

**SGSAH Doctoral Training Partnership &**

**Funded Open Studentship Competition**

**2020**

**GUIDANCE**

 

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# 1. Introduction

Welcome to the Scottish Graduate School for Arts & Humanities Doctoral Training Partnership (SGSAH DTP) open competition for 2020. This document summarises the SGSAH DTP programme and provides the guidance for applicants and nominating higher education institutions (HEIs).

We encourage potential applicants and supervisors to read the guidance carefully in advance of preparing applications for the studentship competition. It is crucial that the SGSAH DTP – its training programme, provision, Higher Education Institution members and external partners – provides an excellent fit for the applicant and their research project.

Alongside our competition for open studentships, we are also running a Collaborative Doctoral Awards (CDA) scheme. This funds projects that are developed in collaboration with external organisations across creative, heritage, third and business sectors. Guidance for the CDA scheme is available in a separate document.

If you require any further information or clarification, then please contact us at enquiries@sgsah.ac.uk.

## 2. SGSAH Doctoral Training Partnership

The SGSAH DTP is the programme in Scotland that delivers the Arts and Humanities Research Council’s (AHRC) Doctoral Training Partnership. There are 10 AHRC DTP’s across the UK. DTP’s support postgraduate studentships across the breadth of the AHRC’s subject remit and provide innovative training environments for doctoral-level research. They include opportunities for PhD students to undertake broader training or development, such as language learning, overseas research visits, or placements with non-academic partners.

The SGSAH DTP supports all disciplines in the arts and humanities. If you are awarded a SGSAH DTP studentship, you will be joining a cohort of approximately 60 other doctoral researchers. 10 Higher Education members in the SGSAH DTP are:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| [Glasgow School of Art](http://www.gsa.ac.uk/study/doctoral-degrees/)  [Royal Conservatoire of Scotland](https://www.rcs.ac.uk/doctoral-degrees/)  [University of Aberdeen](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/cass/graduate/phd-programmes-238.php)  [University of Dundee](http://www.dundee.ac.uk/study/pg/phd/)  [University of Edinburgh](http://www.ed.ac.uk/arts-humanities-soc-sci/research-students) | [University of Glasgow](http://www.gla.ac.uk/colleges/arts/graduateschool/prospectivestudents/)  [University of St Andrews](http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/study/pg/research-degrees/)  [University of Stirling](http://www.stir.ac.uk/graduateschool/)  [University of Strathclyde](http://www.strath.ac.uk/humanities/graduateschool/)  [University of the Highlands & Islands](https://www.uhi.ac.uk/en/research-enterprise/grad-school/) |

**  **

**Why SGSAH DTP?**

Our aim is to work together to nurture and inspire a future generation of **enlightened leaders** committed to generating and mobilising new insights across scholarly, professional and public communities. Our doctoral graduates will be capable, caring, ethical & reflective professionals. They will be alert to their influence and impact as knowledge makers, co-creators and connectors and are guided in their actions by what we stand for: **Respect**, **Integrity**, **Creativity**, and **Collaboration**. They will be champions for arts and humanities research, demonstrating through their work the **value of arts and humanities** to society, industry and other disciplines.

Our DTP2-funded PhD projects will be markers of excellence and originality, enabled by environments where excellent research is supported and conducted.

Our prestigious 3½ year studentships offer:

* Fully-funded PhD studentships with a stipend of around £15,200 per annum plus fees (fees only for EU students)
* The best research environment and supervisory team, which may be cross-HEI
* A core training programme with fundamental training activities which will support you to develop your skills as a future research leader
* Access to advanced inter/disciplinary training through our innovative Discipline+ Catalysts
* Connection and collaboration with organisations across the creative, cultural and heritage sectors through our Knowledge Exchange Hubs
* Extra funds to extend your studies to gain additional skills through training and internships
* Opportunities to travel abroad to carry out research and fieldwork
* Opportunities to be a Visiting Doctoral Researcher at another Higher Education Institute
* Access to the richness of Scotland’s research expertise and collections

***I’ve been given opportunities to run events, learn languages, think about my future career and meet a great support network of friends. It makes you feel part of a larger community. (Doctoral Researcher, DTP)***

* The chance to join an engaged and committed cohort of doctoral researchers working across the full range of arts & humanities disciplines
* Opportunities to lead the development of networks and funded training events across Scotland
* Membership of the SGSAH – a partnership of 16 HEIs in Scotland supporting 1,750 doctoral researchers in the Arts & Humanities

### SGSAH DTP Doctoral Training and Development Framework

Our SGSAH DTPTraining & Development Frameworkoffers an inclusive and flexible blend of core and bespoke opportunities which connect disciplinary, methodological, academic and external contexts. This design recognises and responds to the increased diversification of doctoral approaches in the arts and humanities as well as acknowledging the multiple and diverse skills required to be a successful researcher.

We have four pillars which run throughout our doctoral training programme. These are: Foundation, Core, Specialist and Partnership.

**Foundation: Professional Researcher** consists of courses foundational to the development of the professional researcher. Normally delivered via the lead-HEI, completion is mandatory. Likely content includes Planning and managing research; Research ethics, integrity, values and behaviour; Intellectual property and copyright; Data management; and Communications.

**Core: Leadership Programme** This isa developmental course that equips our DTP doctoral researchers to become ethical leaders and influencers in whatever career path they choose. Topics covered include Equality & Diversity, Wellbeing, Communication, Fellowships, Grant Writing, Career Pathways and Publishing. Running through the Leadership Programme is our Annual Summer School, which offers more than 40 workshops delivered by our members over three days. As the core offer of our doctoral partnership and the mechanism through which we facilitate a peer community, participation is a requirement.

