

University of Westminster Scholarship Programme

Globally Engaged Research Doctoral Scholarship Scheme 2024-25

Frequently asked questions

Can an application be reviewed and an outcome decided before the call deadline?

No, to ensure equity and fairness all applications will be reviewed following the call deadline.

Please note this includes applications where the budget is based on quotations that may rise when booked at a later date (e.g., flight prices). Please ensure that the costs that are included in the indicative budget are accurate for the time when any bookings will be made.

I received GER funding to present at a conference in the previous academic year, am I eligible to apply for funding again this academic year?

Yes, and in fact doctoral researchers are eligible to apply as many times in the current academic year as desired, however all applications will be reviewed in accordance with the selection criteria outlined in the fund guidance. This specifies that 'towards the end of the year, when there may only be a modest amount of money remaining, applications from those students who have not already been awarded a scholarship in that academic year will be prioritised'.

Can I put in more than one application in a given academic year?

Yes. As above.

I have submitted my thesis; can I apply for GER?

As long as you have not been awarded your Doctorate (meaning you have not yet been through the conferment process) before the activity takes place you are eligible to apply for GER Funding. This includes pre-viva and post-examination while working on amendments or awaiting the outcome of amendments.

I would like to attend a conference but haven't been selected to present, can I apply to the GER Fund?

No, the fund does not cover attendance only.

Can I apply for fieldwork costs via GER?

No. Please consider making an application for the [Professor Geoffrey Petts Memorial Fund](#).

I have submitted an abstract to present at a conference but am awaiting confirmation of whether my paper has been accepted. Can I still apply for a GER Scholarship even if I might hear the outcome after the call deadline?

Yes, please just make the Graduate School aware of this when you submit your GER application. Your application will then be reviewed as part of the call. However, any outcome is provisional until the Graduate School receive confirmation that your paper has been accepted. At this stage we would then issue the Terms and Conditions and arrange the payment of the award.

We are looking to make an application under Category 4, doctoral researcher led training/development, but our proposal is over the maximum. Is this something you would consider given it's a group of us proposing this activity?

In this instance, please get in touch with the Graduate School via studentcentre@westminster.ac.uk to discuss your proposal, providing as much details as possible.

Should I report the real estimated expense in the application form, or should I keep it within the maximum award for the category of funding I am applying for?

Any application we receive which requests more than the maximum award for the given category is immediately discounted. In the budget breakdown you can either demonstrate estimated costs up to the maximum amount or do a complete budget breakdown but indicate you are looking for a contribution towards to overall cost of your activity, which is not more than the fund maximum.

Should I check with my Director of Studies before making an application?

We would always advised this, not least because they are required to sign off Part B of the application form and it is courteous to liaise with them over timelines to ensure that the application is submitted before the deadline (the same applies to the PhD Co-ordinator).

My Director of Studies is also the School PhD Co-ordinator, who shall I send the application too?

In this scenario you would need to request that the application is signed off by the College Research Director. The PhD Co-ordinator will be able to advise you of who holds this position.

What happens next?

All applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application by the Graduate School as per the call timetable.

Successful applicants will be required to:

- Sign and return a terms and conditions form ensuring funds will be spent in line with your application. The same form will ask for your bank details and should be returned to the Scholarships Team.

Depending on when this is returned, funds should be received within 2-3 weeks.

- Submit a report (with photos and/or videos where possible) about your activity within a month of return.

- Submit copies of your receipts which account for the expenditure to the Scholarships team by 31st August.

I haven't spent all the funds I received as part of a successful award, what do I do?

In this instance, please contact the Scholarships Team scholarships@westminster.ac.uk and Graduate School via studentcentre@westminster.ac.uk to arrange repayment of the underspend. This will then go back into the fund and be available to doctoral researchers making future applications.

What happens if the conference that I am speaking at is cancelled after my applications has been successful? Do I need to return the award?

Yes, you will need to arrange to return the award if it has not been spent on the activity outlined in your application. In this instance please contact the Scholarships Team scholarships@westminster.ac.uk and Graduate School via studentcentre@westminster.ac.uk.

We understand that in some instances costs will have been outlaid which are not necessarily refundable, so please get in touch with us with details and we can advise on next steps.