

ESRC Studentships 2017 – 18 entry *Development Studies Pathway and 1+3 Economics Pathway*

Information and FAQs

Terms used

+3	A three-year studentship for those applicants who already have a masters degree and who are applying directly for a <u>DPhil in International Development</u> . <i>Those who are applying directly for a <u>DPhil in Economics</u> should go to the <u>Economics Department website</u></i>
1+3	A four-year studentship, covering one year's study at master's level (on the <u>MSc in Global Governance and Diplomacy</u>) then progressing to a <u>DPhil in International Development</u> ; or one year's study at master's level (on the <u>MSc in Economics for Development</u>) then progressing to a <u>DPhil in Economics</u>)
2+2	A four-year studentship, covering two years' study on the two-year <u>MPhil in Development Studies</u> , progressing to the <u>DPhil in International Development</u> . <i>(Those interested in 2+2 MPhil in Economics to DPhil in Economics should go to the <u>Economics Department website</u>.)</i>
DPhil	Doctor of Philosophy: 3-year research degree (Oxford's term for the PhD)
DTP	'Grand Union' <u>Doctoral Training Partnership</u> : partnership between Brunel University London, the Open University and the University of Oxford, one of 14 ESRC Doctoral Training Partnerships across the UK providing studentships for postgraduate students. The DTP will administer the ESRC studentships from 2017 onwards, replacing the DTC (<u>Doctoral Training Centre</u>)
Economics	<u>Department of Economics</u> : jointly offers the MSc in Economics for Development with ODID
ESRC	<u>Economic and Social Research Council</u> : the largest single funder of social science PhDs in the UK, funded by the UK government
ODID	<u>Oxford Department of International Development</u> (also known as QEH, or Queen Elizabeth House)
MPhil	Master of Philosophy by coursework: the 21-month taught postgraduate degree at Oxford
MSc	Master of Science by coursework: the 9-month taught postgraduate degree at Oxford

Background Information

How many Development Studies Pathway Studentships are awarded?

We are able to submit a small number of nominations (around three) for consideration to the internal DTP open competition panel.

How competitive are the Development Studies Pathway Studentships?

We generally consider around twenty eligible applicants.

How competitive are the Economics Pathway Studentships?

We generally consider around two or three applicants to put forward to the Economics Department for possible nomination in competition with applicants for the MPhil in Economics or DPhil in Economics.

Can I apply for an ESRC Studentship if I only want to read for the MSc or MPhil?

No. These studentships are designed specifically for students who want to undertake doctoral study and are not intended for those taking taught master's degrees on their own.

Why aren't these studentships available for overseas students?

The ESRC (one of the Research Councils UK (RCUK)) is the single largest funder of social science PhDs in the UK, and is funded by the UK government. It changed the way its studentships were administered in 2011, and now works through DTPs located within universities and higher education institutions, rather than awarding funding directly to individual students. But it remains primarily a national scheme, with the funds mainly intended to sponsor postgraduate research and to develop the social sciences in the UK.

For EU students intending to apply for entry in the 2017-18 academic year

EU students have received fees-only studentships from ESRC in the past and those current students who have already started their course will continue to receive their funding for the duration of their course.

ESRC studentships will remain open according to the current terms and conditions for EU students who will begin their studies at the University in 2017/18. The funding support will cover the duration of the course, even if the UK leaves the EU. This will be regardless of the structure of the studentship (i.e. 1+3, 2+2 or +3). The full statement can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/eu-nationals-remain-eligible-for-postgraduate-support-from-uks-research-councils>.

Information regarding the EU referendum is posted on the [University's webpage](#) and will be updated as any further details are announced.

Before Applying for an ESRC Studentship

Am I eligible to apply?

To be eligible for one of the ESRC Development Studies Pathway Studentships you should be applying for a place at Oxford to start in October 2017 to read:

- **either** for one of the two eligible master's degrees (the MPhil in Development Studies; or the MSc in Global Governance and Diplomacy), *with the intention of progressing to a DPhil in International Development* (the 2+2 or 1+3 route);

- or for a DPhil in International Development (the +3 route).

You must:

- Meet the academic entry requirements for your chosen degree (see here for the [MPhil](#); [MSc GGD](#); or [DPhil in International Development](#)).
- Have completed your online application for that degree by midday UK time on the **20 January 2017**.
- Submit a separate application for the ESRC Development Studies Pathway Studentship by the same deadline.
- Not have previously been awarded a PhD, or have completed more than a year on a full-time research degree programme.
- Be a home (UK) or EU student (as determined by your [fee status](#)).
- Meet the residency [requirements set out by the ESRC](#). Information is also available on the [Grand Union DTP website](#).

What is my fee status?

