

The Wolfson*
Postgraduate
Scholarships

Terms and conditions
2019/20 cohort

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Introduction

This document is for scholarships commencing in the 2019/20 academic year, and should be made available to scholarship recipients.

A copy of this document is also available at www.wolfson.org.uk/wolfsonscholars

Earlier versions for previous cohorts are available from the Foundation office on request.

Background

The Wolfson Foundation seeks to support excellence. Drawing on its history of support for higher education and interest in the humanities, the Foundation has since 2011 supported a programme funding postgraduate scholarships in the humanities committing some £13 million over this period. The initiative reflects the Foundation's concerns about funding for the humanities and the impact of increased undergraduate student debt on postgraduate studies. The programme aims not only to support outstanding students, but also to make a statement about the value of the humanities to society.

The Foundation is continuing its programme of postgraduate scholarships in the humanities for students commencing their studies in the 2019/20 academic year.

Name of award

The award is known as a 'Wolfson Postgraduate Scholarship in the Humanities' or a 'Wolfson Postgraduate Scholarship', but students may informally be referred to as 'Wolfson Scholars'.

Eligibility

Wolfson Postgraduate Scholarships are available in three disciplines that align closely with the Foundation's interests: history, literature and languages.

The nine host universities were selected based on their REF 2014 Grade Point Average in the five most relevant Units of Assessment. The selected universities are: University College London, University of Birmingham, University of Cambridge, University of Durham, University of Oxford, University of St Andrews, University of Southampton, University of Warwick, and University of York.

Each university is offered three Wolfson Postgraduate Scholarships, and it is generally expected that one will be in each of the three selected disciplines (although this is not a formal condition and we recognise that many research subjects will cover more than one area).

The awards are available for doctoral research only, and will be paid over three years (or up to six years part time). For full-time students, it is expected that students complete their doctorate in three years.

Students should have an outstanding academic record, usually a first class honours degree at undergraduate level and a Master's degree from a recognised university in a cognate field of study to their proposed doctoral research. The intention is that Wolfson Postgraduate Scholarships will be awarded to outstanding students who demonstrate the potential to make an impact on their chosen field and to forge long academic careers. Wolfson Postgraduate Scholarships will be awarded solely on academic merit. Ideally the successful students would aspire to an academic career.

Definition of subject disciplines

The three areas that the programme covers are broadly defined, and we recognise that many research subjects will cover more than one area. Some guidance is provided below, but where further clarification is needed about eligibility of a specific research project, please contact the Foundation.

History

As well as broad-based historical and historiographical studies, this may include such areas as classics, history of art, or architectural history, provided the research is grounded within historical methodology.

Literature

As well as literary and textual studies, this may include research that involves critical theory, theatre, film and other visual media, provided there is a literary element within the research (e.g. translation of literature to screen). This does not include creative writing.

Languages

Research should be in applied languages other than English, rather than linguistics. It may involve the study of literary or historical texts, theatre or film (where these are not in English). Students receiving scholarships under this stream may be based within non-language departments (for example, history or anthropology departments).

Selection, recommendation and approval

The awards are for students beginning their doctoral study at the start of the academic year 2019-20.

The selection of students to be awarded scholarships will be made by each university within the constraints outlined in this document, and formally agreed by the Wolfson Foundation.

Recommendations submitted to the Foundation should include a short summary of the university's assessment and selection methods, and the following supporting information for each nominated student:

- the student's nationality (for the Foundation's statistical purposes only)
- a summary of the student's past degrees and academic achievements
- the subject discipline(s) to which the student's research corresponds (see page 2)
- the title and one paragraph summary of the proposed project
- an expanded outline of the research project (no more than two pages)
- a letter of support from the proposed supervisor (or if this is not possible, a reference from their MA supervisor).

Universities may submit their recommendations via email **from 1 January 2019 and no later than 15 April 2019**.

It is expected that universities will submit their recommendations as soon as is possible following their own internal selection processes.

The Foundation aims to agree recommendations within 14 days of receipt. It is expected that the Foundation will only not agree to a recommendation if it falls outside the eligibility criteria for the programme as outlined in this document.

