

# Postgraduate Research at ETHOX

## Information for Prospective Students

### RESEARCH AREAS AT ETHOX

Generally speaking, potential supervisors are keen to supervise research that falls into one of the Ethox Centre's four main research areas: clinical ethics, research ethics, global health ethics, and public health ethics. Click on the link above to learn about the research that is currently carried out at Ethox to see how your proposed postgraduate research project might align with our interests.

### SUPERVISION AT ETHOX

The supervision process at Ethox is a collaborative one between the student and supervisor, who will have agreed on a project that is interesting to both of them. In practice, this means that the supervision of DPhils is designed to fit the needs of individual students and is negotiated by the student and supervisor as the research progresses. In most cases, supervision will take the form of a formal supervision meeting once a month at which progress with the research is discussed and plans made for the next month's research. In practice, however, senior members of the Ethox team are around the Centre most days and are available to provide ad hoc support and advice. The weekly Ethox 'coffee and research talk' meetings are also an opportunity for students to discuss and get feedback about their work from other members of the team and visiting scholars.

### OPPORTUNITIES AT ETHOX

As described on the main postgraduate research page, Ethox offers a wide variety of opportunities to its students. In addition to formal supervision, these include the following:

- Monthly DPhil research meetings (dedicated series of DPhil presentations in addition to regular Ethox research 'coffee talks')
- DPhil discussion group (run by Ethox DPhils, and open to all DPhils in Nuffield Department of Population Health)
- Teaching experience (through college-run tutorials, medical student lectures/discussions, MSc Global Health Science course, Ethox Summer School, and more)
- Collaborative writing (commentaries, editorials, book chapters, papers, etc.)
- Funding to attend/present at relevant conferences and external training courses (e.g. weeklong qualitative research course)
- Interaction with visiting researchers from other institutions (The Ethox Centre benefits from a regular flow of international research visitors through its Caroline Miles visiting

researcher scheme and links with other institutions e.g. , Mount Sinai medical students, etc.)

- Support for organising other academic activities (e.g. policy discussion groups and postgraduate gatherings beyond Oxford)
- Research-related social media/online opportunities (Global Health Bioethics site, Ethox blog for testing out public health research ideas)
- Regular access to senior research staff willing to comment and advise on work (beyond a student's direct supervisor)

## **HOW TO APPROACH ETHOX ABOUT POSTGRADUATE STUDY**

Members of the Ethox team supervise a small number of doctoral research students working in the following areas: clinical ethics, research ethics, public health ethics, and global health ethics. The possibility of carrying out doctoral research at the Ethox Centre depends upon the availability of a member of the team able to take on the role of supervisor. Anyone interested in carrying out doctoral research at the Ethox Centre should write a short email to the Centre Administrator ([admin@ethox.ox.ac.uk](mailto:admin@ethox.ox.ac.uk)) describing the proposed area of research and project idea.

## **THE APPLICATION PROCESS**

All proposals for doctoral or masters-level research projects to be carried out in, or in association with, the Ethox Centre require the approval of the Ethox Graduate Studies Committee (EGSC) prior to formal submission through the application processes of the University of Oxford Nuffield Department of Population Health. The terms of reference of the EGSC are:

- To receive for consideration proposals for doctoral or masters-level research projects to be carried out in the Ethox Centre
- To review the relevance of proposals to the research activities of the Ethox Centre
- To assess the availability of appropriate supervisory capacity in the Ethox Centre
- To make a judgement about the quality of proposals paying particular attention to: the importance of the research question; the appropriateness of the proposed method; the robustness of the research plan and likelihood of successful completion; funding; and, the potential of the candidate.

Applications will include: a statement of the research question and why it is important; a brief summary of how the research will be carried out including a timetable; and, a copy of the candidate's CV/Resume. The EGSC will meet once a term and additionally on an ad hoc basis as necessary.

Once an inquiry has been considered by the EGSC and a member of Ethox has agreed to take on the role of supervisor, the next step is making a formal application to the University of Oxford's Nuffield Department of Population Health. All Ethox DPhil students have to meet the criteria for admission to the University of Oxford. You can visit [http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/postgraduate\\_courses/index.html](http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/postgraduate_courses/index.html) for a comprehensive overview of prerequisites and documents you will have to provide, including details for writing up your proposed project.

## **POSSIBLE SOURCES OF FUNDING**

Nearly all doctoral students in Ethox apply for funding from external sources unless they plan to self-fund, as Ethox does not itself generally fund student tuition. Recently, Ethox has had students funded through governmental schemes from their home countries, Wellcome Trust Studentships, and other scholarships tenable at Oxford. (You can visit the 'Current students' page to see details of which funding source each student has secured.)

The University has a comprehensive site of graduate scholarships available at <http://www.ox.ac.uk/feesandfunding/prospectivegrad/scholarships/>.

Additionally, you can look at Wellcome Trust Ethics and Society Doctoral Studentships at <http://www.wellcome.ac.uk/Funding/Ethics-and-society/funding-schemes/Doctoral-Studentships/index.htm>.