

Terms and Conditions for Research Studentships funded from University Research Contracts

Effective October 2023

1. Types of awards covered

- 1.1. These terms and conditions cover any studentship to support a postgraduate research degree where a funding contract has been established between the University and the sponsor. This may include UK Research Councils, external commercial sponsors or charities. The terms also apply to studentships that are directly funded by the University.
- 1.2. These terms and conditions shall apply in conjunction with any additional terms and conditions specified by the sponsoring body and the University Regulations.

2. Issuing, acceptance and payment of awards

- 2.1. When such awards are made, Doctoral Researchers will be issued with a studentship offer letter from the Doctoral College. The letter will outline the value of the award and any specific conditions that apply to the candidate.
- 2.2. Doctoral Researchers must formally accept their award, in writing or by return of email, and in doing so accept the terms and conditions herein.
- 2.3. Payment of the award will be made monthly in arrears by direct transfer to their personal bank account.

3. Value of award

- 3.1. Studentships may cover full or partial fees at the UK or international rate.
- 3.2. Studentships may include stipends (tax-free contributions towards the cost of living.) These are typically set at the published UKRI rates. Depending on the nature of the contract agreed with the sponsor, some studentship offers may include an enhanced stipend amount. For each studentship offered, the value of the stipend will be made clear at the point of advertising. Doctoral Researchers should take this and current University guidance on cost of living into careful consideration when agreeing to accept an award.
- 3.3. The value of award is subject to change without prior notice and normally on an annual basis. The value of the allowance may be reduced by the value of any remuneration received under another studentship.
- 3.4. Where a doctoral researcher is receiving a stipend administered through the University, they will normally be entitled to a total of 13 weeks sickness pay within a 12-month period. This is dependent on the absence being supported by medical evidence. Further policy details are outlined in the [Code of Practice](#).
- 3.5. Where a doctoral researcher is receiving a stipend administered through the University, they will normally be entitled to paid parental leave in accordance with [University policy](#).

4. Duration of award

- 4.1. Awards may be made on a full time or part time basis. Part time awards will usually be made at a pro-rata rate that reflects the programme length.
- 4.2. The duration of the award will be stipulated in the award letter. This will usually be the same as the programme length (excluding any period of extension).

- 4.3. The duration of a research studentship will be reduced by a period equal to any previous period of postgraduate training, or of activity equivalent to postgraduate training undertaken by the student. Exceptions are:-
- a) up to one year of any full-time study not supported by UK public funds may be disregarded;
 - b) previous postgraduate training may be disregarded when it took the form of taught course necessary to enable the student to carry out research in a field substantially different from that studied for his/her first degree.
 - c) where the training was directly relevant to the attainment of a Masters degree (whatever the source of funding).

5. Alternative funding and sources of income

- 5.1. Should financial support from another source become available for the research studies, the University award must be relinquished in favour of the alternative offer.
- 5.2. Stipends will not normally be available to those who are working in full time employment.

6. Annual leave

- 6.1. Full-time and Part-time Doctoral Researchers may, with the prior agreement of their supervisor(s), take up to eight weeks holiday in each year (pro rata for parts of a year), inclusive of normal public holidays and University closure days. Studentship payments will continue during any periods of approved annual leave.

7. Pausing and termination of awards

- 7.1. Payments will continue until the end date given in the studentship offer letter unless:
 - a) The recipient takes a leave of absence during which they are not eligible for sickness payments or parental leave payments.
 - b) Studies are terminated because of unsatisfactory progression.
 - c) Studies are terminated because of failure to participate.
- 7.2. Doctoral Researchers whose conduct and behaviour does not satisfy the University and/or sponsor are liable to have their awards terminated.
- 7.3. One month's notice of termination of stipend payments will normally be given.

8. Intellectual property rights

The arrangements for the ownership and exploitation of Intellectual Property shall be in accordance with Ordinance XXXIX.

Last revised January 2023