

WRDTP Studentship Awards 2024/25 - call for nominations

The White Rose DTP is a regional consortium of seven universities with social science research excellence and involves the universities of Sheffield, Leeds and York as well as Bradford, Hull, Manchester Metropolitan and Sheffield Hallam. The WRDTP has been accredited by the ESRC to offer PhD scholarships across a range of schemes, and in 2024/25 the following awards will be open for application from students:

- up to 32 WRDTP Pathway Awards, incorporating 2 Interdisciplinary Research Awards and 2 WRDTP/Stuart Hall Foundation Awards for Black British applicants
- up to 2 WRDTP Advanced Quantitative Methods (AQM) Awards
- up to 2 WRDTP Advanced Data Analytics (ADA) Awards

There will also be up to 7 Collaborative Awards made to supervisory teams for projects involving collaboration with an external partner. Supervisors will apply for these awards, and those projects that are awarded funding will be open for applications from students in early Spring 2024. Further information about the Collaborative Awards can be found on the WRDTP [website](#) and the [Additional Information for Supervisors and Nominating Universities](#) section below.

Further information about each of the award schemes can be found on the WRDTP [website](#), and in the guidance documents below. All awards are available on a 1+3.5, +3.75 or a +3.5 basis, and can be held full-time or part-time.

- [WRDTP Pathway, AQM and Data Skills Awards - Guidance for Applicants](#)
- [WRDTP Studentship and Training FAQs](#)

Funding Available

Each student will receive an annual stipend based on the ESRC's current [studentship rates](#). In 2023/24, the annual stipend was £18,622. Updated rates will be published in early 2024. This will be paid for the duration of the funding period. Full home tuition fees will be paid for the duration of the funded period.

International candidates are welcome to apply to both the Pathway, AQM and ADA Award schemes (but please note that the Stuart Hall Foundation Awards are open to Black British applicants only).

The ESRC limits the proportion of awards available to international applicants to 30%, which means that the WRDTP cannot offer any more than 30% of its awards to international candidates. To manage this, each of the seven universities has a limit on the number of international applications that it puts forward to the WRDTP. If you are an international candidate, you should speak to your school or department to find out more about any selection processes that may be in place.

Eligible schools/departments

The WRDTP comprises seven partner universities, and within each of these universities there are a number of departments or schools eligible to make studentship nominations. These are listed on our [website](#). **To be eligible for a WRDTP award, applicants must hold an offer for a PhD place in an eligible school or department, and must be intending to undertake a social sciences research project that is within the ESRC's remit.**

Thematic Interdisciplinary Training Pathways

Reflecting our emphasis on tackling the greatest challenges facing global society, the WRDTP is organised around seven Thematic Interdisciplinary Training Pathways. These are detailed in full on our [website](#), and applications must be able to articulate their fit with at least one of the pathways.

Stuart Hall Foundation Awards for Black British Applicants

The WRDTP is delighted to continue working with the Stuart Hall Foundation (SHF) to support two studentships for Black British applicants. The WRDTP is keen to address historic structural inequalities in education through its partnership with SHF, and welcomes applications from Black British applicants. Further information can be found on our [website](#).

Assessment Criteria

The WRDTP's assessment criteria can be found on our [website](#).

Process - Pathway/AQM/ADS Awards

The nomination process requires several pieces of documentation to be combined and submitted to the WRDTP as a single PDF document (this is referred to as the 'nomination pack'). Some of this documentation will be completed or provided by the applicant, and some will be completed by the supervisors and department/school. Applicants therefore should ensure that they allow sufficient time to liaise with potential supervisors in the relevant department or school:

1. WRDTP Studentship Application Form (completed by the applicant)
2. WRDTP Nomination Form (completed by the nominating university)
3. Copy of letter confirming place on the PhD in an eligible school or department
4. Degree transcripts. These should include details of the modules taken. Where applicants are currently studying for a degree, interim transcripts should be provided wherever possible.

The PDF file name must follow a specific nomenclature:

Surname_Initial_HEI_Pathway_competition e.g., Jones_M_Sheffield_CEL_AQM

The following table summarises the WRDTP's key dates and deadlines. **Please note that applications are NOT submitted to the WRDTP directly. All applications are submitted to the relevant partner university who then makes a submission to the WRDTP.**

Applicants must observe any processes or deadlines that the individual department, school or university has in place for assessing applications, so applicants are advised to make contact with their school or department at an early stage to discuss their application. Late applications are not accepted.

