

Mental Health Research UK PhD Scholarships Frequently Asked Questions

1. Is the 'one-per-university' rule for each application individually, or is it across all this year's grants?

The 'one-per-university' rule is for each scholarship. A university may apply for each scholarship if they would like to.

2. I noticed your opportunities for PhD Scholarships and whilst I am not currently eligible to apply for one of these I wondered if you would be so kind as to provide me some information as to what minimum requirements for an application would be if I were interested in future? ... What would I need to achieve in order to increase my likelihood of being successful in an attempt to apply for a PhD scholarship?

Unfortunately, as you will see from our website, we only award grants to universities. The successful universities would then choose the student. You would need to contact the university to find out their entry requirements.

We do not offer grants to individuals, so I regret that we are unable to help you.

3. I wondered whether you also had Terms and Conditions available for review? If so, please could you forward a copy on to me?

We do have general Terms and Conditions. You can find these on our website at [www.mentalhealthresearchuk.org.uk/assets/downloads/Scholarship terms and conditions.pdf](http://www.mentalhealthresearchuk.org.uk/assets/downloads/Scholarship%20terms%20and%20conditions.pdf)

4. Does the award have to operate as a 1+3 (i.e. Master's and Doctorate) or is there no requirement around this?

There is no specific requirement around how the award will operate. Our grant is for a maximum of 4 years and we expect the student to receive a Doctorate at the end of the scholarship.

5. What is the deadline for communicating attainment of the award to the successful applicant?

We aim to advise the successful university of the award around October or November. You can find a timeline here:

www.mentalhealthresearchuk.org.uk/research.html#funding

6. Might it be possible to see what kinds of PhDs have been funded in the past?

You can find details of all current and past scholarships on our website:

www.mentalhealthresearchuk.org.uk/research.html#scholarshipsAwarded

7. Will the start date of the PhD be October this year?

As stated on our website, the start date will be September the following year. For example, in 2025 we award scholarships for students to start in the autumn of 2026.

8. Is it possible to get a very brief steer on whether our ideas might align with the priorities of MHRUK?

I regret we are unable to give you any guidance on priorities for your application. The assessments are undertaken by the Trustees of Mental Health Research UK and the Schizophrenia Research Fund, their scientific advisors and experienced lay assessors.

9. I am in the process of preparing an application and would like to check re references in the project description part of the application form – do they have to fit in within the designated space or could they be included on a separate page/as an appendix. If they have to be included in the project description section, could the font for them be smaller than 12?

Your research proposal should cover a maximum of 4 x A4 pages, plus references, plus 1 page for each supervisor; supplementary questions can cover another 2 pages. Please aim for 9-10 pages in total. Any additional pages will be disregarded. If you use an Appendix, it will not be considered in the short-listing. We will also reject smaller font sizes smaller than 12pt Times New Roman¹.

¹ We won't penalise you if you use a different standard font such as Arial or Calibri, instead of Times New Roman. Please just be sensible and use a font that is easy to read at 12pt size.

10. Please can we clarify if the 'University fees' segment of the grant would fund solely the programme of study fees, or would they include a small budget for research related expenses (such as travel costs for interviews, etc)?

We only pay fees and stipend, not research related expenses.

11. In the unlikely event that Mental Health Research UK receives more than one application from my University, please may I ask if it would be possible for the University to review the competing applications and confirm the approved candidate to go forward for assessment?

Yes, if that happens we shall refer the applications back for the University to make a decision. There will be a tight deadline to do this.

12. The PhD will not start until the next academic year, so are you able to clarify what the stipend and fees will be so these can be included accurately within our budget?

We can't tell you that at the moment as the Medical Research Council have not published next year's rates. In our budget we will add 3% to the current year's rates we have quoted.

13. We note that a small budget for travel and conferences may be considered where the student is presenting, subject to prior approval and submission of invoices. However, for internal purposes this will need to be included within our budgets but should we include this within our application on submission?

You do not need to include this.

Mental Health Research UK will consider a small grant towards travel and conference attendance where the student is presenting, and to essential external training courses, or PPI costs, subject to prior approval and submission of invoice/receipt. No contribution will be made towards research support costs.

We take each application on its merits. In general we will only fund half of the associated costs, and limit each student to one conference per year.

We do not make a formal allowance for this in our budgets, but from experience it seems to be no more than £1,000 per annum.

14. Is Mental Health Research UK an NIHR partner?

Yes, Mental Health Research UK is an NIHR Non-commercial partner for the PhD stream.

15. Are second supervisors seeking to become primary supervisors and have students that have not already completed their PhD eligible to put students forward?

The answer is yes. We are keen to give the opportunity for a researcher in the early stages of their career to be part of the supervisory team which may include being the primary supervisor. Please ensure that there is an experienced 2nd supervisor.

16. I wonder if you could please tell me whether Mental Health Research UK conducts or otherwise funds research that involves the use of animals?

Our Trustees will not support any research which involves the use of animals. We have many supporters who are vets and we feel that would antagonise them as well as many of our other supporters.

17. Can we cost in open access publication costs for any anticipated journal articles produced by the student over the duration of the studentship?

Please see this section of our website:

www.mentalhealthresearchuk.org.uk/research.html#openAccess