

PhD in Algorithmic Game Theory Studentship 2025-26

The School of Computer Science and Electronic Engineering at the University of Essex is offering a fully funded PhD research studentship, which includes full tuition fee discount for three years of study, a stipend payment towards your living costs and Proficio funding towards training, conferences, and travel.

The successful PhD candidate will be supervised by Dr Maria Kyropoulou and will work in areas related to (Theoretical) Computer Science, Algorithmic Game Theory, and/or Fair Division with potential applications in Blockchain in the context of the EPSRC funded research project “Blockchain incentives: consensus and fairness”. The project’s aim is to provide a systematic analysis of blockchain protocols with respect to the strategic behaviour of the stakeholders and related fairness properties, towards designing novel theoretical variants that can inform and improve blockchain technology in practice.

Our School has an international reputation for the outstanding quality of our research and large and thriving graduate research community. We provide an active and stimulating environment to carry out your doctoral research and have an extensive range of specialist labs and facilities.

The successful applicant will receive a full PhD scholarship, including full tuition fee discount for three years of study, a stipend payment towards your living costs and Proficio funding towards training, conferences, and travel.

Full funding scholarship available is as outlined below.

Type of award	Funding available
Full-funding award	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Home tuition fee waiver■ Living costs stipend at the UK Research and Innovation recommended level per year. Stipend will match standard UKRI rates (£20,780 for 2025-26)■ £2,500 (in total) in the University of Essex Proficio funding, which may be used to ‘buy’ advanced skills training, including conferences and travel.

Terms and conditions

Eligibility

- Receipt of the scholarship is subject to applying for PhD in Algorithmic Game Theory. You will need to register as a postgraduate student at the University of Essex for the 2025-26 academic year on a PhD commencing in October 2025 or mutually agreed shortly thereafter and meeting all conditions of our offer.
- Students must have achieved an honours degree (1st class or 2:1, or equivalent). A Masters in a relevant subject is desirable (but not essential) and substantive previous professional experience in the relevant area can be counted towards this requirement.
- If English is not your first language, you will also need to meet the English language entry requirements for the PhD you have applied for.
- This scholarship is available for three years of study.
- These scholarships are restricted to students who would otherwise be entirely self-funded.
- The award cannot be held in conjunction with any other University of Essex scholarships.
- Successful applicants should be available for promotional activities.

*Students receiving a repayable loan to fund their studies will be considered as self-funded.

Students who are not eligible

The following students are NOT eligible for this scholarship regardless of meeting the above criteria:

- Students awarded the scholarship who defer entry to following academic years will be ineligible to receive the award and will be considered in line with the terms and conditions that apply in the new proposed year of entry.
- Students who are fully or partly sponsored by their government or other external agency and are not required to make any repayments (this does not include VISA sponsorship)
- Students on a 4-year integrated PhD course.

- Students who are assessed as paying home tuition fees.

How to apply

Applicants should apply directly in the first instance to the PhD supervisor, Dr Maria Kyropoulou, by sending their CVs and a cover letter explaining their interest to the particular project, to maria.kyropoulou@essex.ac.uk. A brief research proposal is welcome but not required.

Additional questions and queries about the studentship can be sent to maria.kyropoulou@essex.ac.uk.

Successful applicants will then need to apply formally via our online application process, which is quick and straightforward and the following pages give you all the details: [PhD application information | University of Essex](#)

You can learn about postgraduate research at the University of Essex more generally here: <https://www.essex.ac.uk/postgraduate/research>.

You should apply for a place to study as soon as possible, and at the latest by **30 May 2025** at **23:59 GMT**.

Payment arrangements

- The tuition fee discount as part of this scholarship will be made available as a reduction on the tuition fee that is payable on registration at the University. Payment cannot be offset against a tuition fee deposit if one is required.
- The award is being offered to Home and International students. The funding available will cover the fees equivalent to the Home fee rate, therefore International students will be required to fund the difference between the Home and International fee rate themselves.
- If you intermit from your course, you may, at the discretion of the University, be entitled to a pro-rata payment of the remainder of your award on your return to study. Please contact the [Funding Team](#) for further information.
- This scholarship is awarded for each year of study for a period of three years. The fee element will be deducted automatically, and the stipend will be paid in quarterly instalments.

- Awards are granted for one year in the first instance but will be renewed, subject to the award holder's satisfactory progress (as defined by the Code of Practice: Postgraduate Research Degrees), for a second and third year – up to a maximum tenure of nine terms or three years, provided the award holder is still engaged in full-time research (and excepting the circumstances stated in the section on termination).
- Where progress is satisfactory, renewal of the award is automatic. Students who wish to extend their period of study beyond the nine terms will have to meet the additional costs themselves.

Scholarship suspension

Students must be registered and meet the above conditions to receive payment. The scholarship will be suspended during a period of approved leave of absence (intermission) where this period covers a whole or part of an academic year and may be reinstated on your return to full-time study subject to the conditions above. On your return to study, you will be entitled to the balance of the scholarship for the stage. There will be no payment for repeat periods of study in any circumstances.

Holiday

Scholarship holders are entitled to a maximum of eight weeks' holiday (including bank holidays and the University closure at Christmas) per annum and pro-rata. Holidays should be agreed in advance with the supervisor and, in cases where the awardee is engaged in teaching and demonstrating, with the approval of the head of the student's department, school or centre.

Termination of Scholarship

The University will terminate a scholarship when progress or performance is deemed to be unsatisfactory. The scholarship will be terminated if a student ceases to be registered as a student with the University, or for good cause at the discretion of our Dean of Postgraduate Research & Education, or their nominee for this purpose.

If a scholarship is terminated prematurely for any reason, an awardee must repay to the University any monies including maintenance, travel, subsistence, fees overpaid from the date of the termination of the scholarship. If an awardee submits his/her thesis before the end of the scholarship, the scholarship will be terminated on the date of submission. If an awardee takes up full-time employment whilst in receipt of a scholarship, the scholarship will be terminated as of the first day of employment.

Transferability / change of course

Due to the nature of the funding for these Studentships, change of course may not always be possible. The student must first seek approval from their supervisor before requesting a change of course. Approval will only be granted if the proposed course is relevant to and continues to support the project.

Data Privacy Statement

The University of Essex takes confidentiality very seriously, your application form will only be seen by members of staff involved in processing your application. Information is kept in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) as it applies in the UK, tailored by the Data Protection Act 2018. Personal data will be used solely for statistical purposes and electronic record keeping and may be made available to authorised University staff to allow statistical information to be analysed.

This data will not be passed to any other third party without your consent, except when the University is required to do so by law. Any formal enquiries concerning the use of data noted here should be addressed to the Head of Student Services.

Resolution of disputes

Acceptance of this award constitutes acceptance of these terms and conditions. Registered students should contact the [Funding Team](#) in the first instance for guidance regarding this award. In cases not covered by the above terms and conditions, or where a student claims exceptional circumstances, or disputes a decision not to make payments due under an award, final appeals on decisions regarding eligibility must be made via the [Student Complaints process](#). The Academic Registrar or their nominee will review the case and his/her decision will be final.

These terms and conditions apply to the academic year 2025-26. The University of Essex reserves the right to update these terms and conditions as necessary.