Timeline - Pathway/AQM/ADS Awards

Date	Who	Process
October 2023	WRDTP Office	WRDTP announces 2024/25 Studentship Competition
Autumn Semester 2023	Applicants and supervisors	Information sessions providing application guidance for students and supervisors (see below)
Late Autumn 2023	Universities	HEI systems go live for student applications
17:00, 24 January 2024	Applicants	Deadline for student applications
25 January – 21 February 2024	Units of Delivery (Depts/Schools)	Departments/schools will shortlist, interview candidates and compile WRDTP nomination packs on behalf of their chosen candidates
17:00, 21 February 2024	Units of Delivery (Depts/Schools)	Deadline for WRDTP nomination packs to be submitted by departments/schools to the nominated WRDTP link administrator at their institution
26 February – 8 March 2024	WRDTP Office	WRDTP office allocates the nominations received to assessors for scoring
11 March – 22 March 2024	Assessors	Assessors score the nominations
25 March – 3 April 2024	WRDTP Office	WRDTP office processes the scores and prepares for the panel meetings
4 April 2024 (am)	WRDTP Academic Quality Committee	Academic Quality Committee Moderation Assessment Panel meets
4 April 2024 (pm)	WRDTP Advanced Quantitative Methods Group	Advanced Quantitative Methods Moderation Assessment Panel meets
4 April 2024 (pm)	WRDTP	WRDTP shares a shortlist of candidates with the academic committee of the Stuart Hall Foundation, with a recommendation from the AQC as to who should get the WRDTP/SHF Pathway Awards

12:00 – 11 April 2024	SHF Academic Committee	The SHF academic committee shares their approval/recommendations with the WRDTP
w/c 15 April 2024	WRDTP Office	WRDTP link administrators are notified of the studentship competition results
26 April 2024	WRDTP Link Administrators	Deadline for WRDTP link administrators to notify all applicants of the outcome of their studentship application

Applicant Information Sessions

Applicants who are interested in the WRDTP Pathway, AQM and ADA Awards are invited to attend an information session for guidance on the application process. There will also be an information session for Black British applicants who are interested in applying for a WRDTP/Stuart Hall Foundation Award. These will be held online on the following dates:

Pathway, AQM and ADA Awards:

- Wednesday 15 November 2023: 17:30 – 18:30

Stuart Hall Foundation Awards (open to Black British applicants only):

- Tuesday 21 November 2023: 17:30 – 18:30

To book your place on a session, please follow this [link](#).

All sessions will run on a virtual basis, via Zoom. You will receive a reminder email with the link to your session, nearer the time of your workshop. If you can't attend your preferred session(s) but would like to receive further information, please indicate this via the form. Slides/recordings from the event will be posted on our website in due course, and you will be emailed once these are available.

Drop-in sessions

Two drop-in sessions will be offered as a follow-up to the information sessions detailed above. These will be held on the following dates:

- For academic supervisors - Tuesday 28 November, 10:00 – 11:00
- For student applicants - Tuesday 28 November, 17:30 – 18:30

The purpose of these sessions will be to offer an opportunity for supervisors/students to ask questions about the studentships schemes and application processes following the substantive content provided in the information sessions.

A link to register your interest in the drop in sessions will follow.

Further Information

Your local university's WRDTP link administrator is responsible for liaising with you on WRDTP studentship matters. Contacts at each university can be found on our [website](#).

For general enquiries contact enquiries@wrctp.ac.uk.

WRDTP
October 2023

Additional Information for Supervisors and Nominating Universities

Specific guidance documents for supervisors and nominating universities can be found below (please note that these should be read in conjunction with [WRDTP Pathway, AQM and Data Skills Awards - Guidance for Applicants](#) and [WRDTP Studentship and Training FAQs](#)):

- [WRDTP Pathway, AQM and Data Skills Awards - Guidance for Supervisors and Nominating Universities](#)
- [WRDTP Collaborative Awards - Guidance for Applicants](#)

Studentship Match Funding

WRDTP awards are offered on either a fully funded (100% - AQM Awards, ADA Awards and Collaborative Awards) or match-funded (50% - Pathway Awards) basis. The table below shows the approximate value of full/match-funded studentships based on current rates for Home fees and the maintenance stipend (note: fees and stipend increase annually with new rates confirmed by UKRI in spring each year).

