**University of Edinburgh - AHRC Doctoral Landscape Award   
  
Open PhD Competition Application Form 2026/27**

Funding is available in the following Disciplinary Panels, linked to these Schools:

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| **Disciplinary Panel** | **School(s)** | **Funding Application to be returned to** |
| Media, Communications, Cultural Policy, Film and TV, Library and Information Studies | Edinburgh College of Art  Literatures, Languages and Cultures | ECA: [ecaresearchdegrees@ed.ac.uk](mailto:ecaresearchdegrees@ed.ac.uk)  LLC: [llc.pgscholarships@ed.ac.uk](mailto:llc.pgscholarships@ed.ac.uk) |
| Philosophy | Philosophy, Psychology and Language Sciences | PPLS: [pplspgoffice@ed.ac.uk](mailto:pplspgoffice@ed.ac.uk) |
| Theology, Divinity & Religions | Divinity  PhD Social Anthropology within the School of Social and Political Science | Divinity: [Div.PGRAdmin@ed.ac.uk](mailto:Div.PGRAdmin@ed.ac.uk)  SPS: [pgresearch.sps@ed.ac.uk](mailto:pgresearch.sps@ed.ac.uk) |

It is essential that you discuss the application with your supervisor/s and have their approval to submit.

**The completed Doctoral Landscape Award funding application must be emailed to the relevant School by 5pm GMT 27th November 2025. Late applications will not be accepted.**

**You must also submit a PhD admission application for 2026/27 by 5pm on the deadline indicated below:**

PhD Philosophy - **10th November 2025**

Edinburgh College of Art – **17th November 2025**

Literatures, Languages and Cultures - **17th November 2025**

School of Divinity and PhD Social Anthropology – **20th November 2025**

Current PhD students are not eligible for this funding.

When completing the application form, you should consult the latest version of the University’s *Doctoral Landscape Award Open Competition Guidance 2025/26*. We strongly recommend that you attend the briefing and information sessions run by the University; applications must have supervisory support and provide evidence how the applicant will engage with the opportunities offered by the DLA scheme.

Applicants for this funding opportunity should complete the Equal Opportunities Monitoring form via this [Microsoft Form](https://forms.office.com/e/44GE6up5xS). This data will be anonymised and the limited special characteristic data (such as disability, ethnicity, and other health data) will be collected and retained by the University of Edinburgh in order to fulfil our contractual obligations to our funder, the Arts and Humanities Research Council. The data will also be shared in an aggregated, anonymized form with SGSAH/the DLA Hub to enable them to identify inequality gaps, inform strategic planning and to create an inclusive research environment. This data will not be used to identify individuals.

If your application is successful, your name, email address, project title and research summary will be shared with the Scottish Graduate School for Arts and Humanities based at the University of Glasgow. SGSAH needs this information so that it can plan Hub training activities and contact successful candidates with details of the training available.

**1. Personal Details**

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

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| 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 September 2026*** |
| Permanent Address |
| Correspondence Address if different |
| Eligibility  *Please review all the eligibility criteria on page 11 of the Open Competition Guidance document, then indicate here whether you will be classified by the University as a home or international student.*  I am a home fee student  I am an international fee student |
| **Optional Flags for Reweighting Scoring**  *Please tick the box if you wish to have your scoring reweighted under the optional flags listed below:*  Trans applicants / First generation at University / Recipient of a means-tested scholarship or free school meals / Disability / Chronic Illness / Care experienced, or an applicant with care responsibilities / Refugee Status |

**2.PhD Programme of Study**

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| Name of PhD Programme in which you will enrol |  |

**3. School and Disciplinary Panel where your PhD is based**

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| Awards are only available for 2026/27 in the following Disciplinary Panels.  Details of AHRC Subject areas are listed within page 13 of the Open Competition Guidance document.   * **Media, Communications, Cultural Policy, Film and TV, Library and Information Studies** - available within Edinburgh College of Art and the School of Literatures, Languages and Cultures * **Philosophy** - available within the School of Philosophy, Psychology and Language Sciences * **Theology, Divinity & Religions** - available within the School of Divinity and the PhD Social Anthropology in the School of Social and Political Science   **Disciplinary Panel and School:**  *Please indicate which School, Disciplinary Panel and Subject Area are relevant to your PhD:*  **Media, Communications, Cultural Policy, Film and TV, Library and Information Studies**  Edinburgh College of Art  School of Literatures, Languages and Cultures  **Philosophy**  School of Philosophy, Psychology and Language Sciences  **Theology, Divinity & Religions**  School of Divinity  School of Social and Political Science  **AHRC Subject Area:**  Details of AHRC Subject areas are listed within page 13 of the Open Competition Guidance.  *Please list the subject area which is most relevant to your PhD project.* |

**4. 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****.***

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

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| **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 your 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 your previous training and development are equivalent to those obtained through a relevant Masters course and have therefore prepared you to continue to doctoral study.* |

**5. Research Proposal**

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| **Research proposal title** |