***It’s been a fantastic opportunity to get to know the other members of the cohort, to share ideas, fears and build relations. (Doctoral Researcher)***

**Specialist: Discipline+ Catalysts** support the pursuit of knowledge and advancement of disciplines through regular methodological and thematic training at the leading edges of arts and humanities. Our Catalysts also drive cross- and interdisciplinary collaborations which support student-led events funded through Cohort Development Funding. Doctoral researchers must participate in at least one Catalyst event annually.

**Partnership: Knowledge Exchange (KE) Hubs** SGSAH is launching three KE Hubs in 2019: Citizenship, Culture and Ethics Hub; Creative Economies Hub; and, Heritage Hub. Supported by key partners including the BBC, the V&A, the British Council and the Scottish Parliament, these will deliver industry-focused events, and work-related training within a UK and international context. Doctoral researchers must participate in one Hub event annually.

In addition to the four key training pillars summarised above, we offer opportunities for individual and collective training.

**Individual:** You can request funding to support individual training and development needs. For example, in some instances your stipend may be extended to allow you to gain vital skills or to complete an internship with an industry partner. We have a number of funding schemes to which you can apply, including:

* **Doctoral Internship/Artist in Residence** including international placements (three months’ additional stipend for fully-funded students, travel and accommodation as required);

***It’s a great opportunity to explore career options outside of academia and experience something different from PhD research.***

* **Visiting Doctoral Researcher** – normally international (travel, accommodation and bench fee for up to six months);
* **Specialist training** (course costs/fees, travel and accommodation and additional stipend where the training exceeds one month);
* **Second-language learning** (additional stipend and course costs). This may also be undertaken in combination with an international internship or a Visiting Doctoral Researcher position, utilising existing international links of our partnership;
* **Knowledge Exchange & Impact**: available to support collaborative research approaches and dissemination of findings;
* **Conference attendance:** to present research at national and international conferences.

**Collective: Cohort Development Funding** is available for doctoral researchers to collaborate on designing and managing the delivery of inter/disciplinary, generic, careers-focused events. With funding of up to £2000 available, recent workshops and events supported via CDF include: The Art & Science of Research; Podcasting your PhD; Transgender: International/ Intersectional; Writing for an Interdisciplinary Audience.

**Funded Open Studentship Competition 2020**

**Information for Students**

## Eligibility

The first step in the process is to check that you are eligible to receive an award. These studentships have residency requirements set by UK Research Innovation (UKRI), which are set out below. Contact the postgraduate office in your chosen lead-HEI - one of the ten Doctoral Training Partnership members listed over - if you have any queries about your eligibility.

***Residency criteria***

The following is taken from the UKRI Training Grant Guide document, [p13.](https://www.ukri.org/files/funding/ukri-training-grant-terms-and-conditions-guidance-jun19-pdf/)

For purposes of residence requirements, the UK includes the United Kingdom and Islands (i.e. the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man).

There are residence requirements for research council funding for postgraduate research. These are based on the Education (Fees and Awards) (England) Regulations 2007 and subsequent amendments. Normally to be eligible for a full award a student must have no restrictions on how long they can stay in the UK and have been ordinarily resident in the UK for at least 3 years prior to the start of the studentship (with some further constraint regarding residence for education). For further information regarding residence requirements, please see the regulations. These include further information, for example about refugees, migrant workers, residence for education and EEA nationals.

To be eligible for a fees only award: Students from EU countries other than the UK are generally eligible for a fees-only award. To be eligible for a fees-only award, a student must be ordinarily resident in a member state of the EU; in the same way as UK students must be ordinarily resident in the UK.

Note: These eligibility criteria are based on the Education (Fees and Awards) (England) Regulations 2007 and subsequent amendments.

As things currently stand, EU students are eligible to apply for fees-only support for an award beginning in October 2020.[[1]](#footnote-1)

## Acceptance onto PhD Programme

To be eligible you will also need to have been accepted onto the PhD programme of your chosen lead-HEI who must nominate you to the competition.

## Application process

Read this guidance thoroughly before applying – and ensure you are reading the most recent version. You should then contact your chosen institution(s) as soon as possibleto find out how they are selecting proposals for nomination, and their internal deadlines for applications. **Note that internal deadlines are likely to be much earlier than SGSAH’s deadline.**

SGSAH operates an electronic application system which will be open **3-14 February 2020** via our website. This guidance includes a template for the information you will be required to complete online.

The online process involves:

* Inputting information to our electronic form. See the guidance section below for details.
* Uploading one single PDF of your academic transcripts.
* Uploading the PDF Institutional Statement that will be provided by your nominating HEI.
* Uploading confirmation of your offer of a place from your lead-HEI.

It is the applicant’s responsibility to ensure that they have all the necessary documents ready to upload to the portal.

**Application deadline**

The online application portal will close at **12 noon GMT on 14 February 2020**. Late applications will only be considered where there is evidenced breakdown in SGSAH’s operational systems and where such systemic failures have made submission by the deadline impossible. Please note that we will **not** accept late applications where there has been systemic failure at the applicant’s end (e.g. failure of internet connection). For this reason, **we strongly advise applicants to complete the application process at least 48 hours in advance of the deadline.**

## Frequently asked questions

**Can I apply to more than one HEI?**You can apply to more than one HEI but you can only submit one application to the SGSAH DTP studentship competition in each year. If more than one SGSAH DTP HEI seeks to nominate you, you mustchoose the one you wish to be registered with as a doctoral researcher. Please inform any other HEIs who have agreed to nominate you that you have decided not to accept their nomination or explore with them the possibility of a cross-HEI supervision arrangement.

