

ESRC Research Studentships at the UCL, Bloomsbury and East London Doctoral Training Partnership (UBEL DTP)

Application Guide for 2020 Entry – Preliminary Application 1+3, +3, 2+3, +4, 3.5 and 3.25 applicants

Deadlines for 2020 Entry

Preliminary application

Due via FluidReview by **Monday 6 January 2020 23:59 (GMT)**

If you are successful at the Preliminary stage, you will be invited to make a full application:

Full application

Due via FluidReview by **Friday 28 February 2020 23:59 (GMT)**

These deadlines apply to ESRC studentship applications in any of the UBEL DTP pathways at any of the five DTP institutions, which are:

University College London
Birkbeck, University of London
London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine
SOAS, University of London
University of East London

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Types of ESRC funding available at the UBEL DTP

1+3, +3, 2+3 and +4 funding

ESRC studentships at the UBEL DTP are structured around the following routes: 1+3, +3, 2+3 and +4 funding.

1+3 programme: a one-year Master's programme precedes the three-year MPhil/PhD which will deliver the majority of the core training requirements;

+3 programme: funding for a three-year MPhil/PhD, which assumes that a student has already met the majority of the core training requirements or that the MPhil/PhD focus is largely on more advanced training;

2+3 programme: an extended two-year Master's for specialist training followed by a standard three-year MPhil/PhD programme;

+4 programme: up to four years' funding for a PhD which assumes that core and advanced training requirements can be met during the course of the programme. The requirements are normally met by undertaking modules from a linked Master's programme.

You may only apply for one route and it is important that you discuss which one is appropriate for you with your proposed supervisor.

The above time-frames are for full-time students; part-time ESRC students undertake their studentships at 60% of the full-time rate. Therefore, 1+3 and +4 routes are seven years long in total for part-time students, and +3 routes are five years long for part-time students. The 2+3 route is nine years in total for part-time students.

3.5 and 3.25 funding

3.5 programme: funding for three and a half years for a PhD which assumes that core and advanced training requirements can be met during the course of the programme. The requirements are normally met by undertaking modules totalling 60 credits from a linked Master's programme.

3.25 programme: funding for three and a quarter years for a PhD which assumes that core and advanced training requirements can be met during the course of the programme. The requirements are normally met by undertaking modules totalling 30 credits from a linked Master's programme.

Note that if you require more than 60 credits of modules to complete your training requirements, you should normally select the +4 route.

Please also note the following points about the routes:

- Your application will not be disadvantaged if you select the 'wrong' route: the DTP Board (which considers full applications at the final stage) will recommend an appropriate route based on previous training if that is the most appropriate one for your studies;

- Occasionally, candidates may be awarded a slightly different configuration (eg 3.5 years depending on previous training, or two years if the candidate has already started doctoral study);
- Applications for all routes are considered equally by the pathways, Group Panels and DTP Board. There are no quotas at the UBEL DTP for applications to any particular route.

Applying for doctoral study at a DTP Institution

Your application for doctoral study

Doctoral study at the UCL, Bloomsbury and East London DTP is arranged in **25 pathways** organised into seven groupings across the five DTP institutions. Each pathway is led by one of the five institutions but many of them have shared arrangements with the other DTP partner institutions.

As well as applying for an ESRC studentship, you will also need to **apply for the relevant doctoral programme of study** at your chosen DTP institution, unless you are a current doctoral student (see page 6). In some cases, the application deadlines for these programmes may be earlier than for the DTP studentship deadlines, so you will need to check with the relevant pathway contact for your chosen programme (see <https://ubel-dtp.ac.uk/eligibility/pathways/>) or with the relevant member of administrative staff, whose details are listed under Institutional Contacts below. For 1+3 and 2+3 applications, you will usually need to make an application for both your Masters and doctoral programmes, in accordance with the institution's requirements.

For a very small number of 1+3 candidates, you might undertake your Master's programme at one of the DTP institutions and your MPhil/PhD at another – this is due to shared pathway arrangements across institutions in these cases. Administrative colleagues will be able to advise if this is the case when you make your Master's application.