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

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| **Research Proposal (1000 words)**  *We seek original, innovative, cogent and coherent proposals, which are well-written in their entirety and have been designed for completion within the funded period. 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. Please use the subheadings below to ensure that you speak to each section of the criteria.*   1. *Research question(s)/problem*   What question or problem is your project designed to answer, and why is it a timely and important one?   1. *Research context, methods and sources, originality/innovation and contribution to knowledge (academic impact*): In what context/s will your study be situated? What methods and sources will you use to answer your question, and why are they particularly well suited to do so? How will your project be original?   *Knowledge Exchange, Public Engagement & Impact*: What plans do you have for identifying and engaging with groups beyond the academy who might be interested in, or benefit from, your research? Why might these communities be interested, and how might they benefit? How will you engage/communicate/network with these communities? |

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| **6. Preparedness to Undertake Doctoral Study and Complete a PhD (300 words)**  *Please explain how your academic and/or professional experience has prepared you to undertake this particular doctoral project, and to complete a project of this length within the designated time frame. You may wish to refer to:*  *a) topic(s) and length of successfully-completed dissertations and modules;*  *b) specific and appropriate methodological training and/or expertise (e.g. proficiency in a relevant language, particular IT skills etc.);*  *c) work-based learning or employment in a relevant occupation, etc.;*  *d) notable achievements, either academic (prizes, conference presentations, publications) or non-academic (professional or personal accomplishments, overcoming barriers, etc)* |

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| **7. Individual Training Plan (ITP) and Engagement with the Hub/University Training (400 words)**  **Individual Training Plan (ITP)**  *Please indicate which funding model would best suit your research project and professional goals. Only one selection can be made. Your choice will not affect the total funds allocated to your PhD project, but it will affect the length of your stipend. It must be discussed and agreed with your supervisory team before the application is submitted.*  Model A **-** 3.5-year studentship + 6 months’ additional funded research time.  Model B **-** 3.5-year studentship + 3-month funded internship + 3 months’ additional funded research time.  Model C **-** 3.5-year studentship + 3-month funded visiting researcher placement/internship + associated accommodation/travel costs equivalent to 2 months’ stipend + 1 month additional funded research time  Model D **-** 3.5-year studentship + 3-month internship + 6-week visiting researcher placement + visiting researcher accommodation/stipend costs (equivalent to 6 weeks’ stipend)  Model E -3.5-year studentship + travel and accommodation for fieldwork (equivalent to 2 months’ stipend) + 4 months’ additional funded research time.  **Engagement with the Hub/University Training (250 words)**  *How will you engage with the cohort-wide training opportunities offered by the Doctoral Landscape Hub and the University? Include an explanation of how you will participate in the life of the Hub, noting the collaborative training opportunities, activities, and schemes in which you intend to take part within the Hub, the University, and – if applicable – elsewhere.* |

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| **8. Ethics and Research Integrity (300 words maximum)**  Are there any ethical or safety issues attached to this research project and/or its impact plans? If so, how will these be addressed? |

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| **9. Environmental Impact Assessment**  *As part of SGSAH’s ‘*[*Green/Graduate Strategy & Operations Plan’*](https://www.sgsah.ac.uk/policy/green/) *we have committed to reducing the environmental impact of doctoral research in the arts and humanities, including sustainable travel practices, conference attendance, and fieldwork activities. To ensure the sustainability of doctoral research projects applicants are asked to confirm that they will undertake appropriate measures to reduce the environmental impact of their research activities. Successful applicants will be supported through guidance and training.*    I confirm that as part of my annual progress review (year 1 full-time; year 1 or 2 part-time) I will identify measures to ensure the sustainability of my doctoral research activities. |

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| **10. Plagiarism and generative AI**  This application constitutes my own original work. I understand that if any plagiarism is detected in the review process, my application may be withdrawn from consideration. In drafting my application, I have worked with my potential supervisors but have not used generative AI to write my proposal or other parts of the application. |

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| **11. SGSAH Requirements**  *All SGSAH DLA 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 Skills Development Training Spokes.*  *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 Skills Development Training Spoke. Please indicate which Spoke(s) you will join:**  Concepts and Critiques  Empirical Enquiry  Creative Practice |

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| **12.** **Approval from lead supervisor**  *Please provide a name and email contact for your proposed lead supervisor*  Name:  Contact Email: |

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| **13. Data sharing and storage**  **You must agree to all statements in order to be considered for the funding**.  **Data sharing and storage at University of Edinburgh:**Anonymised, limited special characteristic data (such as disability, ethnicity, and other health data) will be collected and retained by the University of Edinburgh in order to fulfil our contractual obligations to our funder, the Arts and Humanities Research Council.  I consent to this use of this data.  **Data Sharing with SGSAH**  I consent to the sharing of aggregated anonymised Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) information with the Scottish Graduate School for Arts and Humanities (SGSAH)/DLA Hub to enable them to identify inequality gaps, inform strategic planning and to create an inclusive research environment. This data will not be used to identify individuals.  I consent to the sharing of individual details, including title, email address, and research summary, with the SGSAH/DLA Hub. This information will be used to help deliver essential services and comply with funding requirements including delivery of training, network building, and showcasing doctoral research. |