

Cardiff DLA guidance for applicants

Cardiff University welcomes applications for 3 fully funded PhD studentships, funded through the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) Doctoral Landscape Awards (DLA) scheme. We welcome applicants from the UK and overseas with evidence of exceptional promise for PhD study. Successful applicants to these awards will have a compelling research project that will benefit from the expertise we can offer in and across a range of subjects in the Arts and Humanities.

Cardiff University offers a thriving and vibrant Arts and Humanities research environment in which to undertake postgraduate research. Researchers across ten Schools in the College of Arts and Humanities (detailed below), alongside colleagues in the Welsh School of Architecture, undertake high quality research which has impact locally, nationally, and internationally.

Through the Wales DLA hub, Cardiff University DLA students also benefit from a unique enhanced training programme designed to develop the disciplinary, multi-disciplinary, and interpersonal skills required by researchers and professionals in the Arts and Humanities.

Studentship value and length

The studentship includes tuition fees, a stipend set at UKRI rates (£20,780 at 2025-26 rates) and access to additional funding to support research and training needs.

The difference in fees between home and international students will be covered by the award. This means that international candidates will not be expected to cover this cost and will be fully funded but need to be aware that they will be required to cover the cost of their student visa, healthcare surcharge and other costs of moving to the UK to do a PhD.

The studentship duration is for a minimum of 3.5 years and a maximum of 4 years, depending on the training needs of the researcher and the requirements of the project (for example, including a placement). The duration of the funding will be determined after awards are made and will not inform the allocation of awards.

Eligible projects

The scheme is an open competition, which means that applicants design their own project. This must fall under the remit of the subjects funded by the AHRC. This encompasses a broad range of Arts and Humanities subjects, including Archaeology, History, Languages, Literatures, Linguistics, Philosophy, Human Geography, Theology, Law, Political Science, Music, Media and Architecture, amongst others. A full list of AHRC subjects can be found [here](#).

Applicant eligibility

We welcome applications from full-time and part-time applicants from the UK or abroad (applicants from the EU are included as international students). A maximum of one international studentship from the three available in each cycle can be funded, in line with UKRI guidance.

Students in full-time employment during their PhD are not eligible for a studentship. A student in part-time employment during their PhD may be eligible for a part-time award; part-time study should not be less than 50% of full-time.

The award of studentships to international applicants is conditional upon their obtaining any necessary visas or permits to study in the UK and applicants should satisfy the UKRI eligibility requirements set out [here](#).

Successful applicants will be expected to be resident in the UK for the duration of their studies and living within a reasonable distance of Cardiff University, except for periods of fieldwork, placements, or research-related travel.

We are committed to supporting a diverse and inclusive postgraduate researcher community and welcome applications from under-represented groups.

How to develop your proposal and apply

Once you have decided the broad area in which you would like to develop your research proposal, you should find a potential lead supervisor at Cardiff University. You can do this by looking through the research profiles of staff in your chosen school, or by reaching out to the Director of Postgraduate Research in the School (details below). You should discuss your proposal with your potential supervisor. Your chosen supervisor will be asked to confirm their support for your project as part of the selection process, so it is important that you approach them before applying.

Once you have confirmation of support from a potential supervisor and you have completed your research proposal, you should **submit a formal application via the Direct Application Service for the relevant PhD programme, along with supporting documentation normally required by that programme**. The relevant school will be able to support you in this process.

In addition to providing evidence to meet the standard School programme entry requirements, you should also complete and upload an additional form providing information specific to the DLA . This contains a statement outlining your potential and aptitude for study and a statement outlining the fit of your project to your chosen School at Cardiff (guidance is set out below). This should be uploaded to the Miscellaneous Information 'Supporting Documentation' section of the University online application form. In

the funding section of the standard University application form, you should note that you wish to be considered for the AHRC DLA. Your completed application (including all supporting documentation) should be submitted via the direct application system by **January 29th 2026.**

Applications may be submitted in Welsh or English.

Incomplete or late applications will not be accepted.

Shortlisted applicants will be invited to interview in April 2026. Applicants can choose to be interviewed in English or Welsh.

