

Funding a PhD or Masters

A Quick Guide


The logo for RePOWER is a stylized, 3D-effect banner. It features a dark green triangle at the top left, a white diagonal line, and a red triangle at the bottom left. The main body of the banner is orange and contains the text 'RePOWER' in white, bold, sans-serif font.

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15th May 2026

What are the costs of undertaking a research degree in the UK?

Fees – will vary between institutions £5,238 - £10,470 for home students up to £34,700 for international students.



Living costs – will vary with location – Indicative Oxford costs in table.



Research-related expenses (e.g. travel, consumables, computing) – will vary according to project

Indicative costs for Oxford

| | Likely living costs for 1 month | | Likely living costs for 9 months | | Likely living costs for 12 months | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------|----------------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| | Lower range | Upper range | Lower range | Upper range | Lower range | Upper range |
| Food | £330 | £515 | £2,970 | £4,635 | £3,960 | £6,180 |
| Accommodation | £790 | £955 | £7,110 | £8,595 | £9,480 | £11,460 |
| Personal items | £200 | £335 | £1,800 | £3,015 | £2,400 | £4,020 |
| Social activities | £45 | £100 | £405 | £900 | £540 | £1,200 |
| Study costs | £40 | £90 | £360 | £810 | £480 | £1,080 |
| Other | £20 | £40 | £180 | £360 | £240 | £480 |
| Total | £1,425 | £2,035 | £12,825 | £18,315 | £17,100 | £24,420 |

Additional costs for international students

Immigration Health Surcharge If you are coming to the UK for more than 6 months you will be required to pay the IHS, for yourself and any dependants. £776 per year or part of a year. Examples of costs are:

12-month Masters plus 4 months added by the Home Office to course end date; 1.5-year charge i.e. £1,164

DPhil courses at Oxford are set at 4 years maximum submission date plus 6 months to allow for viva and corrections and then 4 months added by the Home Office to the course end date; 5-year charge i.e. £3,880

visa, travel and relocation will depend on individual circumstances

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-to-come-to-the-uk>

Research costs

May be included with studentship/scholarship (e.g. UKRI)

May be covered by host research group or organisation

Small grants (e.g. scientific societies)

Choose a project that you and the supervisor can afford to do

How can you meet these costs?

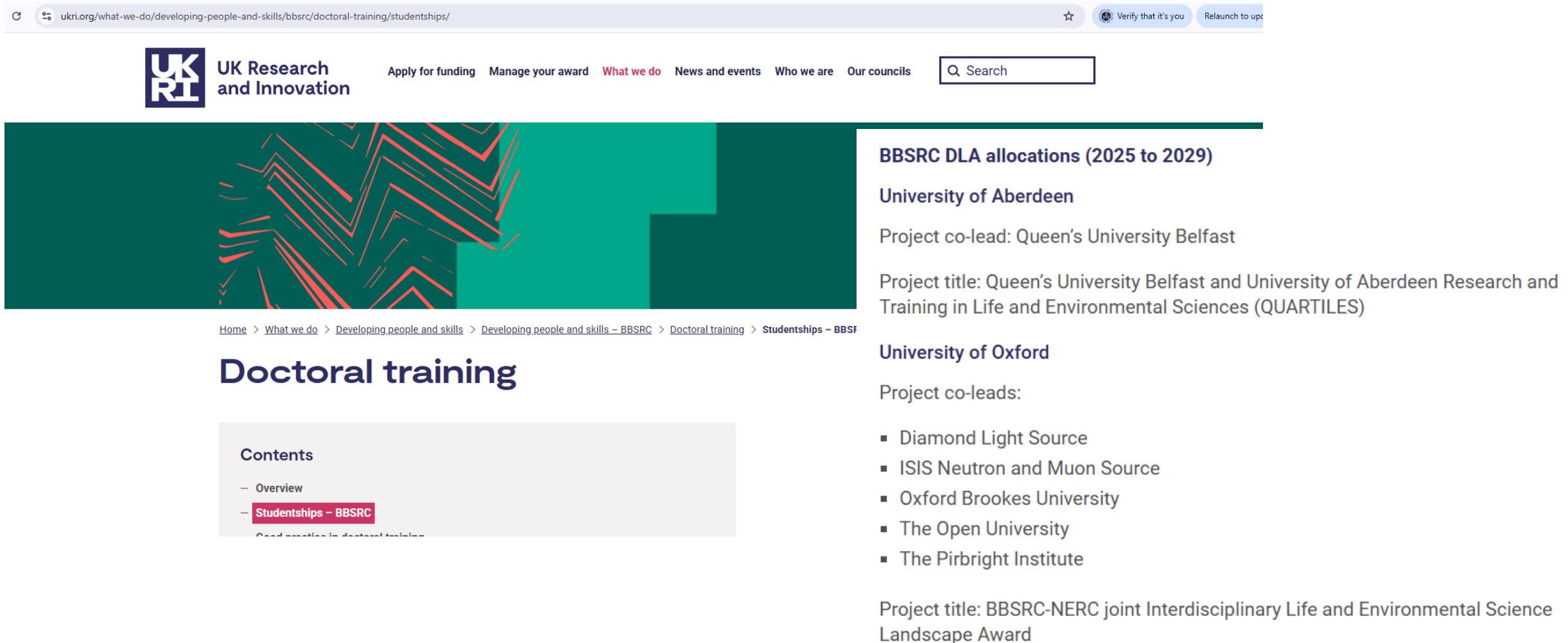
The logo features a stylized, 3D-effect arrow pointing to the right. The arrow is primarily orange, with a white diagonal stripe running from the top-left corner to the bottom-right corner. The top-left corner of the arrow is filled with a dark green color, and the bottom-left corner is filled with a dark red color. The word "RePOWER" is written in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters across the center of the orange arrow.