100%	100%	100%	50%	50%	50%
+3.5 award	+3.75 award	1+3.5 award	+3.5 award	+3.75 award	1+3.5 award
£89,864	£95,698	£113,198	£44,933	£47,849	£56,600

Please note that individual universities are required to ‘top up’ the difference between Home and International fees, and the ESRC limits the proportion of awards we can make to international applicants to 30% of the total number of awards per cohort. Schools/departments should speak to their institution’s WRDTP AQC member(s) to confirm the process for nominating international candidates for a WRDTP studentship.

Universities are expected to have robust assessment processes in place to assess international candidates, which use the WRDTP’s own assessment criteria for decision making.

Additional training support funds:

The WRDTP holds the RTSG - **Research Training Support Grant**. Students can request RTSG funds to support their research activities and should apply directly to their HEI for funds. Typically, no more than £2,000 will be available per student over the lifetime of their PhD (funds are not available during the Masters year of a 1+3 award). These monies are not to be considered a

personal allowance but are pooled to allow for greater flexibility in meeting the needs of the student cohort as a whole.

Process - Pathway, AQM, ADA Awards

Please ensure that any internal processes or deadlines are clearly communicated to applicants and are published on relevant webpages, e.g., PGR scholarship webpages.

Process and Timelines - Collaborative Awards

Project supervisors are required to submit the following documentation in their application:

- **WRDTP Collaborative Award Proposal Form - online, via [Google Form](#)**

All partner universities will run an internal process of peer review for the Collaborative Awards scheme, given the highly competitive nature of this competition. Details of the internal review process will be announced locally by each university. When submitting a collaborative award application, you will be required to confirm that your application has been subjected to internal peer review at your own university. Failure to engage with the internal peer review process may result in the disqualification of your application.

Date	Who	Process
Nov 2023	WRDTP Office	WRDTP announces 2023/24 Studentship Competition
Autumn semester 2023	Academic colleagues	Information session for supervisors (see below)
Nov - Dec 2023	HEIs and academic colleagues	Internal peer review of Collaborative Award applications, details to be announced locally
12:00, 5 Jan 2024	Units of Delivery (Depts/Schools)	Deadline for Proposal Forms to be submitted (see wrdtp.ac.uk for details)
10 - 19 Jan 2024	Academic Quality Committee	Assessors to score nominations
22 - 26 Jan 2024	WRDTP Office	Processing scores and preparing for Panel meetings
31 Jan 2024	Academic Quality Committee	Academic Quality Committee Moderation Panel meets
w/c 5 Feb 2024	WRDTP Office	Collaborative Awards announced

Feb - Mar 2024	Academic colleagues	Successful Collaborative Award holders set own local deadline and advertise studentships, shortlist and interview
12:00, 10 April 2024	WRDTP Link Administrators	Student nomination packs completed/submitted to WRDTP Office for quality assurance checking and assessment
10:00, 22 April 2024	Academic Quality Committee	Sub panel of AQC members to review all international student nominations for Collaborative Award projects and confirm the successful award holders
End of April 2024 or ASAP after that date	WRDTP Link Administrators	Applicants notified of result

Pathway, AQM and ADA Award Information Session for staff/potential supervisors

University staff who would like to find out more about the WRDTP's Pathway, AQM and ADA Awards are invited to attend an information session for guidance on assisting students through the application process. The session will be held online on the following date:

Pathway, AQM and ADA Awards (open to university staff only):

- Wednesday 15 November 2023: 14:00 – 15:00

Collaborative Award Information Sessions for academic supervisors

Academic colleagues who are interested in submitting a proposal to the Collaborative Awards competition will be invited to attend an online information session for guidance on the process. This will be held online on the following date:

- Tuesday 24 October 2023: 14:00 – 15:00

To book your place on a session, please follow [this link](#).

All sessions will run on a virtual basis, via Zoom. You will receive a reminder email with the link to your session, nearer the time of your workshop.

If you can't attend your preferred session(s) but would like to receive further information, please indicate this via the form. Slides/recordings from the event will be posted on our website in due course, and you will be emailed once these are available.

Drop-in sessions

Two drop-in sessions will be offered as a follow-up to the information sessions detailed above. These will be held on the following dates:

- For academic supervisors - Thursday 9 November, 13:00 – 14:00
- For student applicants - Tuesday 14 November, 17.30 – 18:30

The purpose of these sessions will be to offer an opportunity for supervisors/students to ask questions about the studentships schemes and application processes following the substantive content provided in the information sessions.

A link to register your interest in the drop in sessions will follow.