproductive ‘choice’ and ‘delayed motherhood’.

I valued the research centre for its collegiality and the support it offers to early career researchers.”



## Postgraduate research study options

There is a vibrant community of postgraduate research students within our centre, and students are included in its seminar series, conferences, workshops and training events. Students are also supported by the Institute Head of Research Students and can access additional training and support from the DMU Doctoral College.

Enquiries are welcomed from potential postgraduate research students. The main areas of expertise include age and reproductive timing, ethnicity, religion and assisted conception, egg freezing, and reproductive technologies.

For further information about specific areas of research within these themes, and potential supervisors for projects visit the centre webpage at [dmu.ac.uk/crr](http://dmu.ac.uk/crr)

### MSc by Research

If you would like to experience carrying out research but are not sure that you want to commit to long-term study then the MSc by Research is an excellent introduction. This offers the opportunity to pursue an individual research project in an area of your interest while benefitting from the support of expert supervision. For full-time students the course takes 12-15 months, or 24-30 months for part-time students.

### Research degree PhD

This offers the opportunity to pursue an in-depth individual research project in an area of your interest while benefitting from the support of expert supervision. For full-time students, a PhD takes three to four years, or six years for part-time students. The major distinction between the Master's and Doctorate awards is that your training within the PhD programme will prepare you for your future role as an independent researcher which is highly valued by employers both in academic research and other walks of life.

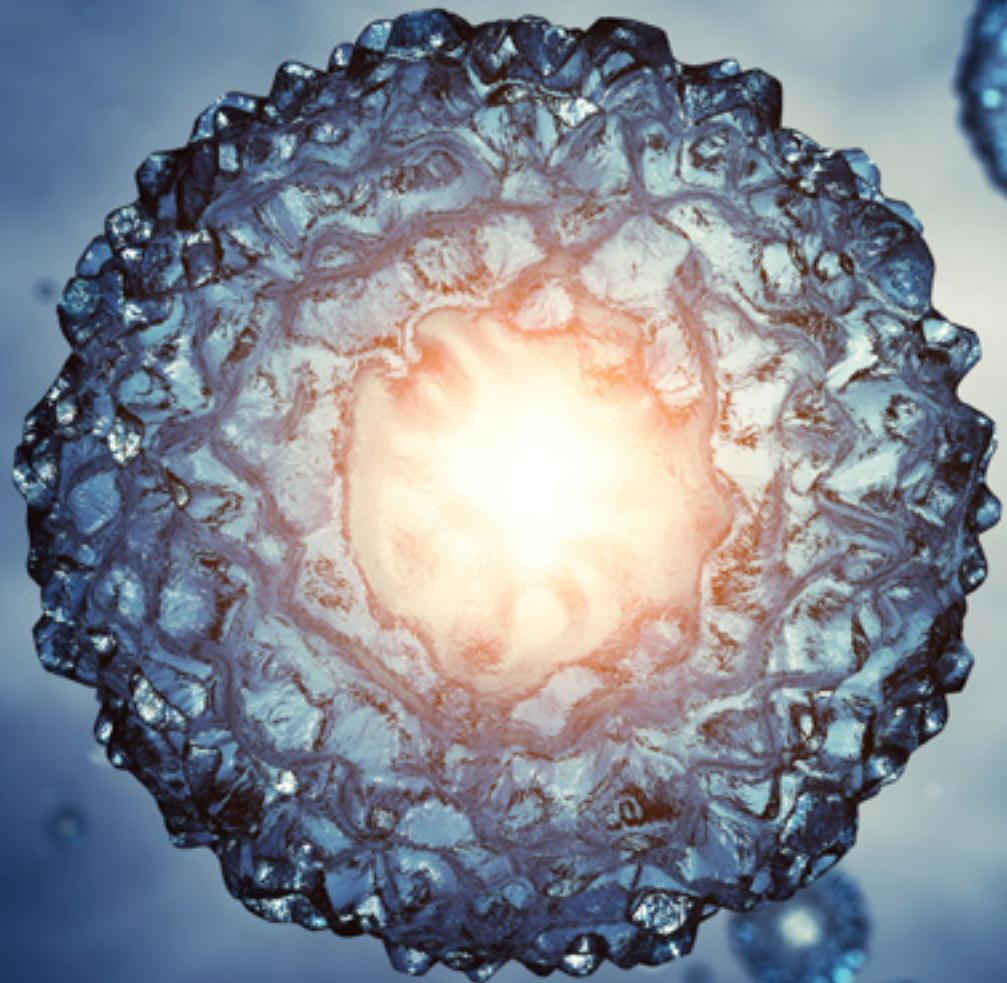
For both master's and doctoral level study you will have two supervisors who are experts in your research area to support you.

For further information, please contact:  
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## Funding and tuition fees

Access to funding for research degrees including MSc by Research or a PhD, will form a key part of the decision-making process, and there are several opportunities to explore. To find out more, visit [dmu.ac.uk/DCscholarships](http://dmu.ac.uk/DCscholarships)



## How to apply

### Entry criteria

Applicants should typically:

- Have a UK bachelor's degree equivalent to a 2:1 or higher and an academic or professional qualification which the Research Degrees Committee Review Panel deems to be equivalent
- Be able to demonstrate competence in the use of the English language. A minimum score of 6.5 in an International English Language Testing System (IELTS) or equivalent is required. This includes a minimum score of 5.5 in each of the test components, taken no more than two years prior to entry

For more information, contact the Doctoral College by emailing [pgradmissions@dmu.ac.uk](mailto:pgradmissions@dmu.ac.uk)

### English language support

Our dedicated Centre for English Language Learning offers a range of courses designed to help international students improve their language skills, before and during their studies.

The centre is accredited by the British Council for the quality of its teaching, so students can be sure they are receiving the highest standard of English language tuition. It is also a member of the British Association of Lecturers in English for Academic Purposes.

For more information visit [dmu.ac.uk/cell](http://dmu.ac.uk/cell)

### Start dates

There are typically three start dates each year:

- January – application submission deadline is in November
- April – application submission deadline is in February
- October – application submission deadline is in August

For more information, contact the Doctoral College at [pgradmissions@dmu.ac.uk](mailto:pgradmissions@dmu.ac.uk)



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 [@DMUresearch](https://twitter.com/DMUresearch)**

The content of this document is correct at the time of going to print. You are advised to check our website before making an application in case there are any changes to the course you are interested in, as the contents of the website will always take precedence.

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