

AHRC Doctoral Training Partnership Open Studentship Competition 2025-26 entry

Guidance Notes for Applicants

Before sending an application, you must first contact the subject lead - details noted below. This is to ensure a supervisor can be identified to support your research – you may wish to first search our [Research Database](#) using keywords relating to your subject, to identify a potential supervisor.

It would also be helpful for the subject lead to receive a brief summary of your intended topic or project, or you may decide to write a [research proposal](#) to further strengthen your initial approach. Also see information below 'Research Proposal and Impact'.

Subject Leads:

Archaeology - [Orkney College UHI](#), Orkney: Professor Jane Downes – Jane.Downes@uhi.ac.uk

Gaelic Language/Celtic Studies - [Sabhal Mòr Ostaig UHI](#), Isle of Skye: Abigail Burnyeat – ab2.smo@uhi.ac.uk

History – [Centre for History](#), Executive Office UHI, Inverness: Dr Philippa Woodcock – Philippa.Woodcock@uhi.ac.uk

Northern Studies - [Orkney College UHI](#), Orkney: Dr Andrew Lind – Andrew.Lind@uhi.ac.uk

Theology - [Highland Theological College UHI](#), Dingwall: Professor Mark Elliott – Mark.Elliott@uhi.ac.uk

The application process:

The application process will be in two stages - Stage 1: Application for an academic offer and Stage 2: Application for SGSAH studentship. Receiving an academic offer does not guarantee that SGSAH funding will be secured at the later stage.

It is the applicant's responsibility to complete the application form in full and ensure it is returned **electronically by email, with all attachments in a single file**, by the deadline of **Midday GMT 28 October 2024** to gradresearch@uhi.ac.uk

Please note:

- Incomplete applications will not be considered. It is imperative, therefore, that all attachments are submitted with the application as a single file by email.
- If references are not available by the time of application submission, these can be sent through separately, however applicants are responsible for ensuring these are submitted to gradresearch@uhi.ac.uk by the above deadline.
- Applications received after the deadline will not be considered.
- Applicants should adhere to the prescribed word limits seen on the application form.
- Applicants making multiple applications, and who wish to apply for a studentship in more than one subject area, must submit a separate studentships application to each discipline.

Attachments required:

- Copies of all official qualification certificates and transcripts, if your official certificates/transcripts are not in English, they must be accompanied by a full certified translation provided by a professional translator/translation company.

- If English is not your native language, an English language test certificate is required - IELTS or equivalent - with overall score of 6.5 and no element below 6.0. Please note that English language tests need to have been taken no more than two years prior to the start date of the PhD.
- If you are not a UK national, a copy of the photo page of your passport, also include any pages which indicate a right of abode in the UK if you have EU pre-settled or settled status. If you are shortlisted for interview, we will ask you to provide us with a share code so we can confirm your EU Settlement Status.
- 2 academic references. Continuing PhD students should obtain up-to-date references from their current supervisors.

Eligibility:

- Open to candidates world-wide. See [UKRI's Terms and Conditions of training grant](#).
- Continuing PhD students may apply and at least 50% of the supervised study period should be remaining as of 30 September 2025. Funding will only be available for this remaining period. Scholarships are not available to continuing students at the writing up or thesis pending/submitted for examination stage.
- For applicants who do not require a visa to study, Part-time is an option, with a minimum of 50% of full-time effort. Fees and stipend will be pro-rata.
- To be nominated for a Scholarship, applicants must hold an offer of a place on a relevant University of the Highlands and Islands PhD degree programme.

Applicants should note that the following criteria will be considered when assessing applications:

- The project proposal (in terms of originality, rigour, significance and feasibility).
- Previous qualifications and/or professional experience (including prizes and distinctions) and preparedness in terms of the project.
- The project's fit in terms of supervisory expertise, resources and environment.
- References.

Research Proposal and Impact:

When describing the impact your research might have, you should consider more broadly who, both within and beyond academia, may be interested in and/or benefit by your research and its findings and describe what methods you might use to engage with these people or groups during and after your research.

You might find these questions helpful in thinking about impact:

- What is happening (or not happening) now that you think your research findings could help to change?
- Who might be interested or involved in delivering or experiencing the change that may happen because of your findings?
- Why would these communities be interested? How might they benefit?
- How will you engage/communicate/network with these communities?
- How would you demonstrate/evidence any changes and the link back to your research findings, bearing in mind that you will be able to apply for funding to develop impact?

Please also refer to [SGSAH Guidance document](#) for further information.