

Postgraduate Research EU Scholarships 2026-27

This scholarship scheme is for EU postgraduate research students (including MAD, MSD, MPhil, PhD) studying as new students in academic year 2026-27 who are classified as international students for fees purposes. The awards offered are a discount of £8,000 for each year of full-time postgraduate research degree (up to a maximum total of £32,000 for a four-year integrated PGR Degree), automatically deducted from your annual tuition fees invoice.

Terms and conditions

Eligibility

- These scholarships are restricted to students who are overseas fee payers and are entirely self-funded*.
- Students must be ordinarily resident (see below for the definition of ordinary residence) in an EU country.
- Students must register at the University of Essex in October 2026, January 2027 or April 2027 for the first year of a research degree course in academic year 2026-27 and must be studying one of the following postgraduate research programmes:
 - 2yr MAD, MSD,
 - 3yr MPhil, PhD
 - 4yr integrated PhD
- The award may be held in conjunction with the Early Bird Discount and cannot be held in conjunction with any other University of Essex scholarships. Students who are eligible for this award and are joining Essex through a University Transfer Agreement, which includes a discounted fee, will receive the award which is greater in value.
- Successful students 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 the PGR EU Scholarship regardless of meeting the above criteria:

- Students who are not ordinarily resident in an EU country.
- Students who are studying an MRes course.
- 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 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 transferring from another UK higher education institution.
- Students who are classified as paying home tuition fees.
- Current students whose first year of Postgraduate Research study at the University of Essex, was prior to academic year 2026-27.

What is “Ordinary Residence”?

For the purposes of assessing eligibility for the scholarship, you must have been ordinarily resident in an EU country, for the three-year period prior to commencing your course. Ordinarily resident means that you must have been habitually, normally and lawfully, residing in the EU, from choice, for the specified period. The three-year period for courses starting in October 2026 is calculated as 1 September 2023 to 1 September 2026. Temporary absences during this three-year period may be permitted at the discretion of the relevant University officer. Students may be asked to provide documentary evidence to determine ordinary residence and an assessment of whether a student meets the ordinary residence criteria will normally be made by the Head of Admissions or their nominee, and their decision will be final.

How to apply

If you meet all the eligibility criteria, you will automatically be considered for this award. You don't need to complete an application form. The University will assess your eligibility based on your country of domicile and fee status that you submit on your application for your place at Essex.

Payment arrangements

- These scholarships will only be made available as a reduction on the tuition fee that is payable on registration at the University.

- 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.

Resolution of disputes

Acceptance of this award constitutes acceptance of these terms and conditions. Applicants should contact the [Postgraduate Admissions Team](#) in the first instance for guidance regarding this award. Registered students should contact the [Funding Team](#). 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 2026-27. The University of Essex reserves the right to update these terms and conditions as necessary.