

# Human Rights Centre PhD Scholarships 2023-24

If you're a potential PhD student wishing to research the area of human rights, take part in the globally recognised work of the University of Essex Human Rights Centre and study for a postgraduate research degree in relevant departments\*, you could be eligible to receive a full PhD scholarship to support you, 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.

The Human Rights Centre at the University of Essex is globally renowned for our interdisciplinary expertise across an unrivalled expanse of human rights-focused themes and areas of interest. Our research extends to include profoundly theoretical engagements with basis and scope of human rights norms through to empirical analyses of human rights in practice. The primary focus of our research is international and comparative human rights, but our research also encompasses human rights in the UK.

While the HRC is superbly placed to support doctoral research in any area of interest that engages with human rights, we would particularly welcome applications in the following areas:

- Armed conflict, humanitarianism and human rights
- Big data, technology and human rights
- Business and human rights
- Critical perspectives upon human rights
- Democracy, “populism” and human rights
- The environment, climate change and human rights
- Freedom of religion, belief and human rights
- Health and human rights
- Social rights
- Transitional justice and human rights

\*The eligible departments include the School of Law, School of Philosophy and Art History, Departments of Government, Psychosocial and Psychoanalytic Studies, Literature, Film, and Theatre Studies, East 15, Essex Business School, Sociology, and Health and Social Care.

Full funding scholarship available is as outlined below.

Type of award	Funding available
<b>Full-funding award</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Home or Overseas tuition fee waiver.</li><li>■ Living costs stipend at the UK Research and Innovation recommended level per year. The amount is yet to be confirmed for 2023-24, but to give an indication, the 2022-23 rate was £17,668.</li><li>■ £2,500 (in total) in the University of Essex Proficio funding, which may be used to 'buy' advanced skills training, including conferences and travel.</li></ul>

## Terms and conditions

### Eligibility

- Receipt of the scholarship is subject to applicants firmly accepting the offer of study in one of the eligible departments, registering as a postgraduate student at the University of Essex for the 2023-24 academic year on a PhD commencing in October 2023 or mutually agreed shortly thereafter, and meeting all conditions of our offer.
- These scholarships are restricted to students studying for a PhD in the School of Law, School of Philosophy and Art History, Departments of Government, Psychosocial and Psychoanalytic Studies, Literature, Film, and Theatre Studies, East 15, Essex Business School, Sociology, and Health and Social Care, whose doctoral project resides in the research area of human rights.
- Students must have achieved an honours degree (1<sup>st</sup> class or high 2:1, or equivalent). A Masters in a relevant subject is desirable (but not essential) and substantive previous professional experience in the field of human rights can be counted towards this requirement.
- Non first language speakers of English require IELTS 7.0 overall (6.5 min component score) or equivalent.
- 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 count on dedicating half of one working day per week to supporting the work of the Human Rights Centre in the way that befits their research project and by mutual agreement with the Director of the Human Rights Centre.
- 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 undertaking a degree that is normally delivered wholly online.
- This scholarship award does not apply to deferred entry. Where a scholarship has been awarded to a student who subsequently defers entry to the following academic year, the award will be withdrawn and the applicant will be considered again in line with the terms and conditions that apply in the new proposed year of entry.
- Students who are fully or partly sponsored.

## **How to apply**

► You can learn more about the Human Rights Centre here: <https://www.essex.ac.uk/centres-and-institutes/human-rights>. You can write directly to the Director of the Human Rights Centre, Dr Andrew Fagan, to learn the details of HRC work and present your project. They may direct you to a HRC fellow with specific expertise in your project as a potential supervisor.

► You will need to secure a place to study with an eligible department\* before you can apply for funding. The key first step is to ensure the agreement of a prospective supervisor and submit the required documentation. Our online application process is quick and straightforward, and the following pages give you all the details: <https://www.essex.ac.uk/postgraduate/research/join-our-research-community>. You can learn more about postgraduate research at the University of Essex more generally and search for departmental research expertise here:

<https://www.essex.ac.uk/postgraduate/research>.

► You should apply for PhD scholarship funding separately from your online PhD study application. Your PhD scholarship funding application consists of a brief application form, including the statement addressing how your doctoral project may contribute to the globally significant work of Human Rights Centre. You should download the application form, and return it to the Director of Human Rights Centre, Dr Andrew Fagan ([fagaaw@essex.ac.uk](mailto:fagaaw@essex.ac.uk)).

► You should apply for a place to study as soon as possible. The deadline for the online applications for PhD study and the deadline for the funding/scholarship applications to the Director of HRC is **Friday 26th May at midnight 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.
- 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 termly 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 bursary 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 bursary for the stage. There will be no payment for repeat periods of study in any circumstances.

## **Illness**

Payment of a scholarship can continue for absences covered by a medical certificate for up to thirteen weeks within any 12-month period. If the illness lasts, or is expected to last, for more than thirteen weeks, the University should make arrangements to suspend the scholarship.

## **Maternity/Adoption Leave**

Funded students are entitled to up to 26 weeks of maternity or adoption leave on full stipend and a further 26 weeks of unpaid maternity leave. Partners are entitled to up to 10 days paid Ordinary Paternity Leave on full stipend.

Partners maybe entitled to up to 50 weeks of Shared Parental Leave; this may include paid and unpaid leave, depending on the individual circumstances, any paid leave should be at full stipend. There is no qualifying period for maternity, paternity adoption, or shared parental leave.

The University will make every effort to recover the value of maternity, paternity, shared parental or adoption funding from students who decide not to return to study after maternity, paternity, and shared parental or adoption leave.

## **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 within the University of Essex will not affect the continuation of a scholarship, providing that the student continues to be registered on an eligible PhD course within an eligible department.

## **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 2023-24. The University of Essex reserves the right to update these terms and conditions as necessary.*