Failure to enrol

If a student awarded a scholarship does not accept the offer, or subsequently fails to enrol, the university may recommend an alternative to the Foundation for approval.

In the case of nominating an alternative student to the Foundation, the university should provide the requisite supporting information outlined above.

Level of award

The award will cover full fees (including, where relevant, any college fees) and is at a high level in order to cover costs associated with research, travel and training. It also covers costs associated with attending events for the programme organised by the Wolfson Foundation (see page 7 for further details).

The element of the award covering maintenance and research and training costs (i.e. all funds after deduction of tuition and college fees) should be made available to the student to be used at their discretion. The total value of the award is not reviewable on an annual basis and is fixed over the period of the award. Students should receive equal amounts each year (subject to changes due to increases in fees).

Match funding

While match funding is not a formal condition of the award, the Foundation welcomes any additional funding which universities are able to provide to support the programme.

Wolfson funds must represent at least 50% of a student's funding package for the student to hold the named award. With this in mind, it is possible for there to be a minimum of three and a maximum of six Wolfson Scholars in any given cohort.

Other awards

A student may accept other awards during the course of their scholarship provided that:

- the award does not cover tuition fees
- Wolfson funds represent at least 50% of the student's funding package
- additional funder names are not attached to the named Wolfson Postgraduate Scholarship.

Release of funds

Universities will receive funds in three equal instalments on an annual basis in the early part of the academic year. In order to release each instalment the university must provide confirmation that the Wolfson Scholars have enrolled for that academic year.

It will be the university's responsibility to release funds to students in a timely manner at agreed intervals over the year.

While students may consult with their supervisor/university on how to spend funds on research, travel and training, the full amount (less fees) of the annual instalment should be transferred to the student during each year, to be used at their discretion. Given that the annual amount is static, while fees may rise, students may wish to take account of this when planning spending in the first and second year (i.e. they may wish to set a portion aside for future years). Again, this is at the student's discretion, but the university should ensure that they are aware that annual instalments are not inflation linked and so remain static regardless of increases in costs.

Monitoring and reporting

Annual report

A progress report should be submitted at the end of each academic year. For each scholar this should include:

- the start date of the student's doctoral studies
- the student's working research title
- a brief update on the student's progress including expected completion date
- the dates of any period(s) of leave taken over the academic year
- a statement from the student's supervisor
- an annual expenditure statement showing how the funds were allocated including details of research, travel and training costs.

The annual report should be submitted via email **no later than 31 July** each year. Where a university is providing an annual report on more than one cohort of scholars, the reports should be grouped by cohort year. An annual report should be completed for each scholar until the completion of their viva examination.

End of study report

At the end of their study period, a detailed final report on each scholar must be submitted. This should include:

- the start date and completion date of the student's doctoral studies
- the dates of any period(s) of leave taken during the course of their studies
- the student's final thesis title
- a summary of the results of the research
- an assessment from the student's supervisor
- a final expenditure statement showing the amount of funds allocated to fees and the amount transferred to students
- an overview of the research, travel and training expenditure incurred by the student
- an indication of the students' career plans for the immediate future as well as their longer term aspirations

The end of study report should be collated by the university and submitted via email following the completion of the student's viva examination.

Career tracking

The Foundation is keen to track the career progression of all Wolfson Scholars. It is therefore a condition of the award that universities should provide information on the future career paths of students to the Foundation.

In addition to the information provided in the end of study report, the university should provide (in so far as is possible) a brief annual update on former Wolfson Scholars' career paths. This update can be incorporated in to the end of year annual report (see above).

Alongside each end of study report, the university should also provide - with the student's consent - an email address by which the Foundation can contact them about events related to the programme and through which they can keep the Foundation directly informed of their career progression and academic achievements.

Acknowledgment of support

For Wolfson Scholars

Any output during the period of the award, including the final dissertation or thesis, must acknowledge the Wolfson Foundation's support. If any aspect of the work is published at a later date, whether in print or electronic media, the Wolfson Foundation's support must be acknowledged.

The Foundation should be notified in advance of any public acknowledgement of the Foundation's support.

