



# Swansea @ UCO Ph.D.

**The Swansea University Ph.D. Program  
In Cooperation with the  
University of Central Oklahoma**

**2018-2019**



# Swansea University Ph.D. Degree for Students Living in America

Swansea University, Wales, UK ([www.swansea.ac.uk](http://www.swansea.ac.uk)), offers an innovative program of advanced research based in Oklahoma and leading to a Swansea Ph.D. Chartered in 1920 as a part of the University of Wales, Swansea University is located on the Bristol Channel, just outside Swansea city center. Swansea appears in a list of the top 300 universities in the world in the (London) *Times Higher Education Supplement's World University Rankings, 2018*, which is the most prominent list of the world's 800 most outstanding institutions. Two Oklahoma universities rank lower on this list. The University of Oklahoma is ranked between 400-500. Oklahoma State University is listed between 500 and 600.

The Swansea@UCO Ph.D. program enables students to research thesis topics in all academic fields under the co-supervision of a member of UCO's faculty who works in collaboration with the main faculty supervisor from Swansea. The Swansea program like other UK and European doctoral programs is a research-intensive degree centered on the production of an 80,000 – 100,000 word (about 300 pages) dissertation, which they call a "thesis." The thesis is an original contribution to scholarship, based upon research and interpretation of primary source material. Because Swansea follows the standard British model, its Ph.D. degree requires no regular classes, no online classes, no minor fields, and no additional languages or statistics, or other requirements, unless needed for the students' research specialty. Swansea does require a strong thesis. This is a partnership program, not a joint degree program. Swansea University grants the degree, and thus the program includes two short, paid trips to Wales.

After their master's degrees, full-time Swansea students complete their doctorates in three to four years. Part-time students complete in six to eight years. By contrast, six U.S. federal agencies report that on average, full-time students in American universities complete their master's and doctorates in about 7.7 years (Social Sciences) to 9.2 years (Humanities).

## Fields of Study

Using the Swansea University ([www.swansea.ac.uk](http://www.swansea.ac.uk)) website, students choose a field of study. Specialized topics may depend upon the availability of supervisory staff with expertise in the field. British universities call their faculty members "staff," so students should go to staff links in those colleges for information on current staff research. Swansea disciplines, departments, and programs do not always carry the same names as their American counterparts. Students seeking to match UCO and Swansea faculty members may need to search more than one listing. Below is a sampling of programs available. For other programs, consult the Dean of UCO's Jackson College of Graduate Studies.

### College of Arts and Humanities

<http://www.swansea.ac.uk/artsandhumanities/>

American Studies  
Ancient History  
Classics  
Digital Humanities  
Digital Media  
English  
Film Studies  
French  
German  
Hispanic Studies  
History  
International Relations or Development  
Latin American Studies  
Media Studies  
Philosophy  
Politics  
War, Society, and Veterans Affairs

### College of Engineering

<http://www.swansea.ac.uk/engineering/>

All Fields

### College of Human and Health Sciences

<http://www.swansea.ac.uk/humanandhealthsciences/>

Children and Young People  
Health Psychology  
Mental Health  
Nursing  
Public Health and Health Policy  
Gerontology and Aging Studies  
Social Work and Social Care  
Healthcare Management  
Health Economics

### School of Management

<http://www.swansea.ac.uk/som/>

Management

### Hillary Rodham Clinton College of Law / Criminology

<http://www.swansea.ac.uk/law/>

<http://www.swansea.ac.uk/law/criminology/researchdegrees/>

### College of Science

<http://www.swansea.ac.uk/science/>

All Fields

## Application, Admission, Enrollment, and the Orientation Process

**Minimum Standards.** Swansea University normally expects Ph.D. applicants to hold a Bachelor's degree (with at least a 3.2 Cumulative GPA) and a Master's degree in a relevant subject field. Interdisciplinary opportunities are sometimes possible.

1. **Preliminary Meetings.** Anyone seeking to become a Swansea Ph.D. student first meets with the Dean of the UCO Jackson College of Graduate Studies for preliminary instructions. The student then requests that a UCO faculty member serve as his or her co-supervisor. The student and the UCO faculty member agree on a proposed topic and prepare a prospectus, which is part of the student's first submission to Swansea.
2. **The Preliminary Proposal.** The preliminary proposal includes a **resume**, **transcripts** and a **prospectus** for the student's thesis topic. This five- to seven-page document should demonstrate that the student has conducted an initial (but not yet in-depth) review of previous research on the subject area, defined a specific topic, and given thought as to how this work will provide new information or new interpretations in the subject area. The student suggests possible sources of research materials. Starting with the project proposed title, the student should write the prospectus in a formal manner which gives evidence of writing ability applicable to a Ph.D. thesis. For further instructions, see: <http://www.swansea.ac.uk/postgraduate/research/applying/proposals/>.