Institutional Contacts (Administrative staff)

UCL Institute of Education

TBC

ubel-dtp@ucl.ac.uk

UCL (other than Institute of Education)

Vanessa Riegl-Parr, UBEL DTP Manager

uclesrcdtc@ucl.ac.uk

Birkbeck, University of London

Richard Abbott, Registry Officer

graduateresearchschool@bbk.ac.uk

London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine

Lara Crawford, Scholarships Manager

scholarships@lshtm.ac.uk

SOAS, University of London

Alicia Sales, Deputy Manager (Scholarships)

scholarships@soas.ac.uk

University of East London

Richard Bottoms, Postgraduate Research Student Manager

r.bottoms@uel.ac.uk

Institutional Contacts (Academic staff)

Details of the groupings and pathways, along with Pathway Leaders and their teams, can be found on our UBEL website at: <https://ubel-dtp.ac.uk/eligibility/pathways/>

Who can apply for ESRC funding?

We encourage ESRC applications from candidates with research interests in the areas of the academic pathways of the DTP. In addition, please note the specific eligibility requirements below.

Academic qualifications

If you wish to apply for a **1+3**, **2+3**, or **+4** award you should normally have (or expect to achieve by 30 September 2020) an upper second or first class honours degree or a Master's degree from a recognised UK university, or the equivalent qualification if gained outside the UK.

If you wish to apply for a **+3**, **3.5** or **3.25** award you must normally have (or expect to achieve by 30 September 2020) a Master's degree with an appropriate level of research training. Please also consult the *DTP Guidance on Research Foundation Statements* document for guidance about the level of previous research training required.

Current doctoral students at UBEL DTP institutions

If you are a current MPhil/PhD student at one of the UBEL DTP institutions, you may apply for an ESRC studentship provided you have completed no more than one year full-time (two years part-time) of your doctoral studies by 1 October 2020. If your application is successful, the length of your award will be reduced by the time already spent undertaking your doctoral study.

Please also note the residential eligibility criteria below.

Residential eligibility

To be eligible for a full award (stipend and fees), you must:

- be ordinarily resident in the UK, meaning there are no restrictions on how long you can stay, and
- have been 'ordinarily resident' in the UK for at least three years prior to the start of the studentship grant. This means you must have been normally residing in the UK (apart from temporary or occasional absences), and
- not have been residing in the UK wholly or mainly for the purpose of full-time education. This does not apply to UK nationals and EU nationals who were ordinarily resident in the EU immediately before the period of full-time education.

Further information on the eligibility criteria for full awards can be found on the UKCISA website: www.ukcisa.org.uk/Information--Advice/Fees-and-Money/Government-Student-Support

To be eligible for a fees only award, you must:

- be ordinarily resident in an EU member state, in the same way as UK students must be ordinarily resident in the UK.

Studies in Economics or which meet the criteria for training in and use of **Advanced Quantitative Methods (AQM)** are additionally open to international students and EU nationals who do not meet the residency requirements.

Note: These eligibility criteria are based on the Education (Fees and Awards) Regulations 2007 and subsequent amendments. These regulations cover England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. www.legislation.gov.uk/2007?title=Education%20fees

Further information, including frequently asked questions, can be found in the UKRI Training Grant guide: www.ukri.org/funding/information-for-award-holders/grant-terms-and-conditions/

Brexit: Impact on Student Finance

EU nationals remain eligible to apply for an ESRC studentship for 2020 entry. Please also note the above residency requirements for EU nationals in the UK.

Preliminary application for ESRC funding

You do not need to wait for the outcome of your doctoral application before making your studentship application. Please do not delay contacting your proposed supervisor and making your preliminary studentship application while you wait to hear the outcome of your doctoral application.

It is essential that you discuss your intention to apply for ESRC funding with your proposed academic department and supervisors at your DTP institution. You should discuss your proposed research project, any research training you have already received and any specific further training that your chosen department or institution will provide.

The FluidReview portal will open on **Monday 7 October 2019** and you may complete the **Preliminary** application from then until the closing date of **Monday 6 January 2020 23:59 (GMT)**.

The Preliminary application asks for details of your qualifications, residential information, programme of study and supervisor, along with initial details of your proposed research.

Section One

Contact details and residential information

Please ensure you provide full contact details in case we need to contact you about your application. The application system will also send you updates via email so please use an email address which you check regularly. Sometimes the messages may be directed to a junk folder, so ensure you check that folder too.

Residential details are required to ensure that you fulfil the residential eligibility requirements for an ESRC studentship (details are on page 6) so these questions must be fully completed.

Section Two

Programme of study and Pathway(s)

Here you will need to provide the relevant information about your supervisor, department, programme of study and study route. When you select your principal pathway, the list on the right-hand side will only show the institutions where that pathway is available. Select a secondary pathway if applicable.