We want to make sure you are supervised by the **best team possible across our doctoral training partnership**, with access to the best research environment and resources for your research project and professional development. The very best supervision for your project may come from a team across HEIs. To support this, we have in place a co-supervision agreement and funding available to support travel costs between HEIs where required. Where your supervisory team comes from across HEIs, one of the supervisors/HEIs will be designated the **lead-HEI**. This is the HEI at which you will be registered for study and from which you will graduate. The lead-HEI will be your **nominating HEI** and this HEI will support your final application to the SGSAH DTP competition. HEIs must be members of the SGSAH DTP.

**If I am unsuccessful this year, can I apply again in future years?**

Yes. You may also wish to consider applying for an advertised Collaborative Doctoral Award project.

**How will my proposal be assessed?**

Your application will be reviewed by a Panel of disciplinary reviewers.

Our marking scheme and indicative criteria are contained in this guidance on page 41.

**When will I find out if I have been successful?**

We aim to make initial offers for awards starting in October 2020 in early-mid April 2020.

**Can I delay the start of my study?**

A key element of the success of the Doctoral Training Partnership is the development of a strong and connected cohort of doctoral researchers and so we expect that all studentships will begin in October each year. Exceptionally we may permit deferment within the academic year once awards have been made.

If you have a query that isn’t answered here or on the [FAQ](http://www.sgsah.ac.uk/dtp/faqs/) section of our website, please email [enquiries@sgsah.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@sgsah.ac.uk).

# Guidance on completing the 2020 application form

## General notes on the application

You should read this guidance thoroughly before you begin your application. Your chosen HEI(s) will also have guidance on how to write a good research proposal, and your supervisory team will be able to give you advice.

Advice from current students for applicants is provided on page 19.

## General note on the online form

Be aware that the online application form will automatically cut off entries over the stated word limits.

**For 2020, all applications will be anonymised. Reviewers will not have access to transcripts, offer of place, or any identifying factors such as name or HEI(s) from which you have graduated. SGSAH also aims to mitigate any gender bias in the assessment of excellence and we ask that your nominator does not use pronouns, names or other words which would identity your gender.**

## Personal details

This section asks you to provide contact information. We will normally contact you by email so please ensure you use an address you check regularly and which will be available to you at least until May 2020. Applications are reviewed anonymously. Personal Details will not be shared with reviewers.

## Eligibility

This section asks you to confirm whether you are eligible for a full studentship or for a fees-only award.

To be eligible for a full AHRC DTP Scotland studentship including stipend you must:

* be nominated by one of the SGSAH AHRC DTP consortium HEIs; and
* hold a conditional or unconditional offer of a place in a relevant discipline on a PhD programme at that HEI.

You must also meet the residency criteria set out in the UKRI Conditions of Research Training Grants (see p6 of this guidance). These state that, in general, fully funded studentships are available to applicants who are settled in the UK and have been ordinarily resident for a period of at least three years before the start of postgraduate studies.

EU nationals resident in the EEA are normally only eligible for fees-only.

Overseas applicants are normally not eligible for awards unless they meet the residency criteria noted above. Further information for international students can be found on the UK Council for International Student Affairs [website](http://www.ukcisa.org.uk/).

Both new and continuing PhD researchers may apply for an award. To be eligible, continuing students must have at least 50% of their 3½ years full-time or 7 years part-time PhD programme remaining as of 30 September 2020. Funding will only be available for this remaining period.

If you have any queries about your eligibility, in particular your residency status, please contact the relevant postgraduate office in your nominating HEI for advice and guidance at an early stage in the process.

## Reasonable distance

AHRC studentships are awarded on the condition that the doctoral researcher lives within a ‘reasonable distance’ from their lead-HEI. SGSAH’s definition of reasonable distance is that a student ought to be able to travel to their lead University every day to work core hours (10am to 4pm).

## Panel(s) of PhD Project

SGSAH DTP studentship applications are assessed by 7 panels. They cover the disciplines set out below. Please indicate which panel covers your proposal. Please note that you should select two panels only if your supervisory team has an equal supervisory weighting across two panels e.g. 50% Music and 50% Film & TV (submit to Panels B and D). Where there is a differentiated supervisory weighting you should submit your application to the panel with the greater weighting e.g. 75% French and 25% Film & TV should be submitted to Panel E only. If you are unsure which panel covers your proposal, or if the subject area is not listed, please seek the advice of your proposed supervisors.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Panels** | **Disciplines** |
| A | Archaeology, Art History, Classics, Cultural & Museum Studies |
| B | Creative Arts & Design |
| C | History |
| D | Media, Communications, Cultural Policy, Film & TV, Law, Library & Information Studies, International Development |
| E | Modern Languages and Linguistics |
| F | Philosophy & Theology |
| G | Scottish & English Literature |

## Subject Area(s)

We ask you to indicate the primary discipline of your proposed PhD (e.g. Classics). Disciplines and subject areas covered within the above panels are listed in the table below. The AHRC's subject guidance can be found via the website link [here](http://www.ahrc.ac.uk/funding/research/subjectcoverage/).

