

Questions for potential PhD students

ABILITY

What research training have you received to date? (Methodologies, key equipment, statistical methods, interpretation of data, problem-solving, project management)

What research experience do you have?

What relevant theory are you familiar with?

Have you conducted a research project as part of your undergraduate or postgraduate education?

- Can you describe the research very briefly?
- What did you enjoy about that research?
- What was most challenging?
- What was the methodology?
- Who devised the methodology?
- If you were to repeat that work, what would you do differently?

What journals do you read most often?

What recent research have you read and what impressed you about this research?

How do you manage your time?

Set a task as part of the interview, for example:

- Make a 10-minute presentation on a previous project or research topic (prepared in advance)
- Explain this graph
- Provide a written summary of this short paragraph in 25 words or less
- Can you identify these two pieces of equipment? What would you use them for?