For full details about how your fee status at Oxford will be determined, visit the [fee status](#) page on the University's website.

If you have any queries about your fee status or other fee-related issues, you should contact the Fee Status Clerk for advice: fees.clerk@admin.ox.ac.uk.

What fees does the ESRC Studentship cover?

Home (UK) applicants will in almost all cases receive a **full award**. Please refer to the section below on residency. The full award covers the University tuition and College fees for the duration of your Studentship. In addition, you will receive a maintenance grant (stipend) and a Research Training Support Grant (RTSG). Students who are undertaking overseas fieldwork may also apply to the DTP for funding to support associated fieldwork expenses taking place during the DPhil only and not for any master's course fieldwork.

EU applicants (who have not been 'ordinarily resident' in the UK for at least three years by 30 September 2017) will receive a **fees only award**. This does not offer the maintenance grant (stipend) received by home (UK) applicants.

What are the residency requirements for an ESRC Studentship?

To be eligible for a **full award** (stipend and fees), you must have:

- Settled status in the UK, meaning there are no restrictions on how long you can stay.
- Been 'ordinarily resident' in the UK for three years prior to the start of the studentship grant. This means you must have been normally residing in the UK (apart from temporary or occasional absences).
- Not been residing in the UK wholly or mainly for the purpose of full-time education. This does not apply to UK and EU nationals.

To be eligible for a **fees only award**, you:

- must be ordinarily resident in an EU member state, in the same way as UK students must be ordinarily resident in the UK.

All applicants must satisfy the ESRC's citizenship and residence requirements. You are advised to acquaint yourself with the relevant [ESRC sources of information](#) on these requirements directly.

Who to contact for further information

We hope this information sheet will answer most of your questions about the ESRC Development Studies Pathway Studentships.

However, for further information, please check the University's [DTC in Social Sciences](#) website. Further information about the courses can be found on the [ODID](#) website.

For general enquiries about the ESRC Development Studies Studentships and application for the DPhil in International Development:

Dominique Attala, Graduate Student Administrator
Tel: 01865 281806 / dominique.attala@geh.ox.ac.uk

For general enquiries about the application process for all ODID master's courses:

Marina Kujic, Master's Admissions Secretary
Tel: 01865 281827 / admissions@geh.ox.ac.uk

For information on your fee status or other fee-related issues:

Fee Status Clerk
fees.clerk@admin.ox.ac.uk.

For further information on residency requirements:

Daniel Meacoe, Oxford DTC
Tel: 01865 614866 / daniel.meacoe@socsci.ox.ac.uk

The Two-Stage Application Process

Stage 1

Please [apply](#) for your chosen degree using the standard online graduate application form, indicating on the form that you wish to be considered for an ESRC studentship.

To be considered, your application must be submitted and complete for your chosen degree by the **20 January 2017** [application deadline](#).

Stage 2

There is no separate application form for the ESRC Development Studies Pathway Studentship, but in order to apply, you should send the following by **12 noon (UK time) on Friday 20 January 2017**:

- One-page **letter of application**, outlining why you are applying for the an ESRC Studentship; what has inspired your interest in studying a development studies-related subject at doctoral level; and what skills and experience you bring, including any experience of research or practical work in the area you have. Please *include a note of your Oxford applicant number* in

the letter: this will be issued once your online application for your chosen degree has been logged by the system.

- For 1+3 or 2+2 applicants, a **research proposal** (3-4 pages) containing a description of your proposed research project for the DPhil, the problem to be addressed, the methods to be used, and a brief timetable for your proposed research. You should add information about any possible language course or other training you might need and also countries to be visited for fieldwork.

Notes for candidates applying for a 1+3 or 2+2 Studentship:

- Please ask your referees to comment on your suitability for doctoral work, as well as for the taught master's, when they submit their online references to support your application for the MPhil or MSc GGD.
- We appreciate that the research proposal you submit at this stage is likely to change between now and when you apply for the DPhil, since you will inevitably develop your research ideas during the master's.
- Please make sure that you tick the relevant box confirming that you intend to progress to doctoral study as part of the online application process for the MSc. **If you do not do this, we cannot consider you for an ESRC Studentship.**

Your application for the ESRC Development Studies Pathway Studentship should be sent either by post or by e-mail to:

Dominique Attala
Graduate Student Administrator
Oxford Department of International Development
University of Oxford
3 Mansfield Road
Oxford OX1 3TB
E-mail: dominique.attala@geh.ox.ac.uk

We will acknowledge receipt by e-mail.

Please make sure that your application reaches us by **12 noon (UK time) on Friday 20 January 2017**.

FAQ about the 1+3, 2+2 and +3 Routes

I already have a master's degree: should I apply for a 1+3, a 2+2 or a +3 studentship?