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Panels** | **Disciplines** |
| **A** | **Archaeology** (including)   * Prehistoric Archaeology * Archaeology of Literate Societies * Archaeology of Human Origins * Archaeological Theory * Maritime Archaeology * Landscape and Environmental Archaeology * Industrial Archaeology   **Classics** (including)   * Classical Literature * Classical Reception * Philosophy, Thought and Religion * Epigraphy and Papyrology * Languages and Linguistics   **Museum Studies** (including)   * Museum and Gallery Studies * Museum Policy & Management * Cultural Geography * Heritage Studies and Management * Conservation of Art and Textiles   **Art History** |
| **B** | **Creative and Performing Arts and Design** (including)   * Architecture * Creative Writing * Dance (incl. Choreography) * Design * Drama, Theatre Studies & Performance * Music (incl. composition, popular, classical and musicology) * Visual Arts (incl. Photography, Installation, Community, Digital and Applied Arts, Curating) |
| **C** | **History** (including)   * Cultural History * Political History * Imperial/Colonial History * History of Science/Medicine/Technology * War Studies * Religious History * Economic and Social History * American Studies * Post-Colonial Studies * Scottish Studies |
| **D** | **Cultural Policy & Arts Management** (including)   * Policy, Arts Management and Creative Industries   **Cultural Studies and Pop Culture** (including)   * Gender and Sexuality   **Information and Communications Technology** (including)   * Information and Knowledge Management   **Library and Information Studies** (including)   * Archives * Records Management * Information Science and Retrieval * Library Studies * Information and Knowledge Management * Computational Studies   **Media** (including)   * Media and Communication Studies * Journalism * Publishing * Television History, Theory and Criticism * New Media/Web-Based Studies * Film History, Theory and Criticism   **Law & Legal Studies** (including)   * Jurisprudence/Philosophy of Law * Human Rights * Criminal Law and Criminology * International Law * EU Law * Public Law * Comparative Law * Common Law, including Commercial Law * Law Regulated by Statute * Law Relating to Property * Legal History   **International Development, Diplomacy and International Relations** |
| **E** | **Modern Languages** (including)   * Interpreting and Translation * Scandinavian Studies * Asiatic and Oriental Studies * Middle Eastern and African * Italian Studies * Hispanic, Portuguese and Latin Studies * English Language * Comparative Literature * French Studies * Celtic Studies * Australasian Studies * German, including Dutch and Yiddish * Russian, Slavonic and East European Languages and Literature   **Linguistics** (including)   * Textual Editing and Bibliography * Syntax * Semantics and Pragmatics * Phonetics * Language Variation and Change * Lexicon * Linguistic Theory * Morphology and Phonology * Applied Linguistics * Linguistics (General) * History of English Language |
| **F** | **Philosophy** (including)   * Political Philosophy * Philosophy of Mind * Aesthetics * Metaphysics * History of Ideas * Language and Philosophical Logic * Epistemology * Ethics * History of Philosophy * Philosophy of Science and Mathematics and Mathematical Logic * Philosophy of Religion   **Theology, Divinity & Religions** (including)   * Old Testament * Modern Theology * Judaism * Islam * Liturgy * Systematic Theology * Church History and History of Theology * New Testament * East Asian Religions * Buddhism * Hinduism * Jainism * Sikhism * Alternative Spiritualties/New Religious Movements * Atheism/Secularism * Inter-faith Relations * Contemporary Religion |
| **G** | **Literatures** (including)   * English, Scottish, Irish and Welsh Literature * Literature from the Anglophone world * Colonial and Post-Colonial Studies * Life writing * Children’s Literature * Science and Fantasy Writing * Poetry * Literary and Cultural Theory * Ethnography and Anthropology * Gender and Sexuality |
| **H** | **Collaborative Doctoral Awards** – see separate Guidance for the CDA route |

### Interdisciplinary projects beyond the Arts & Humanities

We support PhD research projects that cross disciplines. We will fund proposals where at least 50% of the project falls within the AHRC’s remit.

Where a compelling case for additional training to support an interdisciplinary project is made, normally involving a Science, Technology, Engineering or Medicine discipline, additional funded time of up to six months can be recommended by the Competition Review Panel at the outset. If your PhD project is interdisciplinary in these terms and you wish to request additional funding, please complete the section (up to 200 words).

## Qualifications

The AHRC expects applicants to have completed or to be studying towards a relevant Masters qualification. This section requires you to complete the year, and if appropriate, grade, of your qualifications. Please provide **full** transcripts – copies of degree certificates alone do not provide sufficient evidence. Transcripts should be in English, and where necessary a certified translation should be provided.

We recognise that some applicants will have completed degrees which are non-standard or unclassified (i.e. Pass/Fail only). Where this is the case, applicants should still complete the Qualifications section with further information to be provided by the lead-HEI in its Institutional Statement. Information provided will not be shared with reviewers.

## Relevant Professional Experience (300 words maximum)

This section is intended to provide a level playing field for applicants with unrelated, dated or no Masters qualifications but who have demonstrably relevant professional experience. The Relevant Professional Experience section should therefore **only** be completed by candidates who:

* do not have and are not studying towards a Masters degree or equivalent
* or are returning to Masters study after a considerable break in higher education
* or gained a Masters degree more than five years previously
* or their Masters degree is not in a relevant subject
* AND they have significant professional experience, which is relevant to their research proposal.

Whilst we do not wish to discriminate against applicants who might not previously have had the opportunity to study at postgraduate level, you should be aware that a doctoral degree is a rigorous training at the highest academic level. If you are completing this section of the application, you should provide evidence that the training and development you have received is equivalent to that obtained through a Masters course and therefore prepares you to continue to doctoral study.

## Research Summary (100 words maximum)

Please provide a summary of your proposed research project that will be comprehensible to non-specialists.

## Research Proposal (1000 words maximum)

This section must describe your proposal and should include; title, research question(s)/problem, research context, methods and sources, originality/ innovation and contribution to knowledge and Knowledge Exchange, Public Engagement & Impact.

We are seeking original, innovative, cogent and coherent proposals which are well-written in their entirety. Completion of the project should be feasible within 3½ years. The methodology should be demonstrably appropriate and the whole proposal well-grounded in current research literature and/or practice. The academic impact should be clearly stated: demonstrable contribution that excellent research makes to academic advances, across and within disciplines, including significant advances in understanding, methodology, theory and application.

