

University of Essex Faculty of Science and Health Interdisciplinary Doctoral Scholarships 2020-2021

Our University of Essex Faculty of Science and Health Interdisciplinary Doctoral Scholarships support talented PhD students to study at the University. These awards are available to students who can demonstrate an excellent academic background and the potential for future achievement. They are awarded for each year of study during the standard period of enrolment for your degree, subject to satisfactory progress.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

These terms and conditions apply to University of Essex Faculty of Science and Health Interdisciplinary Doctoral Scholarships awarded to students entering our University in October 2020.

What does the award offer?

The award consists of a full Home/EU fee waiver or equivalent fee discount for overseas students (see <https://www1.essex.ac.uk/fees-and-funding/research/default.aspx> for further fee details), a doctoral stipend equivalent to the Research Councils UK National Minimum Doctoral Stipend (£15,009 in 2019-20, stipend for 2020-21 TBC), plus £2,500 training bursary via Proficio funding, which may be used to cover the cost of advanced skills training including conference attendance and travel.

Who is eligible?

This award is available for UK, EU and international full-time PhD students;

- Successful international applicants will need to fund the balance of the tuition fees;
- Students are expected to have obtained 1st or 2.1 at Undergraduate level and pass or higher at Masters level;
- You must hold an offer from the one of the Departments/Schools residing within the Faculty of Science and Health at the University of Essex for a PhD (not MPhil, Doctor of Medicine, Masters by Dissertation, 1+3 Doctorate or full-time Professional Doctorate);
- Distance Learning programme students are not eligible for this award;
- Receipt of the scholarship is subject to applicants firmly accepting the offer of study, registering as students of the University of Essex for the 2020-21 academic year, and meeting all conditions of our offer;
- No alternative form of the scholarship is available and the award cannot be deferred to a later year from the one for which you are admitted;
- 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. Where partial external funding is obtained, the department may choose to continue, reduce or rescind the scholarship offer as it sees fit.

How do I apply?

You should complete the University of Essex online PhD application form which is available on our website. Please note that you must be applying for a new programme of study at the University of Essex, starting in October 2020, in order to be eligible.

How are candidates selected?

Candidates will be selected for the award of a scholarship on the following criteria:

- academic ability - based on previous academic qualifications, a minimum of an undergraduate degree (2:1 or above) in a relevant subject is required for applicants to be eligible;
- research potential - based on the candidate's research knowledge and skills; and
- professional development potential - based on the candidate's skills, aptitudes and potential to support their department's undergraduate teaching or research activities.

When are successful candidates notified?

Successful candidates will normally be notified within one week of the interview date. Acceptance of the scholarship constitutes acceptance of these terms and conditions. A scholarship will not commence until the student formally registers for the PhD at the University of Essex.

How will the money be paid?

Our scholarships are awarded for each year of study during the standard period of enrolment for your PhD i.e. three years. The fee element will be deducted automatically, and the stipend will be paid in four instalments each year. 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 the three year standard period of study will have to meet the additional costs themselves.

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 two calendar years 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.

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 may be 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, shared parental or adoption leave.

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.

Termination of Scholarship

Our 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.

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. Where two or more departments are involved in collaborative PhD supervision, it is important to note that students have to be registered on a PhD title that is held within the lead department.

Resolution of disputes

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 a scholarship, they should first put their case in writing to the Funding Team who will consider the circumstances and uphold, amend or revoke the original decision. Should a student be unhappy with this decision they should follow the university complaints procedure: <http://www.essex.ac.uk/about/governance/policies/complaints.aspx>

Promotional activities

By accepting the scholarship, recipients are giving the University permission to use their details for promotional purposes and may be asked to provide a case study which may be used in University publications or on the website.

Disclaimer

The information set out above is correct at the date of publication (February 2020). The University of Essex reserves the right to make changes to the above and will notify any such changes to applicants as appropriate.