



UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

AHRC DOCTORAL TRAINING PARTNERSHIP (DTP) 2017-18 AHRC DTP studentships – guidance notes

AHRC Doctoral Training Partnerships (DTPs):

Since 2014 the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) has directed the majority of its postgraduate funding into Doctoral Training Partnerships (DTPs). DTPs are block grant awards made to either individual Research Organisations (ROs), or consortia of ROs, to support postgraduate studentships across the breadth of the AHRC's subject remit.

Oxford's DTP provides an innovative training environment for doctoral level research, with the opportunity for doctoral students to undertake broader training or development opportunities, such as language learning, overseas research visits, or placements with non-academic partners.

Applications:

All eligible graduate applicants to Oxford faculties and departments which fall within the [AHRC's subject coverage](#) **will automatically be considered for funding by Oxford's AHRC DTP**. (Applicants do not need to submit a separate application in order to be considered for a studentship.)

For information on submitting a graduate application to Oxford, please consult the Graduate Admissions website: <http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/applying-to-oxford>.

Please note that you must apply by the **January 2017** deadline relevant to your chosen course to be considered for an AHRC DTP studentship. Please consult the relevant course page of the Graduate Admissions website for the specific deadline relevant to submitting your application.

Eligibility for Oxford AHRC DTP studentships:

A student's eligibility depends on academic and residency criteria.

(i) Academic criteria: you should normally have gained an undergraduate degree from a recognised Higher Education Institution. You are also normally expected to have been awarded, or to be studying for, a Master's degree or similar postgraduate qualification. You are advised to consult the entry requirements specific to your chosen course for more detailed information. Students who have already obtained a doctoral qualification are not eligible for AHRC DTP support.

(ii) Residency criteria: you must be ordinarily resident in the UK (for a full award covering fees and maintenance), or another European Union country (for a fees-only award). Overseas students are not eligible for AHRC DTP studentships. If you have queries about your residential eligibility, please contact ahrccomp@admin.ox.ac.uk.

EU students commencing a postgraduate course at the University of Oxford in October 2017 will be charged tuition fees at the same rate as UK students. EU students eligible for public

(Research Councils UK / AHRC) support under current rules will continue to be eligible if commencing graduate courses in 2017-18 and will continue to receive such support for the duration of their courses. Please consult <http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/eureferendum> for the latest Oxford-specific information following the EU referendum result.

Part-time applications are accepted where there is a part-time pathway available for your chosen course.

Research proposal:

All graduate applicants eligible for AHRC DTP studentships are assessed on the basis of their application for graduate study and its supporting materials. A key part of your graduate application is your research proposal. When preparing your research proposal, consider:

- The **research questions**, issues or problems that will be addressed in the course of your research. What kind of aims and objectives does your research have in terms of seeking to enhance knowledge and understanding relating to the questions, issues or problems to be addressed?
- You should also specify a **research context** for the questions, issues or problems to be addressed by your work. You should specify why it is important that these particular questions, issues or problems should be addressed, and explore what other research is being or has been conducted in this area. Furthermore, it is important that you show what particular contribution the project will make to the advancement of creativity, insights, knowledge and understanding in this research context.
- You should also specify the **research methods** for addressing and answering your research questions, issues or problems. You should state how, in the course of the research project, you will seek to answer the questions, address the issues or solve the problems. You should also explain the rationale for the chosen research methods and why they provide the most appropriate means by which to address the research questions, issues or problems.
- If your proposed research features creative work, your creative output, or practice undertaken, can be integral parts of your research process. You should accompany this practice with some form of documentation of the research process, as well as some form of textual analysis or explanation to support its position and to demonstrate critical reflection. Creativity or practice which involves no such processes is not eligible for support from the AHRC. For research to be considered as practice-led, your own practice must be an integral part of the proposed project, and you should make the creative and/or performative aspects of the research explicit. The research carried out should bring about enhancements in knowledge and understanding in the discipline, or in related disciplinary areas. Research to provide content is not considered practice-led research in this context.
- Furthermore, your application should show how your previous experience and preparation will enable you to complete a doctorate. It should also show consideration of the skills required for completion of the proposed research, with any training needs identified and understood.

If you have further queries, please see AHRC Studentship FAQs on the Humanities website: <http://www.humanities.ox.ac.uk/ahrc-doctoral-training-partnership>