Applicant Guidance Notes

Nottingham Trent University PhD Studentship Scheme

2024 entry

The 2024 Nottingham Trent University (NTU) PhD Studentship Scheme

We are offering fully funded PhD studentships, aligned with our Research Centres and available to UK, EU or international candidates.

Studentships will be awarded to outstanding candidates who meet the scheme's minimum eligibility criteria set out below.

NTU is home to several innovative Research Centres spanning all our academic schools and supporting diverse collaboration. We are looking for researchers with a passion for their discipline, who take innovative approaches to their field: before applying, be sure to look at our catalogue of Research Centres and Research Projects to see which might be the best fit for you. You can find details to our research areas on our website.

You can also join one of our PhD studentship webinars to find out more information.

Candidates should have research interests that clearly align with at least one of our Research Centres or Research Projects advertised.

Applicants for the Scheme will be considered based on academic qualifications or equivalent experience, interest, motivation and potential to undertake research in the chosen area. This will be assessed through the application form, including research proposal and/or supporting statement, and the interview.

The University is firmly committed to a diverse and inclusive research culture which is characterised by fairness and equality of opportunity for all. We are actively seeking applications from groups that are currently under-represented in research.

The Studentship will cover:

- Tuition fees for Years 1-3 of PhD study at Nottingham Trent University and the thesis-pending fee in Year 4.
- A stipend to be paid in monthly arrears in Years 1-3 of PhD study at Nottingham Trent University in line with UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) minimum rates. You can find further information on UKRI rates.

Eligibility criteria

The Nottingham Trent University PhD Studentship Scheme has funded some remarkable projects over the last few years, and we hope to see that continue in 2024. The 2024 Nottingham Trent University PhD Studentship Scheme is open to all UK, EU, and Overseas students who meet the academic and scheme eligibility criteria:

1. To be eligible to apply to the 2024 PhD Studentship Scheme you must meet the standard qualifications entry criteria for PhD study at Nottingham Trent

University which can be found in paragraphs 4.4 and 4.5 of the [Quality Handbook Section 11- Research Degrees](#).

2. You must be available to begin study at Nottingham Trent University either on our 01 October 2024 entry date or on our 05 January 2025 entry date.

3. Existing doctoral level candidates based at Nottingham Trent University or applicants who already hold a doctoral degree will not be eligible for PhD Studentship funding under this scheme.

4. You are only allowed to submit **one** application relating to **one** proposal to the 2024 Nottingham Trent University PhD Studentship Scheme.

5. Only full and complete applications, submitted by 12noon (GMT) on 12 January 2024 to the NTU Doctoral School via the online application portal, will be eligible to enter the PhD Studentship scheme.

The application process

The 2024 Nottingham Trent University PhD Studentship Scheme closes on **12 January 2024 at 12 noon (GMT)** for entry in October 2024 or January 2025.

The NTU Doctoral School will treat your online form as an application for a place to study for a PhD research degree at Nottingham Trent University, as well as a funding application for the 2024 Nottingham Trent University PhD Studentship Scheme. **Please note** that it is possible that you may be eligible for a place to study at NTU, but that your application is not awarded funding under the 2024 Nottingham Trent University PhD Studentship Scheme.

Please ensure that you complete the correct application form entitled '2024 NTU PhD Studentship Scheme'.

The online application consists of four **mandatory** sections which need to be completed before you can submit.

Please note that the data for the 2024 Nottingham Trent University PhD Studentship Scheme is collected through a third-party system developed and hosted by the company **SurveyMonkey**.

Eligibility questions:

Before you can proceed with your application you will be asked a number of questions designed to assess your eligibility for funding under the 2024 Nottingham Trent University PhD Studentship Scheme. Please ensure that you have read the details on **eligibility criteria**.

Completing the online application form:

Section 1: Personal Details

Please ensure that all your contact details are correct, as this is how we will communicate with you.

