AHRC Doctoral Landscape Award – Frequently Asked Questions

Award Details

What does the award cover?

The award covers tuition fees (at the home rate), UKRI stipend (approx. £20,780 per year), and research/training costs. Further details can be found here: https://www.ukri.org/what-we-offer/develop-your-career/doctoral-training/

How long is the funding period?

The studentship typically lasts 3.5–4 years, depending on the project needs.

Which subjects are eligible?

The project should be in the disciplines under the Arts and Humanities Research Council remit. The full list is here: https://www.ukri.org/councils/ahrc/

Eligibility

Can international students apply?

Yes, up to one out of the three awards can be awarded to an international student. Cardiff waives the fee difference for successful international candidates.

Does the award cover visa or relocation costs?

No, applicants must cover visa, healthcare surcharge, and relocation expenses.

Can I study part-time?

Yes, but study must be at a minimum 50% of that of full-time. Full-time employment is not allowed.

Can I apply if I've already started a PhD?

No. UKRI does not accept applications from students who have already begun their study.

For more information on the scheme, visit: https://www.cardiff.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/research/funded-doctoral-centres/funding-opportunities-by-research-area/ahrc-algorithmic-grant/arts-and-humanities-research-council-ahrc-doctoral-landscape-awards-dla-scheme-phd-studentships

Do I need a Master's degree?

A Master's is one way of showing preparedness for study, but you can also evidence this in other ways, such as professional experience, volunteering, or previous research/work in the area.

Application Process

How do I apply?

You need to develop a research proposal with a Cardiff supervisor, then apply via Cardiff's system: https://www.cardiff.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/applying/how-to-apply and upload the AHRC DLA form under to the Miscellaneous Information 'Supporting Documentation' section of the University online application form.

What is the deadline?

29 January 2026. Interviews will take place in April; award notifications will be in May.

Where do I send documents if I already have an offer?

Send your proposal and a copy of your AHRC DLA Application form to your school's postgraduate administration team and copy in the relevant Director of Postgraduate Research. Please see Key contacts for a list of these by School.

Selection Process

How are candidates selected?

Schools rank applications and submit up to two to a university panel. Three awards are made from this top-ranked group.

How many applicants are interviewed?

Up to 22 (up to two per eligible school).

What happens at the interview?

You will discuss your research proposal and your preparedness for study. Guidance on the interview will be provided in advance to shortlisted applicants.

Research & Supervision

Can I have supervisors from different universities?

Core supervisors must be at Cardiff. External advisors from other institutions are allowed.

What if I can't find a supervisor?

Your project may not align with Cardiff's expertise, and you may want to consider other institutions.

Is interdisciplinary research allowed?

Yes, but a 'home' school where the research largely sits will be required for administrative purposes.

Funding & Costs

Does the stipend cover accommodation?

Yes, it is intended to cover living costs, including accommodation.

Are fieldwork and overseas data collection funded?

Funding is available for fieldwork. You would need to demonstrate any costs associated to overseas data collection are reasonable and essential.

Other Common Questions

Can I submit two proposals?

Yes, if both are accepted by relevant schools.

Is there flexibility on word limits for the additional form?

Up to 10% over the limit is acceptable.

What if my IELTS (English Language qualification) certificate will not be available until after the application deadline?

Check with your school; some may accept interim evidence.

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