

Edinburgh Doctoral College Scholarships – 2026/2027

Terms and Conditions

1. Duration

The scholarships are awarded for between three and four years as agreed by the School (or pro-rata if taken on a part time basis) and subject to the award holder's satisfactory progression at annual review.

2. Early Submission

Students may submit their thesis prior to the end of their award in line with the [UKRI Terms and Conditions](#). Where the Student continues to undertake work that is directly linked to their thesis, it is permissible to continue their funding until the end of the quarter in which the thesis is first submitted. Where the Student submits on or after the original end date of their award, funding must cease on the original award end date.

3. Termination

The award will be terminated if the programme of study is changed and the new programme is not eligible for the scholarship, or if the student is excluded or withdraws.

4. Suspension

The award may be suspended if the student is on Authorised Interruption of Study. In some circumstances the stipend may be continued, see 7 and 8 below.

5. Level of Stipend

The level of stipend awarded to eligible Students will be at least equal to the UKRI minimum rate for the relevant academic year (£20,780 for 2025/26). The precise value will be determined by the School.

6. Extensions

The period of a Student's support can be extended in line with the [UKRI Terms and Conditions](#), to offset a period of absence for family leave, absences covered by a medical certificate and extended jury service.

7. Family Leave

Students are entitled to Family Leave in line with the UKRO Terms and Conditions

Students are entitled to 52 weeks of Maternity Leave. The first 26 weeks should be paid at full stipend rate, pro-rated as necessary for part-time students. The following 13 weeks should be paid at a level commensurate with statutory maternity pay. The final 13 weeks are not paid.

Partners are entitled to up to two weeks' paid leave on full stipend.

Adoption Leave should be granted on the same basis as maternity leave for the main adopter, and on the same basis as Paternity Leave for a student who is the partner of the main adopter or is the co-adopter.

A student is entitled to Neonatal Care Leave. One week of Neonatal Care Leave should be provided for each week or part-week in which the child is in neonatal care, up to a maximum of 12 weeks.

A partner is eligible for leave on the same basis as the mother or main adopter if the mother or main adopter dies during or shortly before the period of maternity or adoption leave.

There is no qualifying period for maternity, paternity, or adoption leave. Additionally, their Studentship end date should be updated to reflect the period of leave.

8. Medical Leave

Students are entitled to Medical Leave in line with the [UKRI Terms and Conditions](#). Payment of a Studentship must continue for absences covered by a medical certificate for up to 28 weeks in any 12-month rolling period, beyond which the Studentship will be suspended. The total cumulative amount of medical leave must not exceed 52 weeks across the whole Studentship.

9. Annual Leave

Research students are entitled to a maximum of eight weeks' vacation leave (i.e. 40 working days including public holidays) in each year of their programme without applying for an interruption of study.

Time taken as vacation leave is included within the prescribed period of study. Students must seek approval for vacation leave from their supervisor and the School Postgraduate Office. Visa restrictions may also apply in the case of International students. [The Postgraduate Degree Programme Regulations](#) apply (Regulation 46).

10. Intellectual Property

The default position is that the student will automatically own all intellectual property rights to work done and results created by them during their research project / studentship. However, in some circumstances it may be appropriate for the University to take ownership of intellectual property rights. [The University Policy on Student Intellectual Property Rights](#) applies.

11. Training

All students are expected to undertake training in both [Equality, Diversity and Inclusion](#) as well as Responsible Research.