Section 2: Qualifications

Please provide details of the Higher Education institutions you have attended (or are currently attending), the courses you have completed (or are about to complete) at undergraduate and postgraduate level, and the results achieved or pending.

If your qualifications have been awarded by an educational establishment outside of the UK, please provide details of your final or current Grade Point Average (GPA)/mark percentage. This will allow us to establish your degree equivalency.

Section 3: English Language Requirements

Please indicate whether English is your first language. If English is not your first language, please provide details of any English language qualifications you hold or if you have previously studied in the UK. If you are submitting an IELTS report, please ensure that the date of the test is not older than 2 years.

Please find further details on alternative [English language tests accepted here](#)

Section 4: Research Project

Project or Proposal? There are two ways to apply for one of our PhD Studentships: you can apply to one of the projects proposed by our academic schools or you can propose your own research project. Before you apply, make sure to carefully read the information provided by each School on their research themes and aims.

Proposed Supervisor(s): This section is **optional**. If you already have had discussions with potential supervisors at NTU, are applying to one of the research projects advertised as part of this scheme or have clear ideas who you would like to work with, please provide the name(s) of your proposed supervisor(s) in this section of the application.

Further information on relevant staff can be found on our [Research Centre pages](#).

Information on research projects and academic schools can be found on our [studentship pages](#)

Academic School: Please use the drop-down menu to indicate which academic school your proposal is most suitably aligned to or the academic school in which the research project you are applying for is located.

Research Centre Alignment: Candidates should have research interests that clearly align with at least one of our Research Centres or apply to one of the research projects advertised. Where relevant we particularly welcome applications in the strategic research areas linked to the Research Centres.

Please clearly indicate the Research Centre to which the research project you are applying for is linked or you feel your research interest is best aligned in the **mandatory**

field on the application form. Details of Research Centres can be found on our [Research Centre pages](#)

Research Project ID number: If you have chosen to apply to one of the research projects advertised as part of this scheme, please enter the Research Project ID number for the project you are applying for.

Please find details on research projects here our via [studentship pages](#)

Summary of proposed research topic: Briefly explain the context of your research proposal, its aims and objectives, and potential impact. If applying for a research project with this scheme, please briefly highlight how your research interests are suitable to deliver the project successfully (maximum 250 words)

Please reference any NTU Research Groups that are relevant to your proposed research project.

Please present your summary clearly and precisely. The reviewers of your application will be looking for evidence of the quality of your research proposal as well as alignment to Research Centres, research priorities or Research Groups.

Research Proposal and Personal Statement

If you are applying for a listed PhD project:

If you decide to apply for one of the projects proposed by our academic staff, then you need to clearly state in your application form which project you are applying for. When completing the form, rather than a Project Proposal you will need to instead provide an outline that demonstrates your understanding of the research project, its goals and potential impact, and the approach that you would take as a doctoral candidate. This section should include the methodology you might choose, potential avenues of research dissemination, and possible long-term impacts you could facilitate. In your Personal Statement, you should detail what would make you the ideal candidate for the project, any relevant experience and background, and your reasons for pursuing a doctorate in the field. You do not need to contact the supervisory team before you apply for a project, unless you have specific questions.

If you are proposing your own PhD project:

If you are proposing your own project, you must make sure that you have first identified and contacted a [potential supervisor or supervisory team](#) at NTU. You can get consult the [staff directory](#) to find members of the academic staff who specialise in your area of proposed study or contact the academic school directly. Once you have identified a supervisor and they have agreed to support your application, you need to create a project proposal.

Please provide a research proposal of 1,500 words (references and appendices are not included) clearly describing:

- the research area or topic that you wish to study for a PhD or how your research interests are suitable for successfully delivering a research project
- the research question(s) you wish to investigate including an explanation of why the proposed research area is likely to lead to high quality research outcomes
- why it interests you
- the methodology i.e. how you propose to research it
- the research context, in which you should explain how your proposed PhD research area or topic relates to other work in the field
- the purpose and originality of your research i.e. how you think your project might contribute to understanding of your subject.

