

# Mental Health Research UK PhD Scholarships

## Grant Terms and Conditions

### 1. Award

The award covers fees and stipend only and will be based on the Medical Research Council's minimum stipend and fees for UK students, currently as follows:

2026/27 stipend: outside London: £21,805; inside London: £23,805

2026/27 fees: £5,238

- a. Funding will cease at 4 years or on submission of the PhD thesis, whichever is earlier.
- b. The 4th year is regarded as a writing-up year and the grant will be the stipend and thesis fee only.
- c. In the event of early submission, a brief application to retain the student for the remainder of the period within the total cost envelope will be considered.
- d. College fees will be considered, where advertised by the University, as additional to the tuition fee.
- e. Mental Health Research UK will consider a small grant towards Travel and Conference allowances, where the student is presenting, subject to prior approval, and submission of invoice/receipt.
- f. We will consider applications for essential training courses for the Scholar that are directly relevant to their PhD - e.g. statistics - subject to prior approval and submission of invoice/receipt.
- g. No contribution will be made towards Departmental expenses.

### 2. PhD students

Each PhD student should be known as a “Mental Health Research UK PhD Scholar” for the duration of their studies. Scholars must be registered as full-time PhD students unless we give explicit permission for this to be varied. Scholars will be subject to the usual terms and conditions applying to PhD students within the University where they are registered. Scholars may not receive funds which would duplicate those provided by the Mental Health Research UK award, but they may apply for, or receive, additional funding elsewhere for their research or training costs.



### 3. Selection and administration of Mental Health Research UK PhD Scholars

It is the responsibility of the grant-holding University to administer the scheme (including selection of a high-quality Scholarship recipient) and to ensure appropriate academic supervision for each Scholar. Universities should undertake open, merit-based and transparent recruitment of students, selecting candidate(s) regardless of background or any protected characteristic as defined by the Equality Act (2010) and according to the *Statement of Expectations for Doctoral Training* issued by the UKRI and other funders (see [www.ukri.org/publications/statement-of-expectations-for-doctoral-training/](http://www.ukri.org/publications/statement-of-expectations-for-doctoral-training/)). This will be monitored by providing Mental Health Research UK with information on applicants (including diversity monitoring data) prior to appointment.

To enable MHRUK to monitor and participate in the recruitment process, Universities shall include a nominated representative from MHRUK in the shortlisting of all applicants and interviewing of shortlisted applicants.

While the Scholarships may be awarded to students of all nationalities, the Charity has a particular interest in supporting UK students and we will only pay the cost of fees at UK rates. If an international student is appointed, it is up to the University to make up the difference between the UK fees and the international fees.

Before payment can be made, the University and Principal Applicant must have formally accepted the grant. Mental Health Research UK requires the name of the Mental Health Research UK PhD Scholar, together with a suitable photograph and a short CV for publication on our website.

### 4. Payments

Mental Health Research UK will only pay stipend and fees at UK rates. The grant will be paid in annual instalments. The University should send an invoice to [trustees@mhruk.org](mailto:trustees@mhruk.org), by December of the relevant academic year, including the following information:

- a. Mental Health Research UK registered address
- b. The title of the grant award
- c. The year being applied for
- d. The stipend and the fees, separately identified
- e. The name of the student

Payments after the first year, will be made when an annual progress report has been received and approved. [See \(6\) below](#) for what is required.



## 5. Award acknowledgement and logos

Any publicity, presentations and promotional materials or publications associated with research funded by us, should acknowledge that the work is ‘Supported by a grant from Mental Health Research UK’.

Where the research pertains to Schizophrenia and related conditions, the acknowledgement should state: ‘Supported by a grant from Mental Health Research UK’ and the Schizophrenia Research Fund’.

## 6. Reports

The student and the supervisor are each required to provide the following reports:

- a. An annual progress report, no later than two months after the end of each academic year. The Scholar’s progress report must be endorsed by the Supervisor.
- b. A final report no later than three months after the award comes to an end.

Each report should provide a brief summary of the Scholar's progress, including details of any outputs, e.g. publications or posters.

The reports should indicate progress on the Thesis and (likely or actual) submission and/or examination dates. Any significant changes in a student’s circumstances/progress should be reported.

The final reports should include confirmation of the award date of the PhD, brief details of main outputs, and details of future career plans.

## 7. Attendance at the annual MHRUK Scholars’ Day

The student will be expected to make a brief presentation of their PhD research at the annual Scholars’ Day, which is normally held online. It is important that one supervisor of each student will also attend the day, and we regard this as essential for Scholars in their first year of study.

## 8. Intellectual Property

All intellectual property arising from the work will be given to the University to be dealt with according to University Policy.

## 9. NIHR

Mental Health Research UK is a National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Non-Commercial Partner. This means the studies that we fund may be eligible to access NIHR Clinical Research Network (CRN) support.

If your study will be of benefit to patients and the NHS, (this includes relevant research in public health and social care) we expect you to apply, where appropriate, for NIHR CRN support and subsequent inclusion in the NIHR CRN Portfolio of studies to fully benefit from the support that the CRN offers through their Study Support Service. To find out more, please visit

[www.nihr.ac.uk/support-and-services/support-for-delivering-research/clinical-research-network/study-support-service](http://www.nihr.ac.uk/support-and-services/support-for-delivering-research/clinical-research-network/study-support-service).

If your study involves NHS sites in England, you will need to apply for Health Research Authority Approval. For guidance on submitting an application please visit

[www.hra.nhs.uk/approvals-amendments/](http://www.hra.nhs.uk/approvals-amendments/).

## 10. Open access publication of research results

MHRUK encourages open access publication of research results

The procedure for a request for a contribution is as follows:

- a. The supervisor must first apply to the University to cover the cost
- b. Any request for open access fees for publishing a paper by an MHRUK Scholar must be accompanied by documentary evidence that the University will not pay the fees.
- c. We will contribute to open access publication fees as follows:
  - i. For single-author papers (authored solely by the MHRUK scholar) we will pay the full costs.
  - ii. For multi-author papers where the scholar is one author, we will pay a proportion of the cost depending on the number of authors: 50% for a paper with 2 authors, 33% for 3 authors, and so on.
  - iii. Applications for funding must be made to the MHRUK administrator in advance – retrospective requests will not be considered. Please see our website for the relevant application form:  
[www.mentalhealthresearchuk.org.uk/research.html#openAccess](http://www.mentalhealthresearchuk.org.uk/research.html#openAccess)
  - iv. We will consider one open access journal publication fee per student per year. This cannot be carried forward to a subsequent year.



---

## 11. General

Our grants are awarded in accordance with the *Statement of Expectations for Doctoral Training* issued by the UKRI and other funders (see [www.ukri.org/publications/statement-of-expectations-for-doctoral-training/](http://www.ukri.org/publications/statement-of-expectations-for-doctoral-training/)).

In the event of a dispute not covered by these Terms and Conditions, the UKRI *Terms and conditions for training funding* shall apply. Please see [www.ukri.org/publications/terms-and-conditions-for-training-funding/](http://www.ukri.org/publications/terms-and-conditions-for-training-funding/).