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1. UK Research and Innovation (UKRI)

<https://www.ukri.org/what-we-do/developing-people-and-skills/bbsrc/doctoral-training/>

<https://www.ukri.org/what-we-do/developing-people-and-skills/nerc/nerc-studentships/responsive-training/>



The screenshot shows the UKRI website interface. At the top left is the UKRI logo and the text 'UK Research and Innovation'. To the right are navigation links: 'Apply for funding', 'Manage your award', 'What we do', 'News and events', 'Who we are', and 'Our councils'. A search bar is also present. Below the navigation is a large banner image with a green and red geometric pattern. The main content area is titled 'Doctoral training' and includes a breadcrumb trail: 'Home > What we do > Developing people and skills > Developing people and skills – BBSRC > Doctoral training > Studentships – BBSRC'. A 'Contents' sidebar on the left lists 'Overview' and 'Studentships – BBSRC' (which is highlighted). The main content area is divided into two sections. The first section is titled 'BBSRC DLA allocations (2025 to 2029)' and lists the 'University of Aberdeen' as a project co-lead for Queen's University Belfast. The project title is 'Queen's University Belfast and University of Aberdeen Research and Training in Life and Environmental Sciences (QUARTILES)'. The second section is titled 'University of Oxford' and lists project co-leads: 'Diamond Light Source', 'ISIS Neutron and Muon Source', 'Oxford Brookes University', 'The Open University', and 'The Pirbright Institute'. The project title for this section is 'BBSRC-NERC joint Interdisciplinary Life and Environmental Science Landscape Award'.

ukri.org/what-we-do/developing-people-and-skills/bbsrc/doctoral-training/studentships/

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Doctoral training

Contents

- Overview
- **Studentships – BBSRC**

BBSRC DLA allocations (2025 to 2029)

University of Aberdeen

Project co-lead: Queen's University Belfast

Project title: Queen's University Belfast and University of Aberdeen Research and Training in Life and Environmental Sciences (QUARTILES)

University of Oxford

Project co-leads:

- Diamond Light Source
- ISIS Neutron and Muon Source
- Oxford Brookes University
- The Open University
- The Pirbright Institute

Project title: BBSRC-NERC joint Interdisciplinary Life and Environmental Science Landscape Award

2. Bursaries and Scholarships

May wholly or partially cover fees and stipend for Masters and Doctoral degrees

Institution-specific awards

Diamond Light Source, <https://www.diamond.ac.uk/Careers/Students/PhD-Studentships.html>

Pirbright - <https://www.pirbright.ac.uk/careers-and-learning/education-programme/postgraduate-studentships>

university-linked scholarships (check institutional websites)

Independent charitable trusts

e.g. Rhodes - <https://www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/scholarships/the-rhodes-scholarship/>

<https://www.findaphd.com/guides/phd-study-in-uk/charities-funding>

International scholarships

Government Visit governmental websites

Commonwealth scholarships <https://cscuk.fcdo.gov.uk/about-us/scholarships/>

United Nations (IPCC, UNESCO) <https://www.un.org/ldcportal/content/scholarships>

Directory of Grant Making Trusts

- <https://www.dsc.org.uk/publication/the-directory-of-grant-making-trusts-2026-27/>

3. Employer Funding

Oxford University Staff can get help towards the cost of fees
<https://academic.admin.ox.ac.uk/fees-and-continuation-charges/university-staff-awards>

Current employer sponsorship

Industrial Sponsorship – student-led

Industrial Sponsorship – supervisor-led

4. Grants and supervisor/project-linked funding

Funding may be provided through research grants awarded to individual supervisors or teams of supervisors by organisations that allow studentships to be costed into grants. e.g. Leverhulme Trust, Royal Society, BGS, even individual donors.

