

ESRC PhD Studentships at the UCL, Bloomsbury and East London Doctoral Training Partnership (UBEL DTP)

Application Guide for Entry in 2027/28 Academic Year

All applicants should read this document first and note carefully the points below.

Applying for an ESRC PhD studentship at the UBEL DTP

All applications must be made via the SurveyMonkey application platform by the deadlines listed below. The application form is available from 14 September 2026 at the following link:

<https://ubel-dtp.ac.uk/esrc-studentships-main-competition/>

Applications will not be accepted by any other method.

Key studentship application deadlines for 2027 entry at UBEL DTP

UBEL DTP studentship application opens on SurveyMonkey	14 September 2026 12:00 BST
Pre-registration deadline	30 October 2026 23:59 GMT
Preliminary application deadline	9 November 2026 23:59 GMT
Notification of outcome of Preliminary applications Full application form available for successful Preliminary applicants	14 December 2026 12:00 GMT
Full application deadline	1 February 2027 23:59 GMT
UBEL DTP Board confirms successful studentship awards	w/c 19 April 2027

Pre-registration

All applicants **must** complete the Pre-registration stage by **Friday 30 October 23:59 (GMT)**. The Preliminary application form will not be available to you without completing this stage, or after the above deadline.

Supervisory Team

Your application must be supported by two supervisors in your chosen pathway and institution. You will need to note their names in your Preliminary application and, if successful at that stage, they will supply a supervisor statement in the Full application form.

Applying for your programme of study and the ESRC studentship

Your application for an ESRC studentship is made via SurveyMonkey and is for the studentship only.

You will also need to make an application for your programme of study at your chosen UBEL member institution (e.g. PhD at University of Greenwich; an MSc at SOAS, followed by a PhD at Birkbeck etc). The two applications are considered entirely separately and you will need to check the relevant deadlines for your application to the programme of study. This information is usually available via the department at your chosen institution.

You do not need to have made your programme application before your ESRC studentship application (or have been accepted for your programme), but you will need to have made a programme application if your studentship application is successful. As the outcome of the studentship is expected in April 2027, it is essential that you are aware of any programme application deadlines well ahead of this date.

Current doctoral students in the UBEL DTP

Current self-funded PhD students at the six UBEL partner institutions may apply for an ESRC studentship by following the procedures set out in the guidance documents.

Current students should note that there are the following restrictions on the length of current doctoral study to be eligible to apply for an ESRC studentship:

- **Full-time students:**

By the studentship start date of **1 October 2027**, you must not have completed more than **one year of full-time doctoral study**. In other words, you would be starting your second year full time by this date to be eligible to apply. If you have completed more than this duration of doctoral study, you are not eligible to apply.

- **Part-time students:**

By the studentship start date of **1 October 2027**, you must not have completed more than **two years of part-time study**. In other words, you would be starting your third year of part-time study by this date to be eligible to apply. If you have completed more than this duration of doctoral study, you are not eligible to apply.

Further guidance

Please ensure you read the Pre-registration and Preliminary Guidance. Which is available from the UBEL website here: <https://ubel-dtp.ac.uk/esrc-studentships-main-competition/>

Please contact your institution about academic eligibility (details on page three).

Please contact the UBEL DTP Professional Services team for queries about the studentship application process: ubel-dtp@ucl.ac.uk

Institutional Contacts (Professional Services staff)

Birkbeck, University of London

Ben Raphael, Registry Officer graduateresearchschool@bbk.ac.uk

London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

LSHTM Scholarships Team scholarships@lshtm.ac.uk

SOAS, University of London

SOAS studentships scholarships@soas.ac.uk

University College London

UBEL DTP Team ubel-dtp@ucl.ac.uk

University of East London

Richard Bottoms, Postgraduate Research Student Manager r.bottoms@uel.ac.uk

University of Greenwich

Julie Webber, Executive Assistant J.L.Webber@greenwich.ac.uk

Institutional Contacts (Academic staff)

Details of the academic groupings and pathways, along with Pathway Leaders and their teams, can be found on our UBEL website at: <https://ubel-dtp.ac.uk/groups-pathways/>