

AHRC Postgraduate Funding Opportunities FAQs

1. 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. Universities) in the UK. We have opportunities to study for Doctoral and Masters level qualifications via three schemes:

- Doctoral Award Scheme,
- Research Preparation Master's Scheme
- Professional Preparation Master's Scheme

For each scheme we have academic, residency and scheme requirements that you must fulfil and details of these are available in the Guide to Student Eligibility that is available on our website.

<http://www.ahrc.ac.uk/FundingOpportunities/Documents/Guide%20to%20Student%20Eligibility.pdf>

In previous years, the main route of funding was the postgraduate Open Competition however, for students who wish to start from the 2009 academic year AHRC's main provision of postgraduate funding is being replaced by two different 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 applications to the AHRC for assessment 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.

Whatever the route, Research Organisations will be planning or currently undertaking their own recruitment and shortlisting processes in order to put forward students to the AHRC. Therefore we urge you to contact the Research Organisation at which you wish to study as soon as possible to clarify your position and so you are aware of their processes and timetables.

Please note that **all** students must meet our subject, academic, residency and scheme requirements (see web link above for Guide to Student Eligibility).

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

You need to contact the Research Organisation at which you wish to study to find out about their internal shortlisting processes. Those Research Organisations who are applying to the Studentship Competition will continue to submit joint applications from the student and Research Organisation to the AHRC. Research Organisations with Block Grant Partnership Awards will submit a joint nomination.. A list of Organisations who have a Block Grant Partnership Award is available on our website

<http://www.ahrc.ac.uk/FundingOpportunities/Documents/BGP%20List%20of%20Awards.pdf>.

3. My Research Organisation is awarded a BGP – how do I access funding?

If your Research Organisation has a confirmed BGP you will need to contact them as they will be responsible for advertising and recruiting students to the studentships places they have been awarded under the BGP. Organisations have to undertake open and fair recruitment to these places and they will then nominate the shortlisted students to the AHRC, who will check the nominations to ensure they are eligible before confirming the award.

Research Organisations with a BGP have been offered a specific number of awards (based on their proposal) for specific studentships (Doctoral, Research Preparation Master's and Professional Preparation Master's) in specific subjects in each year of the award. The AHRC does not publish the detail of all the awards made; again you have to contact the organisation at which you wish to study to see what studentships they have available.

Each Research Organisation will have its own internal processes, deadlines and application forms so you must contact them in order to apply for a possible BGP Studentship. If your Research Organisation wishes to nominate you, both you and the Research Organisation will be involved in submitting the nomination form to AHRC.

Please note that the AHRC is not able to directly advertise studentships or act as a broker between potential students and ROs. Students must contact and apply directly to the RO in which they are interested with regards to the availability and selection process for studentships.

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

Proposals made to the AHRC must come through the Research Organisation. It may be helpful to think of it as a 'joint application' 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 applications they can put forward in the Studentship Competition. Therefore applicants must contact their RO as soon as possible as each Research Organisation will have their own processes and deadlines for shortlisting candidates. The AHRC has no part in these internal processes. Please note that the AHRC is not able to act as a broker between potential students and ROs.

Information regarding the Studentship Competition (including guidance notes and deadlines) will be available on our website:

<http://www.ahrc.ac.uk/FundingOpportunities/Pages/StudentshipCompetition.aspx>. All applications must be made through the Joint Electronic Submission system (Je-S) at <https://je-s.rcuk.ac.uk>. Applications are not available to download through our website and can not be emailed or posted in hard copy format.

The deadline for proposals to the AHRC Studentship Competition is 4pm on 7th May 2009.

5. 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 the AHRC were to receive more than one proposal/nomination for funding we reserve the right to reject all proposals/nominations.

6. 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, and will only accept BGP nominations for students who have not submitted a proposal to the Studentship Competition. In addition, it is not permissible for a student to be nominated to a BGP studentship by withdrawing their proposal to the Studentship Competition. If the AHRC were to receive more than one proposal/nomination for funding we reserve the right to reject all proposals/nominations.

7. 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 who has been awarded a BGP.

8. 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 must contact the Research Organisation at which you wish to study in this instance as they will have their own internal processes. The AHRC plays no part in the Research Organisation's recruitment and selection process.

9. If I am unsuccessful in getting a BGP studentship from my institution, 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 who do not hold a BGP. The AHRC will not accept proposals in the Studentship Competition from any student who wishes to attend a RO in receipt of a BGP award.

10. Can I withdraw my application to the Studentship competition in order to be nominated to a BGP place?

No, we will only accept one application or nomination. Once this has been submitted you can not withdraw it in order to submit another application or nomination to AHRC.

11. 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. Organisations have limited opportunity to apply for, or nominate students to the AHRC so you should inform them in good time if you are not intending to take up their offer (or have submitted multiple applications to universities), so the place can be offered to another student. (Deadline for Studentship Competition – 7th May, Nominations can be submitted in June and July)

12. What happens if an RO submits a nomination form for me without my knowledge, i.e. they have assumed that I wish to apply for funding through their organisation and not a different one?

This should not happen as 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.

13. Where can I get the application forms?

It is highly likely that the Research Organisation you wish to study at has its own recruitment/shortlisting process so you will need to contact them to find out about their application process.

BGP studentships: You must contact the Research Organisation you will be attending as they will have their own internal application processes. If you are successful in being offered a BGP place you will then have to submit an electronic nomination form to the AHRC through your Research Organisation via the JeS electronic submission system <https://je-s.rcuk.ac.uk>. The nominations are joint submissions from you and your Research Organisation so you are advised to consult with them closely to ensure submission by the deadline.

Studentship Competition: All applications will be made through the Je-S electronic system <https://je-s.rcuk.ac.uk>. Information regarding this will be available in the Studentship Competition guidance <http://www.ahrc.ac.uk/FundingOpportunities/Documents/BGP%20List%20of%20Awards.pdf>. 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.

14. What is the deadline for applications?

You need to contact the Research Organisation at which you want to study to find out about their own internal application processes and deadlines, and work with them to submit the application or nomination.

- BGP Studentships: Nominations to AHRC 'open' at the end of May 2009 and must be received by 4pm on 30th July 2009.
- Studentship Competition: Deadline for receipt of AHRC proposals is 4pm on 7 May 2009.