**Submission of the Preliminary Proposal.** Applicants submit the Preliminary Proposal (prospectus, resume, and official transcripts showing completion of the undergraduate and master's degrees) to Dr. Richard Bernard, Dean of the UCO Graduate School: [rbernard1@uco.edu](mailto:rbernard1@uco.edu). The deadline for the preliminary proposal is April 15. Dr. Bernard then submits these materials to Swansea along with a request for the student's admission to the Swansea Ph.D. program.

**Evaluation of the Preliminary Proposal.** In Swansea, the Swansea Co-Director of the Swansea@UCO Program, distributes these materials to a potential Swansea faculty supervisor. If the Swansea supervisor believes that the topic is viable and the student is capable, Swansea sends the student a formal application form.

3. **The Formal Admission Application.** This application, which the student returns directly to the **Admissions Officer (Postgraduate Research)**, as indicated in the communication, requires an expanded version of the preliminary application (five to ten pages this time), a completed Swansea University doctoral application form, a writing sample (a master's thesis or other piece of scholarly work), two reference letters, and any other materials which Swansea may require for a specific proposal. Note, Swansea does not require a GRE score or scores from any other admission tests, but it sometimes does require a Skype interview.
4. **Acceptance into Candidature.** Swansea reviews these materials and sends the results to the student and the UCO graduate college. If the student is successful, Swansea sends the student an offer of Ph.D. candidacy. At this point, and at no point earlier, is the student officially accepted as a Swansea student.
5. **Enrollment and Paying Tuition at UCO and Enrolling at Swansea.** Once accepted at Swansea, the student is then admitted and enrolled in UCO's Jackson College of Graduate Studies as a non-degree seeking, post-master's student. Full-time students enroll in six UCO hours each semester. Part-time students enroll in three UCO hours each semester. The UCO work is the same as the work on the thesis. The UCO Graduate Office assists the student in enrolling and paying tuition at UCO and preparing to enroll at Swansea, which the student will do during his/her first trip to Wales.
6. **Orientation and Enrollment Trip to Swansea University, Wales, UK.**

During the period, September 25 – October 5, 2018, which is the fall orientation period at Swansea University, both the student and the UCO advisor will at no added cost visit Swansea. All new students and their UCO advisors will be together in Swansea for the first week. Then, after the advisors depart, the students will stay in Swansea for a second week. While in Swansea, the student enrolls and goes through Swansea’s graduate student orientation, which includes skills training as well as information on the university, Swansea Ph.D. expectations, and research sources available at and through Swansea along with other matters related to the Ph.D. work. Mainly, the student, Swansea supervisors, and UCO advisers work with the student to create a plan of study and a work schedule for assignments.

**7. Confirmation of Candidature.** Upon return to the US, the student receives a Confirmation of Candidature to complete and return, which upon approval advances the student from probationary status to Ph.D. candidate.

**8. The Research and Writing Process**

Once accepted for Ph.D. candidature, students begin three to four full-time years or six to eight part-time years of thesis research and writing. During the first year, students independently survey the literature in the field, much as they would have done in American Ph.D. classes. The students and the Swansea and local supervisors maintain regular contact. The UCO supervisor meets with the student about once a month to plan research, review written work, and monitor progress. Both the UCO supervisor and the student take notes on these meetings, their assignments and results. The UCO supervisor updates the Swansea supervisor after each meeting with the student. The Swansea supervisor oversees this work through periodic reviews and Skype meetings in which all take notes, which are then duly filed at Swansea for later review by quality assurance examiners. Both the Swansea and the UCO supervisors review all written work and provide feedback to the students.

At the conclusion of the first FT year (2<sup>nd</sup> year for PT), students meet electronically with Swansea and UCO officials for a Progression Review of their work to ensure that the student is on-track for the degree. Another review follows each year for a full-time student and every other year for a part-time student. On these occasions, substantial progress is expected for continuance in the program.

Each year, UCO holds two, one-evening Swansea@UCO research events: an informal seminar in the fall and a formal paper symposium in spring. Students discuss and present their work-in-progress at these times.

**Tuition, Fees and Enrollment at Swansea.**

Once enrolled at UCO, and before the orientation trip to Wales (below), the student pays one or two semesters’ tuition and fees to UCO. If a student receives a Sallie Mae loan (and perhaps other loans); however, the loan check goes directly to Swansea. Swansea endorses the check and sends it to the student, who then uses it to pay tuition at UCO.