You will also need **to submit your proposal or statement as a separate word document** which includes a proposed timeline of your research and a bibliography or reference list.

Please note: If you are applying for an advertised project, this section should outline your understanding of the project's significance and potential impact in addition to the approach you would take.

If you are applying to the **School of Science and Technology** you need to submit a research proposal or statement evidencing your suitability for a research project of **no more than 500 words** that should be a clear and concise statement and include the following:

- References, with web links, to at least five journal articles or relevant reviews that report the state of the art in the field related to your proposed PhD research area or topic.

Previous experience and personal statement: Please set out your experience, interest and motivation to undertake doctoral research in the proposed project area and how you have the skills and attributes to deliver this project successfully and on time in form of a brief essay (maximum 500 words).

Section 5: Referees

Please submit the names and contact details of **two referees**.

These would usually be, for example, academic tutors who have taught you during your undergraduate or Masters degree (but not your proposed supervisor) or of equivalent professional standing. Please ensure that you provide a current and accurate email address for your referees in your application.

Additional document upload:

Please upload additional documentation to enable us to review and assess your application. This part is **mandatory** and you will have to upload the required documentation before you submit your application. The following is required:

1. **Research proposal:** Please submit your proposal as a separate word document which includes a proposed timeline of your research and a bibliography or reference list.

2. **Certificates and transcripts:** Please upload any relevant certificates, transcripts (translated into English if applicable) as part of the application. (**Please note**: If you have not finished your current course, please indicate this clearly on your application form and provide evidence of your pending degree such as an up to date HEAR report or a provisional transcript).

   Please ensure that the actual (or provisional) grade, Grade Point Average (GPA), or mark percentage is included on any certificates and/or transcripts you provide. Applicants who are former NTU students are still required to provide evidence of successfully completing their degree such as original transcripts, certificates or a HEAR report.

   Strictly where relevant to your application, please include any certification of professional experience, publications, written reports, or other appropriate evidence of accomplishment.

3. **English Language Requirement:** Where applicable, please upload any documentation which provides evidence that you meet NTU English language requirements for undertaking postgraduate research. If you are submitting an IELTS report, please ensure that the date of the test is not older than 2 years.

4. **Equal opportunities:** Applicants for the Scheme will be considered based on academic qualifications or equivalent experience, interest, motivation and potential to undertake research in the chosen area.

   This will be assessed through the application form, including research proposal, and supporting statement, and the interview. The University is firmly committed to a diverse and inclusive research culture which is characterised by fairness and equality of opportunity for all. We are actively seeking applications from groups that are currently under-represented in research.

   Please note, the data you provide here will not be used in the assessment of your application but is a requirement of the application process.

5. **Submit:** Once you have completed all the mandatory steps outlined above, please review your application carefully and click 'Review & Submit'.

Assessment Criteria

- **Quality of the applicant**, including their qualifications, academic abilities, and their academic and professional skills and experience that have prepared them to complete a research project successfully.
- **Quality and feasibility of the research proposal or proven ability to deliver a research project,** including evidence of a coherent and well thought-out plan for

doctoral study; potential contribution to the field; and, where an applicant applies for a research project, evidence that research interests suitable to deliver the project successfully.

- **Project proposal is aligned with School strategic research priorities and supervisor expertise.**

Please note that not all applicants will be considered and invited to interview due to the competitive nature of this funding scheme.

Selection Panels

Following the interviews, each academic School will submit a shortlist of supported candidates. These will be reviewed in detail by the final selection panels for the 2024 Nottingham Trent University PhD Studentship Scheme. The panel will make the decision on which applications will be recommended to the Pro Vice Chancellor - Research and Innovation (or nominated representative) to receive the funding.

The final funding decisions for awarding a PhD Studentship will be signed off by Nottingham Trent University's Pro Vice Chancellor - Research and Innovation (or nominated representative). These decisions are final. There is no right of appeal for these funding decisions.