In addition, we hope that our doctoral graduates are committed to generating and mobilising knowledge across a range of professional and public communities. The SGSAH DTP aims to support you in developing KE, PE and Impact skills. You will be able to apply for funding to support activities which realise impact.

We use the UKRI definition of impact, which also includes public engagement.

When we ask you to describe the impact your research might have, we are not asking you to answer your research question(s) or to anticipate the results of your research. Instead we are asking you to consider more broadly who may be interested in and/or benefit by your research and its findings; and to describe what methods you might use to engage with these people or groups during and after your research.

You might find these questions helpful in thinking about impact:

* What is happening now – or not happening – that you think your research findings could help to change?
* Who might be interested or involved in delivering or experiencing the change that may happen as a result of your findings?
* Why would these communities be interested? How might they benefit?
* How will you engage/communicate/network with these communities? How can working with these communities help your research? Would your project benefit from planned knowledge exchange activities?
* How would you demonstrate/evidence any changes and the link back to your research findings, bearing in mind that you will be able to apply for funding to develop impact?

UKRI offers further useful descriptions of impact on their [website](https://www.ukri.org/innovation/excellence-with-impact/pathways-to-impact/).

## Preparedness for proposed doctoral project (300 words maximum)

Please demonstrate how your previous study (UG/ MA) and/or professional experience have prepared you for this **particular doctoral project**. This might include reference to your UG and Masters programme of study and your dissertation topics, specific and appropriate methodological training and/ or expertise (e.g. proficiency in a relevant language, particular IT skills etc.), work-based learning or employment in a relevant occupation, etc. Please do not reference by name your previous places of study in this section.

## Training needs and SGSAH DTP (300 words maximum)

We ask you to provide this information to show awareness of training required to allow for successful and timely completion of your PhD. However well prepared applicants may be to undertake the research they propose, it is expected that new skills will be required to ensure completion of the PhD. What skills will you need to develop to successfully complete your research project?

We also want to support your future career aspirations. What skills will you seek to develop for professional development purposes?

In this section, we are also looking for evidence on how the SGSAH DTP fits with your training needs and career aspirations and how you plan to take best advantage of the particular opportunities we offer, beyond the core training requirements (outlined on p.4-5). SGSAH requires all AHRC funded students to:

* complete foundation training as required by the lead-HEI
* complete our DTP core Leadership Programme consisting of an induction, one residential event for each full time year of study, a symposium in year two and our annual Summer Schools
* be a member of and participate in at least one Discipline+ Catalyst event and one KE Hub event per annum.

This section invites you to consider other opportunities, for example an internship or a Visiting Doctoral Research position.

**SGSAH Requirements**

As a SGSAH AHRC DTP-funded doctoral researcher, you are required to join and participate in at least one Discipline+ Catalyst and KE Hub event annually. You may elect to be a member of more than one Catalyst and Hub, though this is not a requirement. Please indicate which Catalyst(s) and Hub(s) you will join.

## Nominating Member of Staff and Email

Please provide a name and contact for your nominating institution. This will be the person who signs the nominating form. You should check with your proposed supervisor or the Graduate School Administrator at your lead-HEI who the nominator is. It might be your Dean of Graduate Studies, or Head of School, or even your lead supervisor.

## Further queries

If you have any further queries please refer to our [FAQs](http://www.sgsah.ac.uk/dtp/faqs/) or contact the SGSAH office via [enquiries@sgsah.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@sgsah.ac.uk) or 0141 330 3408. We will host an online Q&A forum where you can talk to SGSAH staff about any aspect of your application. The forum can be accessed on the following times and dates through our website [here](http://www.sgsah.ac.uk/dtp/qa).

* 6 November 2019. 3pm – 4pm
* 18 November 2019. 11.30am – 12.30pm
* 5 December 2019. 2pm – 3pm
* 9 January 2020. 10.30am – 11.30am

# Advice from successful applicants

***Start early***

Begin your application as early as possible. Even if you are sitting on the draft for a few weeks or months before the deadline, having time to think over your proposal, and allowing time for many edits is beyond valuable, even necessary.  
*- Daniel*

Coming up with a good idea, identifying potential supervisors and seeking support from an institution takes time. In my experience writing a good application is also a long process, as it requires research, patience and many redrafts. But don’t get demoralized, I have always been supported throughout the whole process, and useful advice has always been only one email away.

*- Vlad*

***Find the right supervisor for you***

Start by finding a potential supervisor who's enthusiastic about your project and has experience guiding PhD applicants! It's really invaluable to have good practical support for your application.  
*- Harry*

Find a supervisor that you work well with and find inspiring. Discuss and work through your application with them in order to frame your good ideas so that they become more relevant and compelling.  
*- Pernille*

***Share your draft widely…***

I also found enlisting the support of multiple proof-readers (dedicated family and friends!) who are not necessarily specialists in your area really helpful, as they can help you simplify your language and make the content of your proposal more accessible and clear.

*- Clare*

Just having someone else give a second opinion on what works and what doesn’t was so incredibly useful to me when I was completing my application. They can help make sure that you are getting your point across as clearly and precisely as possible, which to me was absolutely critical.  
*- Adam*

***…and make use of feedback***

Don’t be afraid to ask your prospective supervisors to look over drafts of your application and to take their advice on board.  
*- Fraser*

***Keep it clear***

Reading my proposal to friends and family who knew little about my subject forced me to better clarify my argument and resulted in a much stronger application.  
*- Juliet*

Have a parent, friend, or sibling read it. If they don't understand something (especially if it's specific to your field) make sure you clarify so that anyone judging from different disciplines can understand. However, find a way to not clarify too much that it weakens the proposed idea's academic integrity.   
*- Daniel*

***Think about all elements of the application***

Immersing yourself in SGSAH, their ethos and what they stand for will help you to get into the right mind set for writing an application, which is tailored to the SGSAH and the concept of developing a networking framework/community for researchers.