<u>Tuition and Fees for 2017-18*</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Rate in US Dollars</u>
School of Management	Full Time	19,470
School of Management	Part Time	9,730
College of Law	Full Time	16,480
College of Law	Part Time	8,240
College of Engineering	Full Time	23,080
College of Engineering	Part Time	11,540
College of Arts & Humanities	Full Time	16,480
College of Arts & Humanities	Part Time	8,240
College of Human & Health Science	Full Time	16,480
College of Human & Health Science	Part Time	8,240

\*Fees may change for 2018-19.

The amount of the tuition may vary annually. Students pay their tuition (semester by semester) to UCO. This tuition covers their enrollment in both institutions and round-trip transportation (from Oklahoma City to Swansea) with housing near Swansea University for two trips. The two paid trips are for the orientation trip at the beginning of the student's Ph.D. work and the oral defense trip at the end. The terms are:

- a. Students must pay their tuition for the first semester before Swansea will set up travel arrangements for the required initial trip to Wales.
  - b. The program budget will pay, or reimburse for, the following items related to the two trips to Swansea, Wales, UK: the round-trip air fare, Oklahoma City to London-Heathrow, the trip from Heathrow to London-Paddington Rail Station (or other routing chosen by Swansea), and the round-trip train or bus fare from London-Paddington Station to Swansea, up to and including the amount of \$2,000.00 per trip for the initial trip and another \$2,000.00 for the thesis defense trip. Swansea may alter air travel and substitute bus travel for train travel. Swansea will set the travel dates. Some variations may be possible for the return travel date and for alternative return travel routes; however, if travel variations create costs above those for the combined air and train travel costs for either trip, the student must bear those costs. If for any reason, the student is unable or unwilling to use the purchased tickets, the student must reimburse Swansea for the cost of the tickets and other expenses related to the proposed travel. Swansea and UCO assume no financial responsibility for costs for this program, except as provided above.
  - c. If Swansea determines that minimal roundtrip travel costs exceed the allotted amounts, Swansea may, at its own discretion, reimburse students for the additional costs.
  - d. For these same trips, Swansea University will provide housing, which it selects, and occasional meals.
  - e. On the orientation trip, students may not be accompanied by other individuals. Such people may accompany the students before or after the program, but not during the program.
  - f. These provisions represent the only financial responsibilities of UCO and Swansea University.
9. **Financial Aid.** Swansea provides automatic financial assistance in that it sets its tuition rates lower for the students in this program than for other international students. The Swansea colleges also provide their doctoral students with some research support funding. The amount varies. Here are some other standard sources of aid.

#### **Sallie Mae Loans.**

SLM Corporation (commonly known as Sallie Mae; originally the Student Loan Marketing Association) is a publicly traded U.S. corporation that offers loans to help families save, plan and pay responsibly for college. The company's primary business is originating, servicing, and collecting private education loans. These loans are available to Swansea@UCO students. For graduate loan information, see: <https://www.salliemae.com/student-loans/graduate-student-loans/>.

#### **U.S. Tax Benefits**

Depending on their own tax statuses, Swansea@UCO students may be eligible for U.S. tax benefits under the Lifetime Learning Credit provision (<http://www.irs.gov/Individuals/LLC>). The Bursar's Office at UCO will provide students with the forms necessary to collect these refunds. If students have concerns over the tax reduction eligibility, they should contact a qualified tax accountant. For full-time students, this benefit could mean tax refunds of as much as \$2,000.00 per year. Part-time students are also eligible.

Students are also eligible for a tax deduction for the interest paid on student loans. This provision – which does apply to Sallie Mae loans for Swansea -- allows both full-time and part-time students and graduates to deduct the interest paid on student loans. The size of the deduction you can take depends on income (the benefit is phased out for higher incomes) and type of your loan (fixed or variable). The maximum interest deduction allowed is \$2,500. These websites contain further information, but students should consult a tax expert for details. <https://finance.zacks.com/interest-sallie-mae-educational-loans-tax-deductible-9254.html>

[https://www.huffingtonpost.com/stephen.../should-you-get-a-sallie-m\\_b\\_7780500.html](https://www.huffingtonpost.com/stephen.../should-you-get-a-sallie-m_b_7780500.html)

**U.S. Department of Defense GI, Family, and Veterans Benefits**

Depending on individual circumstances, active duty military, military spouses and veterans are eligible for certain tuition benefits which may be used in this program. See: <http://sites.uco.edu/student-affairs/veteran-student-support/gi-bill.asp>