If you are confident that your master's degree has equipped you to enter directly for a DPhil, you could apply for a +3 studentship. You will have to take at least one examined course from the range of our MSc/MPhil programmes at the start of your DPhil – the choice of which course would be most appropriate for you will be made by your supervisor, and would be based on relevance to your thesis topic, or on perceived gaps in your skills/knowledge. You could also audit other courses from these taught degrees (i.e. attend the classes and do any formative work expected, but not sit the exams).

Is there a difference between the 1+3, 2+2 and +3 routes in terms of competitiveness?

No. We evaluate all applications in one pool, regardless of which route you have applied for. The selection criteria are solely based on academic merit; the relevance of your research proposal to development studies, broadly defined; and (for +3 Studentships), the availability of an appropriate supervisor within the department.

On the 1+3 and 2+2 route, is progression from the master's (MPhil/MSc) to the doctorate (DPhil) automatic?

No. You will need to apply separately to read for a DPhil at Oxford. For those with a 1+3 studentship starting with a nine-month MSc, the application for DPhil should be submitted by the January 2018 deadline, for entry in October 2018; for those starting with the MPhil, the application for DPhil should be submitted by the January 2019 deadline, for entry in October 2019. You will receive further information about this process in the Michaelmas (autumn) Term. Acceptance on the DPhil programme is subject to the approval of the relevant department's DPhil Admissions Committee. It will be based on your performance on the master's. You will normally have to achieve distinction or a very strong pass on the degree overall; and a distinction for the dissertation. You will find details about the DPhil in International Development [here](#).

Can I take time out between my master's (MPhil/MSc) and doctoral studies (DPhil) on the 1+3 or 2+2 route?

No. The 1+3 and 2+2 ESRC Studentships are intended for those progressing directly from the master's to the DPhil, and do not allow time out between the two.

Must my DPhil be at ODID?

Yes, if you are applying for a +3 Development Studies Studentship as it will be for the DPhil in International Development. However, if you are applying for a 1+3 or 2+2 Studentship, starting with the MSc in Global Governance and Diplomacy or the MPhil in Development Studies, both master's and DPhil will more often than not be one of the courses offered by this Department. But occasionally the DPhil can be taken in another department. Other possible departments which also have ESRC Studentship opportunities available to their students might be [Geography](#), [Economics](#), [History](#), [Law](#), [Politics and International Relations](#) or [Social Policy](#) – it really depends on where your research is focused. Further information will be on their websites.

Please note that if you are interested in applying for a 1+3 ESRC Studentship starting with the MSc in Economics for Development and followed by a DPhil in Economics, it is possible to apply for an Economics Pathway Studentship.

Do I need to have found a supervisor for my DPhil before applying?

If you are applying for a 1+3 or 2+2 studentship, you do not need to have identified a possible supervisor for your DPhil when you apply for the MPhil or MSc. The master's course will give you the chance to meet and work with a range of lecturers, and you should use this opportunity to identify academic staff members whose interests align with yours, and who might be potential DPhil supervisors. For students progressing from a master's to doctoral work within ODID, we generally ask that they have approached and receive agreement from a potential supervisor by the time they apply for the DPhil.

If you are applying for a +3 studentship from outside Oxford, you are not expected to have approached and received agreement from a potential supervisor by the time you apply for the DPhil, but it may be desirable to do so. However, you should be aware that availability of an appropriate supervisor in the department of your choice is a vital consideration in assessing applications, because a close fit between the research interests of supervisor and student greatly enhances the prospects of successfully completing the degree. Your proposed research topic should thus be related to the expertise and current research interests of specific members of academic staff in the department of your choice. Information can be found on the [ODID webpages](#) - if you look in the Supervisors tab, you will be able to see the staff who are supervising DPhil students, and their research interests. You may well wish to

make contact with one of the staff whose research is in a similar area to your own before you make your application.

After you have applied

How are applications evaluated?

The ESRC Development Studies Studentships are evaluated by a departmental committee here at Oxford, as well as by the Oxford DTP. They are not evaluated by the ESRC itself. Criteria used when evaluating applications are academic excellence; and the relevance of your doctoral research project to development studies (broadly defined); and (in the case of +3 application), the availability of appropriate supervision.

Will I get any feedback on my application?

Unfortunately, we cannot give feedback on individual applications.

When will I hear if I have been successful?

If you have been successful, you will normally hear from the DTCP by the end of April.

Will I hear if I have not been successful?

If you have not heard by the middle of May, you should assume you have not been successful.

If I'm offered an ESRC Studentship, can I defer for a year?

If you are offered a studentship in April 2017, we would expect you to take this up in October 2017 for the 2017-18 academic year.