Further details on acknowledging the Foundation is available at www.wolfson.org.uk/grant-holders/press-publicity

For universities

The Foundation welcomes working with universities on publicising the programme and the broader areas of the importance of the humanities and the current funding challenges.

We ask that the programme be acknowledged in related publicity, display and documentation. This includes (where relevant) wall panels, marketing materials, annual reports and websites. You do not need to use our logo in all cases, but where other funders are being acknowledged by inclusion of a logo, then we request that ours is used.

Any press releases to be issued by the university relating to the Wolfson Postgraduate Scholarships should be formally agreed with the Foundation. We can where appropriate provide quotes for press releases.

Further details on acknowledging the Foundation in press and publicity is available at www.wolfson.org.uk/grant-holders/press-publicity

Events and Wolfson Scholars network

The Foundation values strong relationships with its award holders and encourages Scholars to connect and share experiences during their studies. To this end a selection of events and networking opportunities are available to Wolfson Scholars.

Events

The Foundation organises a series of events over the three-year lifetime of an award which Scholars are expected to attend as a condition of their award.

The anticipated programme of events (subject to change) include:

- Welcome dinner (to be held in October of the first year of study);
- Symposium (to be held toward the end of the second year of study)

Costs associated with attending these events should be met by the student, or covered by the host institution where there are specific funds available for such costs. Full details will be made available to students nearer the time of each event.

In addition, students may be invited to other events related to the programme (e.g. in their first year, they may attend the symposium being presented by the cohort ahead of them). Attendance at these other events is not compulsory or a condition of their award.

Social media

All Wolfson Scholars are invited to join the programme's dedicated Facebook group; a forum to share ideas, challenges, and news of forthcoming conferences, as well as a platform on which the Foundation shares news of its events and activities:

www.facebook.com/groups/wolfsonpostgraduatescholars

Scholars are also able to follow the Wolfson Foundation on Twitter @wolfsonfdn. For tweets specifically related to the postgraduate scholarships programme, users are encouraged to include #WolfsonScholars.

Other terms and conditions

Type of study

Students are assumed to be enrolled on a full-time basis, unless it is stated otherwise when they are nominated.

Changing between full and part-time study may be permissible, with agreement from the Foundation.

Residency

Students should be resident within the UK and live within a reasonable distance of the host university for the duration of their study (with the exception of periods of fieldwork or when attending conferences).

Transfers

If a student transfers to another institution, the award cannot normally be transferred with them.

Unless the student had yet to commence their study, no remaining monies from the scholarship can be allocated to another student.

Change of circumstances

Any changes to a student's circumstances that impact upon their study should be reported to the Foundation at the time the university is made aware of the fact. This may include, but is not limited to:

- suspension of study
- maternity leave
- medical leave

Any subsequent extension to the award period must be formally requested and approved by the Foundation.

With the exception of maternity leave (see below), funding will cease during periods of suspension of study.

Any major change in research direction, including change in supervisor, must be agreed by the university and communicated to the Foundation.

Maternity leave

Award holders who become pregnant and have a due date which falls during the scholarship period, may take a period of six months leave from study during which the maintenance element of funding will continue.

Following this, a further period of six months may be taken, during which no funds (either for maintenance, research training or fees) will be paid.

Thesis

While the scheme is eligible to all nationalities and to those working with any language, it is expected that the student's final thesis is written in English.

Paid work

Students in receipt of Wolfson Postgraduate Scholarships may undertake some teaching work/ research assistance. Other paid work is not encouraged. Other part time paid work is permissible for those students undertaking part time study.

Other

Students are not entitled to any funding upon termination of studies, including in cases of early submission of doctoral thesis. Any overpayments are to be reimbursed to the Foundation.

The responsibility for ensuring data collecting, storing and processing under the programmes complies with data protection law will lie with the university.

Point of contact

For Wolfson Scholars

With the exception of Scholars who have completed their studies, students should in the first instance contact their university regarding any queries related to the programme. Where clarification is needed, the university or Scholar may contact the Foundation directly.

For universities

The main point of contact for the Wolfson Postgraduate Scholarships is:

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