*- Grant*

Think boldly and creatively when it comes to impact and knowledge exchange, and come up with a concrete proposal offering tangible output. It can feel daunting to make claims about how your work can benefit others, but by its very nature original research produces practical advances.

*- Murray*

For me, it was necessary to really think about the essence of my research, my main ideas and aims, in order to submit a really polished application.

*- Stefana*

***Draft, redraft and then redraft again***

A good application requires numerous drafts and lots of time – it’s not a side project to be completed on weekends.

*- Mads*

Be prepared for how many times you have to redraft your proposal. The application process and word limits can feel frustrating and restrictive, but it’s good practice for future proposals and will ensure that you are very clear about your objectives.

*- Kirsty*

Go easy on yourself. It can be easy to let the application dominate your headspace in the months leading to submission. There’s a fine line between redrafting and unhealthy fixation.

*- Andrew*

***And finally…***

I want to encourage students who are discouraged by similar experiences or find the process/competition daunting that sometimes it does take some people a bit longer than others, and that if you are committed, have a really excellent project, and listen to the advice of your supervisors, you can be successful with the SGSAH.   
*- Katy*

*Thanks to the SGSAH 2016 & 2017 Cohorts who shared their experiences with us.*

# SGSAH AHRC DTP Nomination Application Form Template 2020/21

This template is available to download so you can prepare in advance of the online portal opening on 3 February 2020. If you are nominated by a SGSAH AHRC DTP HEI, you will need to complete the online application form. The online portal will close at 12 noon GMT on 14 February 2020. Late applications will not be accepted.

**The application form should be read alongside the latest version of the SGSAH Doctoral Training Partnership & Funded Studentship Open Competition 2020 Guidance.**

**Personal Details**

Applications are reviewed anonymously. Personal Details will not be shared with reviewers.

|  |
| --- |
| Name |
| Email  *We will normally contact you by email so please ensure you use an address you check regularly and which will be available to you* ***at least until May 2020.*** |
| Permanent Address |
| Correspondence Address if different |
| Eligibility  *Please indicate whether you are eligible for a full studentship or fees-only (please see p.6 of Guidance for more information)* |

**PhD Programme of Study**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Institution at which you are or will be registered (the lead institution) |  |
| Have you already commenced your PhD programme of study? | Yes/No |

**Cross-institutional supervision where applicable** (up to two additional HEIs)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Institution |  |
| Institution |  |

**Subject panel(s) and subject areas of PhD Project**

|  |
| --- |
| *Please refer to the Guidance for information about the subject panels and subject areas.*  **Subject Panel(s) (e.g. Panel A)** *Where your supervisory team is drawn from disciplines covered by different panels* ***and*** *your supervisors are equally weighted (50%/50%), you may choose to select two Panels. Both panels will review your application.*  **Subject area(s) (e.g. Classics)** *At least one and up to two subject areas may be selected.*  **Interdisciplinary projects beyond the Arts and Humanities**  *We will fund interdisciplinary projects where at least 50% of the project falls within the AHRC’s disciplinary domains.*  *Where your project is interdisciplinary, with supervision drawn from Science, Technology, Engineering and/or Medicine, the Review Panel and Executive will exceptionally consider requests for 4 years of funding. If you require 4 years of funding, please provide a clear rationale for this request* (200 words max). |

**Qualifications**

*The AHRC expects applicants to have* ***completed or to be studying towards a Postgraduate Masters qualification in a relevant subject****. If you are* ***not*** *in this position you* ***must use*** *the ‘Relevant professional experience’ section to provide evidence that the training and development you have received is equivalent to that obtained through a Masters course in a relevant subject and, therefore, prepares you to continue to doctoral study****.*** *Details of place of study will not be shared with reviewers.*

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **University or College** | **Dates of award** | **Degree/Diploma** | **Main subjects** | **Grade, Class or GPA** |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |

**Qualifications pending**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **University or College** | **Anticipated date of award** | **Degree/Diploma** | **Main subjects** |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

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| --- |
| **Relevant professional experience (300 words maximum)**  **If you complete this section it will be reviewed in place of qualifications.**  You should only complete it if:   * You do not have and are not studying towards a Masters degree or equivalent * or are returning to Masters study after a considerable break in higher education * or gained a Masters degree more than five years previously * or if your Masters degree is not in a relevant subject * AND you have significant professional experience, which is relevant to your research proposal.   *You should use this section to provide evidence that the training and development you have received is equivalent to that obtained through a relevant Masters course and, therefore, prepares you to continue to doctoral study.* |

|  |
| --- |
| **Research proposal title** |

|  |
| --- |
| **Research Summary (100 words)**  *Summary of the proposed research project that will be comprehensible to non-specialists and suitable for PR and communication channels.* |

|  |
| --- |
| **Research Proposal (1000 words)**  *This section must describe your proposal. We are seeking original, innovative, cogent and coherent proposals, which are well-written in their entirety. Completion of the project should be feasible within the funded period, normally 3½ years. The methodology should be demonstrably appropriate and the whole proposal well-grounded in current research literature and/or practice. Full bibliographic referencing is not required.*  Research question(s)/problem:  Research context, methods and sources, originality/innovation and contribution to knowledge (academic impact):  Knowledge Exchange, Public Engagement & Impact: *Who might be interested or involved in delivering or experiencing the change that may happen as a result of your findings? Why would these communities be interested? How might they benefit? How will you engage/communicate/network with these communities?**Be realistic in your proposed plans and ensure that your plans are ethical.* |