Advanced Quantitative Methods (AQM)

Please indicate here whether you will be submitting an AQM application with your full ESRC application form, if successful at this stage.

Section Three

Qualifications and employment

Please provide details about current and previously-awarded qualifications at undergraduate, postgraduate and professional level, starting with the most recent. If you are awarded a studentship, you will be required to provide evidence of your qualifications when you enrol at your DTP institution.

If you are currently undertaking your degree, please ensure you enter the date when your result will be known. If you are successful in your application, your studentship offer will be conditional until your degree result is confirmed. If your current programme is at postgraduate level, please include modules taken and results (where known).

Please also provide details about your employment for the last three years.

Section Four

Your proposed research

Your proposed supervisor may need to provide information to help you complete this section and it is essential that you discuss your research project and training with them so that the fullest information can be provided here.

Additional Information

This question allows you to provide further background information to your application that you may wish to be considered during the selection process.

Submitting your application

You must press the Submit button to complete the preliminary stage of the application process. You will still be able to edit your application up to the closing date of **Monday 6 January 2020 23:59 (GMT)** but if you have any issues doing this, please email ubel-dtp@ucl.ac.uk

Selection process at the preliminary stage

When you submit your application it will be routed to a pathway team consisting of academic colleagues in the DTP. Note that this will depend on your choice of principal pathway, rather than your academic department. They will consider preliminary applications based on research area, supervisory team and candidate qualifications. You will be informed by **31 January 2020** whether you have been invited to make a full application.

Updates will be made available in your FluidReview account. The system will also email information to you, so ensure you check any junk mail folders in case notifications are sent there.

If you are not successful at this stage, you will also receive an email notification from the system and the full application form will not be available to view in your FluidReview account.

Full application for ESRC funding

If you are successful at the Preliminary stage, you will be invited to make a full application via FluidReview. This application requires a full research proposal and detailed information about your supervisory team and is due by **Friday 28 February 2020 23:59 (GMT)**.

Guidance notes for the Full application will be available on FluidReview later in November 2019.

List of ESRC datasets

Please note all resources are accessible via the UK Data Service (<https://www.ukdataservice.ac.uk/>) unless stated otherwise.

Longitudinal resources:

- British Household Panel Survey
- Understanding Society
- 1958 National Child Development Survey
- British Cohort Study 1970
- Next Steps (Longitudinal Study of Young Persons in England)
- Millennium Cohort Study
- UK Census Longitudinal Studies
(<https://www.ons.gov.uk/aboutus/whatwedo/paidservices/longitudinalstudies>)
- English Longitudinal Study of Ageing

Biosocial resources:

- Understanding Society Biosocial Sweep
- 1958 National Child Development Study Biosocial Sweep
- English Longitudinal Study of Ageing Genome-Wide Association Study
- Avon Longitudinal Study of Parents and Children
(bristol.ac.uk/alspac/researchers/data-access/)

Big Data resources:

- Administrative Data Research Network (adrn.ac.uk)
- Business and Local Government Data Research Centre (blgdataresearch.org)
- Consumer Data Research Centre (cdrc.ac.uk)
- Urban Big Data Centre (ubdc.ac.uk)

Election resources

- British Election Study
- British election study ethnic minority surveys
- Scottish Election Studies
- Welsh Election Studies
- Northern Ireland Election Study

- Scottish Referendum Study
- Local Election Studies Database

Employment resources

- Skills and Employment Survey Series
- Workplace Employment Relations Surveys

International comparative resources

- European Social Survey
- Harmonised European Time Use Study 2000 (The data from the Harmonised European Time Use Study 2015 will be available from March 2016 and will offer comparative opportunities through a harmonised dataset)
- International Social Survey Programme (<https://www.gesis.org/issp/home/>)
- Multinational Time Use Study (<http://www.timeuse.org/mtus.html>)

Linguistics resources

- British National Corpus
- British Sign Language Corpus

Qualitative resources

- Timescapes (<http://timescapes.researchdata.leeds.ac.uk/>)
- Poverty and Social Exclusion Qualitative Surveys
- Ritual, Community and Conflict Ethnographic Dataset on Ritual (<http://www.anthro.ox.ac.uk/ritual-community-and-conflict>)
- Access Research Knowledge Qualitative Archives on Ageism and Conflict (ark.ac.uk/qual/ageism/)

Other resources

- Poverty and Social Exclusion in the UK: Research Surveys 2012
- Northern Ireland Life and Times
- Kids' Life and Times
- Young Life and Times Survey