Supervisors can also apply for studentships to address a specific research topic - e.g. Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

Some supervisors have access to funding to support students - very rare in the UK – if funding exists it will usually be advertised

5. Student Loans

Masters: An overview of Postgraduate Master's Loans and details of how to apply is available from your regional funding agency's website

- Student Finance England <https://www.gov.uk/masters-loan>
- Student Finance Wales <https://www.studentfinancewales.co.uk/postgraduate-finance/master-s/>
- Student Awards Agency for Scotland <https://www.saas.gov.uk/full-time/postgraduates>
- Student Finance Northern Ireland <https://www.studentfinancenir.co.uk/types-of-finance/postgraduate/>

Doctoral: Doctoral The English and Welsh governments introduced a loan scheme for doctoral courses from 2018/19 entry.

England: <https://www.gov.uk/doctoral-loan>

Wales: <https://www.studentfinancewales.co.uk/postgraduate-finance/doctoral/>



Scotland and Northern Ireland are the same links as for Masters programmes.

US Federal loans for students from the USA <https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/loans/us-loans>

Daphne Jackson Trust

If you've taken a career break of at least two years for family, caring, or health reasons and are ready to return, the Daphne Jackson Trust could help you restart your career with confidence.

We offer two types of fellowships:

-  Research Fellowships – for those returning to active research
-  Research Technical Professional Fellowships – for those in specialist technical roles

Each fellowship is fully supported and tailored to help you rebuild skills, confidence, and networks in a flexible, supportive environment.

 Ready to find out which one is right for you?

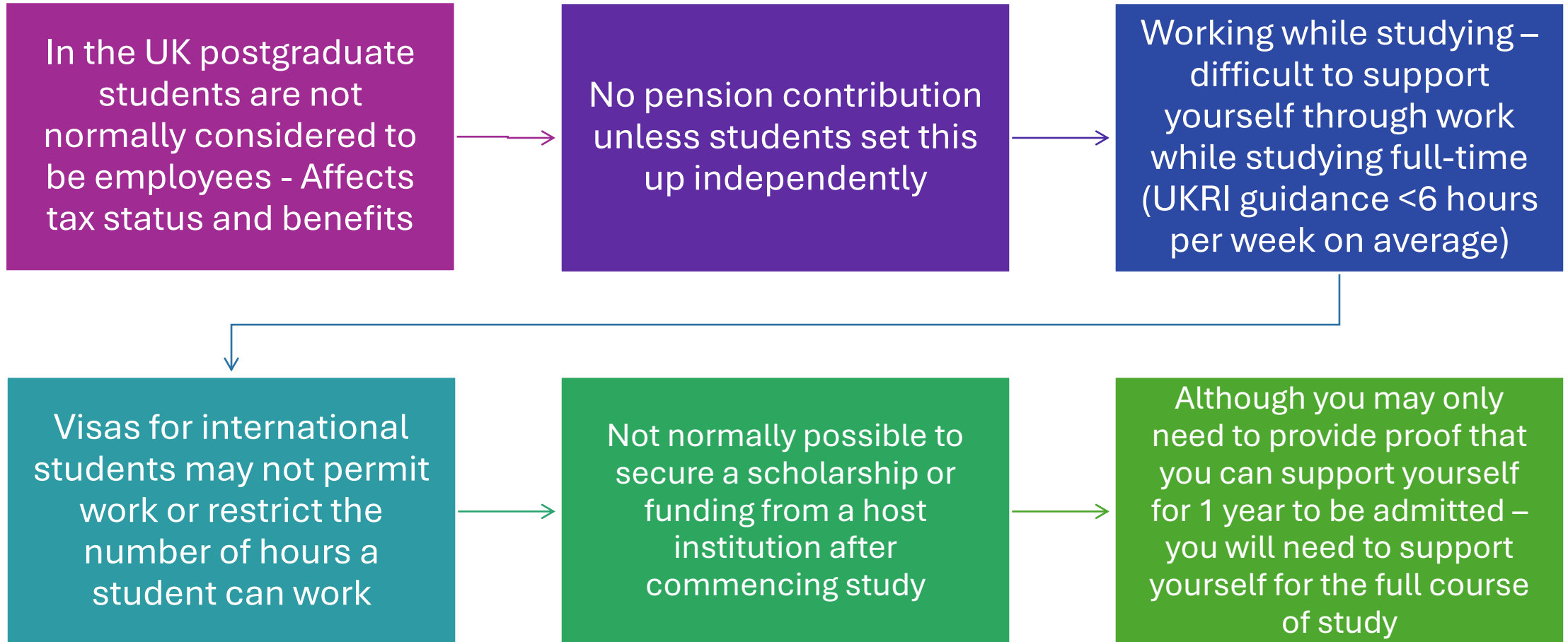
<https://daphnejackson.org/apply/types-of-fellowship/>

RESEARCH VS RESEARCH TECHNICAL PROFESSIONAL

Which fellowship is right for you?



General points to consider



The logo consists of a 3D-style orange banner with a white diagonal stripe on the left side. The banner is positioned horizontally and has a slight perspective.

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Questions?