|  |
| --- |
| **Preparedness for proposed doctoral project (300 words maximum)**  *Please demonstrate how your previous study (UG / MA) and / or professional experience have prepared you for* ***this particular doctoral project****. This might include reference to your UG and Masters programmes of study and your dissertation topics, specific and appropriate methodological training and/or expertise (e.g. proficiency in a relevant language, particular IT skills etc.), work-based learning or employment in a relevant occupation, etc.* |

|  |
| --- |
| **Training needs and SGSAH DTP (300 words maximum)**  *However well prepared applicants may be to undertake the research they propose, it is expected that they will need to develop new skills during their programme of study.*   * *Please identify your training needs – what skills will you need to develop to ensure that you are able to complete your research project successfully? (Your project is likely to build on and extend existing skills and will be project-specific.)* * *What skills do you seek to develop for professional development purposes? For example, do you intend to undertake an Internship?* * *How will you meet the needs and develop the skills noted above? What resources and/or opportunities will you access across the SGSAH DTP Programme beyond the core requirement, and from your HEIs and/or other HEIs or organisations?* |

|  |
| --- |
| **SGSAH Requirements**  *All SGSAH DTP funded doctoral researchers are required to participate in core training elements provided by SGSAH. Key mechanisms for delivery of this training include Knowledge Exchange (KE) Hubs and Disciplinary+ Catalysts.*  *Information about these can be found in the Guidance.*  **You must be a member of at least one KE Hub. Please indicate which KE Hub(s) you will join:**  Citizenship, Culture and Ethics □  Creative Economies □  Heritage □  **You must be a member of at least one Disciplinary+ Catalyst. Please indicate which Catalyst(s) you will join:**  Archaeology and Classics □  Creative Arts and Design □  Cultural and Museum Studies □  History □  Law □  Linguistics □  Media, Comms, Film & TV □  Modern Languages □  Celtic Studies □  Philosophy □  Literature □  Theology, Divinity & Religion □ |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Nominating Member of Staff**  *Please provide a name and contact for your nominating institution. This will be the person who signs the nominating form. This will depend on your chosen HEI’s nomination process.* |  |
| **Nominator Email** |  |

**Data storage:** Anonymised, limited special characteristic data (such as disability, ethnicity, and other health data) will be collected and retained by SGSAH in order to fulfil our contractual obligations to our funder, the Arts and Humanities Research Council.

Applications from nominees not in receipt of funding will be destroyed by 1st October 2020. Applications from nominees in receipt of funding will be retained for the duration of the studentship. This application may be read by up to eighteen reviewers.

# Guidance for nominating institutions on completing the SGSAH DTP Institutional Statement for studentships beginning in October 2020

Students nominated by a SGSAH AHRC DTP HEI will need to complete the online application form and upload the Institutional Statement (IS). The online portal will open on **3 February 2020** and close **at 12 noon GMT on 14 February 2020**. **We will not accept late applications.** It is the lead HEI’s responsibility to ensure that its nominated candidate is able to upload its Institutional Statement before the portal closes. We advise nominated doctoral researchers to submit their applications at least 48 hours before the portal closes to allow for technical issues etc.

**This year all applications will be anonymised. Reviewers will not have access to transcripts, offer of place, or any identifying factors such as name or qualifications. All parts of the applications should be free from pronouns or other words which would identify the applicant’s gender. In order to comply with these guidelines, we ask that you use the applicant, s/he, his/her or their/they rather than the person's name or pronouns which would identify their gender.** The Institutional Statement is designed to allow institutions to demonstrate that they offer an excellent fit for the nominated candidate and their specific PhD research project. To this end, we invite nominators to demonstrate:

* the relevance and fit of the proposal with the proposed supervisory team in its entirety;
* the relevance and fit of the research environment; and
* the nature of training and level of support to be provided to the student by the supervising institution(s).

## Name of nominating member of staff

We do not specify who within a nominating institution should complete the Institutional Statement but the candidate will be required to supply a name and email address on their application so please do make sure that your nominated applicant knows who the nominator is. We will crosscheck nominations supplied by HEIs against applications received.

**Non-standard and/or unclassified qualifications**

If your nominated candidate holds a non-standard and/or unclassified qualification, we would ask you to provide further information about their qualification which will allow us to evaluate it fairly against the scoring criteria. For example, where the applicant holds an Ordinary Degree rather than an Honours Degree, contextual sectoral information may be provided. Where a degree is unclassified, we ask you to confirm the quality of the work by making reference to the examiner’s report.

**Review Panels**

Applications which cross two of our Competition Review Panels will be reviewed by both panels. We seek confirmation that the proposed research crosses Panel disciplines. Please note that two panels should only be selected if the supervisory team has an equal weighting across two panels e.g. 50% Music and 50% Film & TV. (See p. 11 for details of Panel Disciplines.)

**Supervisory Team**

We seek evidence that the applicant and their project will be supported by the very best team of supervisors and research environment available across our doctoral training partnership.

Making best use of the excellence that exists across the SGSAH DTP consortium, in terms of world-leading academic expertise and unique resources, the very best supervisory team and research environment may be provided by working across our DTP HEIs. To support this, we have in place a cross-HEI co-supervision agreement.

Where the supervisory team comes from across HEIs, one of the HEIs will be designated the **lead-HEI**. This is the HEI at which the doctoral researcher will be registered for study and from which they will graduate. The lead-HEI will be the nominating HEI. The Lead Supervisor must be employed by the nominating HEI.

We recognise that the very best supervisory team and research environment may come from a single HEI.

In all cases, a compelling rationale for the supervisory arrangement will need to be provided in the ‘Supervisory expertise and research training environment’ section.