For evidence of the eligibility of Swansea@UCO students to use these benefits, see the official Department of Defense website which specifically names the Swansea@UCO Ph.D. as an eligible program. Go to: <http://inquiry.vba.va.gov/weampub/buildSearchCountryCriteria.do>. For "Institution Name," type: "Swansea University" and at the same time under "Select Country," choose, "United Kingdom." Click on: "Submit." A list of universities will appear. Find "Swansea University" on this list and click on it. At the bottom of this page are the names of the Swansea officials, Angela Jones and Janet Gosling, who can help U.S. veterans. Click on "Programs" at the top of this same page. Then, click on "Institution of Higher Learning," and finally scroll to the bottom of the list where you will see: "Swansea @ UCO, PHD" listed as eligible to receive funds.

**Swansea Graduate Scholarships**

These are rare, but some may be available at:

<http://www.swansea.ac.uk/postgraduate/scholarships/research/>

**Tribal Educational Grants.**

Each tribe has its own eligibility criteria. For details, contact their educational offices, available on their websites.

**Outside Sources for Aid.**

Such sources are many and varied. For examples, see: AAUW and PEO grants for women returning to universities.

Illinois List. There is a list of fellowships, available to all graduate students, no matter their university. The University of Illinois has this list posted at:

<https://www.grad.illinois.edu/fellowship/>. Just go onto this site, check the boxes which apply to you (science or humanities/social science, masters not doctorate, etc.), and see what might be there for you.

**Swansea Contact for Financial Aid.**

For more information of your eligibility as a Swansea student, contact: Ms. Janet Gosling, Loans Officer, International Development Office, Swansea University, Singleton Park, Swansea SA2 8PP, UK.

Email: [j.a.gosling@swansea.ac.uk](mailto:j.a.gosling@swansea.ac.uk) Tel: + 44 1792 295818. See also Swansea information on U.S. Federal Loan Eligibility at: <http://www.swansea.ac.uk/international/students/fees-and-funding/us-federal-loans/eligibility/>.

**Swansea@UCO Calendar  
2017-2018**

Events in Black at UCO. **Events in Red at Swansea.**  
(Note: Swansea response times vary widely.)

**First Year Calendar for New Students**

April 15	Deadline for Preliminary Proposals for October Entry
About 2-4 Weeks Later	Invitation to Student to Make a Formal Admissions Application
About 2 Weeks Later	Deadline for Formal Proposals for October Entry
About 2-4 Weeks Later	Notification of Acceptance for October Entry
September 1	Deadline for Enrolling at UCO (Non-degree seeking student) and Paying Tuition
Early October	Two-Week Trip to Swansea for Orientation & Enrollment (UCO Advisor Accompanies Student for the First Week)
November 1 (approx.)	Student Receives Confirmation of Candidature
November 16	Annual SU@UCO Students Informal Seminar at UCO
April 12	Annual SU@UCO Students Formal Symposium at UCO
May-June	Annual Progression Review meeting involving Swansea Supervisor, UCO Supervisor, university officials and student takes place via video-conference.

**Thesis Defense (after completion of at least six full-time or eight part-time semesters)**

Once the supervisors determine that the dissertation is ready for presentation, the student submits the thesis to Swansea where it is examined in accordance with Swansea regulations. Two examiners will read the thesis – one an internal examiner from Swansea and the other an external reviewer from another university. The two then conduct the oral examination, called a “viva voca” (or just, “vie-ver,” meaning “live voice”). These examiners decide whether the Swansea and UCO advisors may attend, but even if they do, they may not contribute in any way. The examiners will inform the student of the result at the end of that examination meeting. Satisfactory completion of the exam and final submission of the thesis result in a degree from Swansea University. Swansea degrees are accepted throughout the U.S., U.K. and the rest of the world.

**For More Information Contact:**

University of Central Oklahoma:



Dr. Richard Bernard, Dean of the Jackson College of Graduate Studies and UCO Co-Director of the Swansea@UCO Program, Nigh University Center, Room 404 [rbernard1@uco.edu](mailto:rbernard1@uco.edu)

**Swansea University**



Stephen McVeigh, Assoc. Professor, Political & Cultural Studies, Director of Learning and Teaching (College of Arts and Humanities) and Swansea Co-Director of the Swansea@UCO Program [s.p.mcveigh@swansea.ac.uk](mailto:s.p.mcveigh@swansea.ac.uk)

<http://www.swansea.ac.uk/staff/academic/artshumanities/pcs/mcveighstephen/>

*The Bristol Channel*

