

Mental Health Research PhD Scholarships - Frequently Asked questions

No	Frequently Asked Question	Response
1	Is the 'one-per-university' rule for each application individually, or is it across the grants?	The 'one-per-university' rule is for each Scholarship rather than being across the grants, so they may put in one application 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 for PhD Scholarships. 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 which are shown on our website
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 advise the successful University of the award usually around November. We anticipate the University advising us of the successful student by June the following year."
6	Might it be possible to see what kinds of PhDs have been funded within this stream in the past?	You can find details of the current Scholarships on our website. http://www.mentalhealthresearchuk.org.uk/research-awards
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.
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 for a PhD studentship 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 (i.e. 1 ½ pages given for this section) 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?	The requirements of the application are a maximum of 4 pages, plus a page for each supervisor. An additional page can be used if there are more than two supervisors. We will reject any additional pages. How you use the space is for you to decide. If you use an Appendix, it will not be considered in the short-listing. We will also reject smaller font sizes.

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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 receive 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	As the submission for the application is May. I presume the start date for the PHD will be 1 st September next year. Therefore, this will fall in 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?	Yes, the start date is 1st September next year. 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	Do you know what the following year's fees and stipend will be? If not, are you able to confirm the inflated rate used for this so I can include this within our internal budgets and to seek internal approval?	No, I will not know the rates until MRC publishes them and again for our budget, we add about 3% per annum
14	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. We take each application on its merits. We do not make an allowance for this in our budgets, but from experience it seems to be no more than £1000 per annum.
15	Is mental Health Research UK an NIHR partner?	Yes, Mental Health Research UK is an NIMR Non-commercial partner for the PhD stream.
16	Can applicants be put forward who have already started a PhD and do not have funding?	If the student is self-funded we will consider an application, although the payments will not be retrospective and it is the quality of the project that is being judged. Can you indicate in your covering email the current position with the student and costs we are likely to be asked to fund.
17	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. But there must be an experienced 2 nd supervisor.

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18	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.
19	Can we apply for a small amount of money towards the student's project? This would be for a nested qualitative study, (participant payments, refreshments etc)	We do not support costs towards the student's project.
20	Can we apply for funds to pay for the steering group (according to standard PPI guidelines?)	We do not support costs for a steering group.
21	Can we cost in open access publication costs for any anticipated journal articles produced by the student over the duration of the studentship?	See Terms and Conditions