School contacts

School	Website	Director of Postgraduate Research	PGR administrator
Cardiff Business School	Cardiff Business School - Cardiff University	Professor Marco Hauptmeier: hauptmeierm@cardiff.ac.uk	CARBS-ResearchOffice@cardiff.ac.uk
School of English, Communication and Philosophy	School of English, Communication and Philosophy - Cardiff University	Professor Sara Pons-Sanz: Pons-SanzS@cardiff.ac.uk	Encap-pg@cardiff.ac.uk
School of Geography and Planning	School of Geography and Planning - Cardiff University	Professor Oleg Golubchikov: GolubchikovO@cardiff.ac.uk	GandPenquires@cardiff.ac.uk
School of History, Archaeology and Religion	School of History, Archaeology and Religion - Cardiff University	Dr Mansur Ali: AliMM1@cardiff.ac.uk	SHARE-PGR@cardiff.ac.uk
School of Journalism, Media and Culture	School of Journalism, Media and Culture - Cardiff University	Dr Tom Allbeson: AllbesonT@cardiff.ac.uk	jomec-pgr@cardiff.ac.uk

School of Law and Politics	School of Law and Politics - Cardiff University	Dr Nicolas Ryder: RyderN@cardiff.ac.uk	lawpol-pgr@cardiff.ac.uk
School of Modern Languages	School of Modern Languages - Cardiff University	Dr Cristina Marinetti: MarinettiC@cardiff.ac.uk	mlang-pgr@cardiff.ac.uk
School of Music	School of Music - Cardiff University	Professor Caroline Rae: Rae@cardiff.ac.uk	MUSIC-PGR@cardiff.ac.uk
School of Social Sciences	School of Social Sciences - Cardiff University	Professor Dean Stroud: StroudDA1@cardiff.ac.uk	Graduate Studies Office graduateoffice@cardiff.ac.uk
School of Welsh	School of Welsh - Cardiff University	Professor Diarmit Mac Giolla Christ: macgiollachriostd@cardiff.ac.uk	MyfyrwyrCymraeg@cardiff.ac.uk
Welsh School of Architecture	Welsh School of Architecture - Cardiff University	Dr Vicki Stevenson: StevensonV@cardiff.ac.uk	ARCHI-research@cardiff.ac.uk

Guidance for completing the additional DLA statement

Potential and aptitude for doctoral study (300 words)

Applicants will need to evidence potential and aptitude for PhD study. A completed first degree is a requirement for a studentship. To be eligible for a Cardiff DLA studentship you should normally have, or be studying for, a Master's degree or similar postgraduate qualification. If you do not have experience of formal postgraduate study, you should be able to evidence other ways in which your professional, voluntary, or other experience has prepared you for PhD-level study of your proposed research topic. Potential and aptitude for study may be evidenced by some or all of the following criteria:

- outstanding undergraduate and/or taught postgraduate degree results
- professional qualifications
- significant work or voluntary experience in a relevant area
- elements of the research proposal itself that show how the applicant has already begun their preparation or how previous experience will be used academically

- published work

Grade	Descriptor
5	Exceptional, showing outstanding aptitude and promise
4.5	
4	Excellent, showing a high degree of aptitude and promise
3.5	
3	Good, showing clear aptitude and promise
2.5	
2	Acceptable, showing some aptitude and promise but leaving room for doubt
1.5	
1	Weak, showing little or no aptitude or promise

Project fit to Cardiff (300 words)

It is important that your project fits the research specialisms at Cardiff, to ensure you have the best possible support in place. You should outline how your planned project aligns with the research strengths and priorities in your chosen School/ department/ research group within the School. You should also outline how the research of your proposed supervisory team meshes with your research proposal.

Grade	Descriptor
5	Exceptional, showing outstanding alignment with the School and supervisory team
4.5	
4	Excellent, showing a high degree of alignment with the School and supervisory team
3.5	
3	Good, showing alignment with the School and supervisory team
2.5	
2	Acceptable, but showing an under-developed alignment with the School and supervisory team
1.5	
1	Weak, showing little alignment with the School and supervisory team

Help and support

There will be a webinar on Monday December 1st (2.30-3.30pm) to respond to any questions applicants may have. [Register for the event](#)

You can also contact the Director of Postgraduate Research in your chosen School (listed above). Once you have identified your potential supervisor, they can help you develop your application.

If you have other queries, you can contact the DLA Lead, Dr Liz Wren-Owens (wren-owensEA@cardiff.ac.uk).

Application timeline

Application system opens	October 2025
Open webinar to respond to applicant queries	1 December 2025, 2.30-3.30pm
Application deadline	29 January 2026
Applicant interviews	April 2026
Notification of awards	May 2026