In this section, we ask you to provide details of the supervisory team and indicate the weighting given to each supervisor. Lead Supervisor allocation must be more than or equal to the allocation of other supervisor(s) in the team. The supervisory allocations available are:

75%/25%

50%/50%

60%/20%/20%

The DTP will not formally recognise supervisory input of less than 20%.

This section of the IS also invites all supervisors to list up to six **relevant** outputs. This is indicative and is not intended to discourage early career researchers from acting as Lead, co- or secondary supervisors. SGSAH welcomes and supports the development of ECRs through its DTP programme. ‘Outputs’ refers to publications, practice-based research including performances, exhibitions, compositions, etc.

Supervisors should not normally supervise more than six PhDs (FTE) at any one time.

**Supervisory expertise and research training environment (800 words maximum)**

We seek here demonstrable and persuasive evidence that the supervisory arrangements offer the PhD researcher the best training environment possible within the consortium partnership.

* Why is this the right supervisory team for this project and this applicant? What expertise does this particular team bring to the project?
* What role will supervisors play in ensuring the doctoral researcher and their project are supported?
* How will the supervisory arrangements be managed? (SGSAH actively supports the development of Early Career Researchers. Where an ECR is a member of the supervisory team, please provide details on how the ECR will be mentored/supported in their role.)
* How does the research environment support the doctoral researcher and the project? How are the collections/research culture, context and resources of the HEIs to which the applicant has applied essential to the successful completion of the project?
* What will the doctoral researcher/project add to the research environment?

We recognise that there may be occasions where an applicant has extenuating circumstances that influence their choice of lead-HEI, which should be within commutable distance. Reviewers will still seek evidence that an *overall* excellent research environment is provided.

**Training and Skills Development Plan** (500 words maximum)

We expect the applicant’s section on required training to align with the more detailed training plan requested here. Students are normally funded for 3½ years and the AHRC expects its funded doctoral students to submit within the funded period. Stipends can be extended to allow additional funded time for the completion of e.g. internships and essential language learning. Note that our AHRC-funded doctoral researchers are still required to submit within four years (or p/t equivalent) irrespective of additional funded time.

SGSAH requires all AHRC funded students to:

* complete foundational training as required by the lead-HEI
* complete the SGSAH DTP Leadership Programme consisting of an induction, one residential event for each full time year of study, a symposium in year two and our annual Summer School
* be a member of and participate in at least one Discipline+ Catalyst event and one KE Hub event per annum.

Further opportunities for training and skills development are outlined on pp. 4-5 of this Guidance. We would recommend that the doctoral researcher and supervisory team review these as part of their discussion of a bespoke PhD Programme training plan. This plan should support the successful and timely completion of an excellent PhD project as well as develop the student’s professional skills. Training plans should be specific.

We recognise that plans are likely to change over the course of the PhD project. We seek evidence that the needs of the student, their project, and their future ambitions have been considered carefully at the outset. (Currently, more than 50% of Arts & Humanities doctoral graduates pursue careers outside of the academy.)

The student and their project may benefit from collaboration with a non-academic organisation. Such collaboration(s) and their likely benefits should be referenced in this section.

* What training and skills development does **this** applicant require in order to successfully complete **this** PhD project and how will specific institutional resources and SGSAH’s shared resources enable **this** applicant to complete **this** thesis? **Please avoid generic statements of provision.**
* Is there an opportunity to collaborate with a non-university partner to the benefit of **this applicant and their project**?
* How will specific institutional resources and SGSAH’s shared resources support **this** applicant in preparing for **their** future career aspirations?

**Ethics**

Any project funded by SGSAH DTP must be ethical. In this section you should identify any ethical or safety issues attached to this research project or to the associated impact plans and how these will be addressed. Please do consider this carefully as any project, including impact plans, considered not to have addressed ethical issues will be deemed to be not fundable.

**Confirmation of supervisory requirements**

SGSAH DTP is committed to the continuing professional development of our PhD supervisors, which we see as essential to the provision of an excellent training environment for our students. Measures agreed by our HEI members are:

* One member of the proposed supervisory team must have previously supervised at least one doctoral candidate to successful completionat the point of the nomination being submitted. This need not be the Lead Supervisor.
* All supervisors must have completed supervisory training for new supervisors at the point of the nomination being submitted. If they do not complete
* All non-ECR supervisors must have completed an Updating Workshop offered by their HEI in the past four years.
* Supervisors of SGSAH DTP funded doctoral researchers must attend or have already attended a SGSAH Supervisors’ Induction Workshop. Where supervisors have not yet attended this, they are asked to reserve a place prior to the nomination being submitted and to hold this in their diaries. Where an application is unsuccessful, supervisors should cancel their reserved place and release the hold from their diaries. We anticipate multiple workshops being held in June and September 2020. Booking will be available on our website from 13 January 2020.

**As supervisory training is a requirement, staff who are already supervising SGSAH AHRC DTP2 funded doctoral researchers (that is, doctoral candidates whose funding commenced in 2019/20) but who did not attend the mandatory training are not eligible to be a nominated supervisor in the 2020 studentship competition and should contact their SGSAH Executive member.**

**Signing off**

Institutional Statements must be signed by the designated nominator in the lead-HEI.

## Nominating an EU national for fees-only support

AHRC studentships provide fees-only for EU students from countries beyond the UK. The UK Government confirmed on 28 May 2019 that UKRI studentships (including AHRC studentships awarded through the Scottish Graduate School for Arts & Humanities) remain open to EU students starting courses in academic year 2020 to 2021, and that the funding support will cover the duration of their programme, even if the UK leaves the EU in that period.

1. On 28 May 2019 the UK government confirmed that EU students starting university in 2020/21 academic year will have guaranteed home fee status and financial support for the duration of their courses [↑](#footnote-ref-1)