



Arts & Humanities  
Research Council

To Heads of Schools and Deans of Faculties in the Arts and Humanities

28 November 2006

Dear Colleague

AHRC research training funding

I am writing to inform you about the AHRC's research training funding for 2006-07. In addition, this letter includes details of our plans for the future in this area. I would be grateful if you could pass this information to all relevant members of your institution.

#### **2006-07 Research Training Payment**

For the academic year 2006–07, the AHRC will make a doctoral research training payment of £700 for every new and continuing AHRC-funded doctoral award-holder from October 2006 onwards. Institutions can again use this funding to support **both specialist and transferable skills training**, according to the needs of the particular student cohort.

The money is intended to assist departments and institutions in meeting the requirements of the AHRC's research training framework. A copy of this is enclosed for information. The framework places the emphasis on training being provided which is based around an individual students' needs, via a 'menu' of research training provision from which the elements that meet the student's requirements can be selected. In accordance with this tailored approach, we will not be stipulating what proportion of the funds should be used either for specialist or transferable skills, nor will we be specifying a minimum period of dedicated research training per student.

Funds will be paid to your institution's finance office in December 2006. We expect institutions to use the funds to develop and enhance their research training provision for all AHRC-funded doctoral students, but also to make the training available to all relevant arts and humanities doctoral students – including those not in receipt of AHRC funding – as appropriate. Institutions will receive one annual payment calculated on the basis of the number of doctoral students holding an AHRC award (including part-time and fees-only students). Institutions will receive up to three annual payments in respect of each standard doctoral award holder and four for award holders with an extended doctoral award. For part-time award holders whose award lasts longer than three years, the institution will receive payments during the first three years of the award. If a student's award has been suspended when the payment is made in December, the payment will be held over until her/his return.

Please note that the funding is made to the institution to cover training for all eligible students: it is not intended that the funds should go directly to the individual students concerned. We expect that those staff members who have responsibility for managing and delivering research training for doctoral students will work with their institution's finance office to ensure funding is made available for training at the appropriate time.

### **Changes to research training payments from 2007-08 onwards**

In order to ensure a consistent approach across all disciplines and to minimise the administrative burden placed on institutions, from October 2007 the AHRC's research training funding should be used **entirely for generic skills training**, in line with the funding provided by other Research Councils. The research training payment will also increase, to £800 for the academic year 2007-08 and £850 for 2008-09.

Alongside this, the AHRC will join RCUK's Roberts Skills Monitoring as of June 2007. RCUK currently requires institutions to provide the following reports:

- summary reporting of finances and short description of the changes facilitated by the availability of the Roberts funding and highlighting the innovative nature of the change
- reporting on practices facilitated by the Roberts funding via an online database.

Details are available on the RCUK website at:  
<http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/rescareer/rcdu/training.htm>

As a result, we will no longer require departments submitting applications in the doctoral scheme to provide Research Training Statements. We will, however, continue to operate monitoring of training provision through annual and end-of-award reports submitted by AHRC doctoral award holders. This will provide reassurance that individual award holders are receiving the training they require and will allow us to address any serious concerns.

The AHRC has a continued commitment to subject-specific training and we expect the Collaborative Research Training Scheme to become the primary mechanism through which subject-specific training will be supported. We will ensure that the scheme is reviewed and developed to ensure that it is fit-for-purpose.

### **Consultation and Review**

Finally, the AHRC will conduct a major review of the research training landscape and its own research training provision in early 2007, which will inform future policy in this area. In particular, we expect the outcomes to feed into:

- a revised version of the AHRC's Research Training Framework
- the development of the AHRC's training monitoring policy and integration with RCUK
- future development of the Collaborative Research Training scheme
- the integration of research training policy and provision into future funding mechanisms adopted by the AHRC's Postgraduate Programmes.

If you have any questions regarding the content of this letter, then in the first instance, please contact Emma Carey, Postgraduate Programme Manager ([e.carey@ahrc.ac.uk](mailto:e.carey@ahrc.ac.uk))

Yours sincerely

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