

AHRC Postgraduate Funding Opportunities FAQs

Q1. Does the AHRC provide funding for Postgraduate study?

There is the opportunity for postgraduate funding in the arts and humanities at all eligible Research Organisations (i.e. University) in the UK. Funding is available for Doctoral and Master's level qualifications via three schemes:

- **Doctoral Award Scheme** - to enable you to pursue and complete a programme of doctoral research and gain a doctoral degree.
- **Research Preparation Master's Scheme** - to enable you to undertake a Master's course that focuses on advanced study and research training explicitly intended to provide a foundation for further research at doctoral level.
- **Professional Preparation Master's Scheme** - to enable you to undertake a Master's or Postgraduate Diploma course that focuses on developing high-level skills and competencies for professional practice in a field relevant to the content of the course.

For each scheme there are subject, academic, residency and scheme requirements that you must fulfil. Details of these are available in the **Guide to Student Eligibility**, available on our website. You will need to access this to find out if you are eligible to apply. All applicants must meet our subject, academic, residency and scheme requirements.

From the 2009 academic year, AHRC postgraduate funding is available via the following routes:

- Block Grant Partnership (BGP) Studentships, where a Research Organisation is awarded a number of studentships and will nominate students to the AHRC; and
- AHRC Studentship Competition, where Research Organisations will submit proposals to the AHRC on behalf of students
- Additional doctoral opportunities include the Collaborative Doctoral Award Scheme and Project Students on Research Grants, where successful Research Organisations will advertise specific projects

Research Organisations will be undertaking their own recruitment and shortlisting processes in order to put forward students to the AHRC. You should contact the Research Organisation at which you wish to study as soon as possible to find out their processes and timetables.

Q2. How do I know which route I need in order to access funding?

As soon as possible, you should contact the Research Organisation at which you wish to study to find out which route they are eligible to submit students under.

Research Organisations with Block Grant Partnership Awards will nominate students identified through their own open recruitment processes to specific BGP studentships.

Research Organisations eligible under the Studentship Competition will submit joint proposals from the student and Research Organisation to the AHRC. Full guidance for the Studentship Competition is available on our website.

The number of proposals a Research Organisation may submit under the Studentship Competition will be capped, so the Research Organisation will run a selection process to decide which proposals to put forward to AHRC.

Q3. My Research Organisation has been awarded a BGP – how do I access funding?

You need to contact the Research Organisation. They are responsible for advertising and recruiting students to the studentships places they have been awarded under the BGP. They will then nominate these students to the AHRC. The AHRC will check the nominations to ensure they are eligible before confirming the award.

The Research Organisation will be awarded a specific number of awards for specific studentships (Doctoral, Research Preparation Master's and Professional Preparation Master's) in specific subjects each year for 5 cohorts of students.

Each Research Organisation will have its own internal processes, deadlines and proposal forms, so you must contact them in order to apply for a BGP Studentship. The AHRC has no part in the recruitment of students to BGP studentships. If your Research Organisation wishes to nominate you, both you and the Research Organisation will be involved in submitting the nomination form to AHRC.

Q4. My Research Organisation is eligible to submit proposals to the Studentship Competition – how do I apply?

Proposals made to the AHRC must come through the Research Organisation. They are joint applications between you and your Research Organisation.

Awards will be available under three schemes (Doctoral, Research Preparation Master's, and Professional Preparation Master's).

Each Research Organisation will be capped in terms of how many proposals they can put forward in the Studentship Competition. Applicants should contact their Research Organisation as possible as each Organisation will have their own processes and deadlines for shortlisting candidates. The AHRC has no part in these internal processes.

Full information on the Studentship Competition is available on our website.

The deadline for applying to the AHRC Studentship Competition is 7th May 2009.

Q5. Can I be nominated for a BGP studentship at a number of Research Organisations and/or submit more than one proposal to the Studentship Competition?

No. You can only submit one proposal or nomination to the AHRC. If more than one proposal and/or nomination is submitted, all may be rejected.

Q6. Can I be nominated for both a BGP studentship and apply for an award in the Studentship Competition?

No. The AHRC will not receive any nominations for BGP studentships in advance of the Studentship Competition closing date. Also, the AHRC will only accept BGP nominations for students who have not submitted a proposal to the Studentship Competition. It is not permissible for a student to be nominated to a BGP, or other, studentship by withdrawing their proposal to the Studentship Competition. If the AHRC receives more than one proposal/nomination for funding we reserve the right to reject all proposals/nominations.

Q7. My organisation has got a BGP, but has not been given any awards in my subject area - can I apply via the Studentship Competition?

No. The AHRC will not accept any Studentship Competition applications from an RO that has been awarded a BGP.

Q8. If I am unsuccessful in the Studentship Competition, can I still be nominated to a BGP studentship?

Yes. If a student is unsuccessful in the Studentship Competition, they can subsequently be nominated to a BGP place. You should contact the Research Organisation at which you wish to study, as they will have their own internal processes. The AHRC plays no part in the Research Organisation's recruitment and selection process.

Q9. If I am unsuccessful in gaining a BGP studentship, can I apply through the Studentship Competition for an award at the same institution?

No. Eligibility to apply in the Studentship Competition is limited to those Research Organisations that do not hold a BGP. The AHRC will not accept proposals in the Studentship Competition from any student who wishes to attend a Research Organisation in receipt of a BGP award.

Q10. What if I have applied to (want to apply to) more than one university?

You can only submit one application or nomination to AHRC, so you need to choose where you want to be considered for funding.

Q11. What happens if an RO submits a nomination form for me without my knowledge, i.e. they assume I wish to apply for funding through their organisation?

This should not happen. The nomination forms need to be filled out jointly by the nominated student and the organisation. Therefore there should never be anything submitted without the other party being aware of it.

Q12. Where can I get the application forms?

The Research Organisation at which you wish to study will have its own recruitment/shortlisting process, so you will need to contact them to find out about their application process.

BGP studentships: BGP ROs will have their own internal application processes. If you are offered a BGP place, you will then have to submit an electronic nomination form to the AHRC through your Research Organisation. The nominations are joint submissions from you and your Research Organisation. You are advised to liaise with them to ensure submission by the deadline.

Studentship Competition: Full guidance is available on our website. Application is made on-line through the Je-S electronic system. Information regarding this is available in the Studentship Competition Guide, available on our website. These are joint submissions from you and your Research Organisation, so you are advised to consult with your Research Organisation closely to ensure submission by the deadline.

Q13. What is the deadline for applications?

You should contact the Research Organisation at which you wish to study to find out about their internal application processes and deadlines.

- **BGP Studentships:** The nominations 'window' to nominate a selected student to the AHRC opens at the end of May 2009 and closes at 4pm on 30th July 2009.
- **Studentship Competition:** Deadline for receipt of proposals is 4pm on 7 May 2009.