University of Essex PhD Scholarship in Widening Participation in Postgraduate Study – 2022/23

This scholarship scheme is for one postgraduate research PhD student studying as a new student in academic year 2022-23 in one of the following departments at the University of Essex: Institute for Social and Economic Research, Departments of Sociology, Government, Essex Business School, Law, Psychology, Mathematical Sciences, Computer Science and Electronic Engineering, Life Sciences, Health and Social Care, and School of Sport, Rehabilitation and Exercise Sciences.

The award consists of a full Home (UK) fee waiver for three years of standard PhD study and living stipend of £15,840 in 2022/23; £16,130 in 2023/24 and £16,420 in 2024/25 and Proficio funding which may be used to cover the cost of advanced skills training.

The scholarship-holder will work on a postgraduate research project focusing on widening participation in postgraduate study in any of and across the disciplines associated with the aforementioned departments; they will serve on Strategy Board of the “Transitions and Transformations: Black Researcher’s Journey” widening participation project at the University of Essex, co-funded by Research England and Office for Students, and be eligible for additionally paid research placement with our partner Vitae, subject to successful interview. The scholarship-holder will benefit from an opportunity to collaborate with other HEIs and Research England and Office for Students in the context of their programme to improve Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic access and participation in postgraduate research study.

Terms and conditions

1. Eligibility

- This award is available to applicants who are eligible for UK home fees, and are ordinarily resident in the UK (overseas and EU students are not eligible)
- You must start your PhD in one of the following departments in the academic year 2022-23: Institute for Social and Economic Research, Departments of Sociology, Government, Essex Business School, Law, Psychology, Mathematical Sciences, Computer Science and Electronic Engineering, Life Sciences, Health and Social Care, and School of Sport, Rehabilitation and Exercise Sciences.
• Only Full Time students will be considered.

• Consideration for the scholarship is subject to the applicant’s firmly accepting the offer of PhD study by the deadline of 16th May 2022, registering as students of the University of Essex for the 2022-23 academic year, and meeting all conditions of our offer.

2. Students who are not eligible

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

• Students who are Overseas fee payers.
• Students who are fully or partly sponsored.
• Applicants may only receive one award administered by the University of Essex. In the event that an applicant is already in receipt of another University award (including fee discounts such as the Alumni Loyalty Discount), the larger of the two awards will be kept and the other released;
• Where a student applies for and is awarded a scholarship and subsequently obtains full external funding, the University will rescind the scholarship offer.
• The successful applicant would need to start their studies during academic year 2022-23 (potential start dates: October 2022, January 2023, or April 2023) However this 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.
• Because of the nature of the funding, students on part-time programmes; distance learning programmes; and those commencing 1+3 or Integrated PhD programmes in 2022 are not eligible

3. How to apply

• In order to apply you should first ensure you have applied to study for a PhD at the University of Essex, with relevant documentation.

• Applicants will need to submit an application form and any supporting documents. The application form will include a statement explaining why you think you are a good candidate for this particular scholarship, how the work on Strategy Board may help you in your career, and/or your general interest in the field of widening participation. These will need to be emailed to funding@essex.ac.uk by the deadline of 16th May 2022.
4. How will the candidate be selected?
The candidate will be selected for the award of a scholarship on the following criteria:

- Academic ability - based on previous academic qualifications, normally a Master's degree with distinction or merit or an equivalent professional experience;
- Research potential - based on the candidate's research proposal submitted with their application, as well as their statement on the scholarship application form; and
- Professional development interest - based on the candidate's skills, aptitudes and potential actively to support the work on “Transitions and Transformations: Black Researcher’s Journey” project.

5. When will the successful candidate be notified?
Successful candidates will normally be notified by Dean PGR&E within 4 weeks of the closing date for applications. Acceptance of the scholarship constitutes acceptance of these terms and conditions. A scholarship will not commence until the student formally registers on a relevant programme at the University of Essex.

6. How will the money be paid?
Our scholarships are awarded for each year of study during the standard period of enrolment for your degree. The fee element will be deducted automatically, and the stipend will be paid in three annual 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, below).
Where progress is satisfactory, renewal of the award is automatic. Students who wish to extend their standard period of study will have to meet the additional costs themselves. Students applying for a four-year PhD programme will have to meet one year's costs themselves.

7. Intermission
The University expects students to complete their training in a single continuous period, and does not encourage the suspension of awards. Where suspensions are agreed, total periods of suspension must not normally exceed one calendar year during the lifetime of the award. Sympathetic consideration should be given to requests for abeyance due to personal or family reasons. The studentship end dates and expected submission dates should be amended to reflect periods of abeyance. Illness Payment of a studentship 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 studentship.

8. Parental Leave
Funded student is entitled to up to 52 weeks of unpaid parental leave, normally taken in termly instalments, during which they will intermit from their studies.

9. Holidays
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 scholar is engaged in teaching and demonstrating, with the approval of the head of the student’s department, school or centre.

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

11. 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 course within the same department.

12. 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.

13. 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 his/her nominee will review the case and his/her decision will be final.

These terms and conditions apply to the University of Essex PhD Scholarship in Widening Participation in Postgraduate Study 2022-23. The University of Essex reserves the right to update these terms and conditions as necessary.