



John Anderson Research Studentship Scheme (JARSS)

GUIDE FOR STAFF

RESEARCH EXCELLENCE AWARDS (REA)

STUDENT EXCELLENCE AWARDS (SEA)

INTERNATIONAL STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS EXCELLENCE AWARDS (ISPEA)

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John Anderson Research Studentship Scheme (JARSS) Overview

The John Anderson Research Studentship Scheme (JARSS) offers annual doctoral studentships to support outstanding students and excellent research projects. The two primary sources of funding are the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council - Doctoral Landscape Award (EPSRC - DLA) and central University funds.

The EPSRC DLA replaces the former EPSRC Doctoral Training Partnership (DTP) award as part of UKRI's new [Doctoral Investment Framework](#), introduced in January 2024. This framework simplifies funding into two award categories: Doctoral Landscape Awards and Doctoral Focal Awards. DLAs are designed to cover a broad range of research areas, offering flexible funding that can be tailored to the needs of specific disciplines or sectors, allowing studentships to be tailored for individual projects.

The largest DLA grant received by the University comes from the EPSRC. In 2025/26 EPSRC introduced an additional requirement stipulating that at least 25% of students funded through the DLA grant each year must be involved in Collaborative Studentships. Further details on this can be found in the *EPSRC DLA-funded REAs and SEAs* section below.

JARSS Studentship Types

In the 2026/27 competition, the JARSS will consist of three types of studentship allocations: Research Excellence Awards (REA), Student Excellence Awards (SEA), and ISP Excellence Awards (ISPEA). The ISP Excellence Awards track has been introduced to integrate the former ISP Joint PhD Cluster Studentships into JARSS, ensuring strategic international collaborations are supported within a single unified scheme.

The JARSS is managed centrally by the [PGR Funding Team](#), which allocates initial funds to Faculties. Faculties then manage the support provided to Departments on a competitive basis. Faculties receive notification of their nominal share of the central University and EPSRC DLA funding allocations towards REA, SEA and ISPEA studentships, and have flexibility to split this across the three categories such that they optimise their PGR intake and maximise leveraging of these funds.

All three studentship types (REA, SEA, and ISPEA) are supported by central University funds. EPSRC Doctoral Landscape Award (DLA) funding is available for REA and SEA only; ISPEA must be funded exclusively from central University allocations.

Note: EPSRC DLA and central University funds are separate, and governed by different terms and conditions. Transfers between them are not permitted.

Application Process

Applications are academic-led and must be submitted via the [PGR Studentship System](#), detailing the case for support and the full proposed financial package. The table below indicates the maximum JARSS funding request *per annum* for the duration of a given studentship. Applicants must ensure full funding is in place to cover Home or International fees and the annual [UKRI minimum stipend](#) level. This leveraging requirement has been designed in order to maximise student numbers and promote external funding contributions and collaboration.

JARSS funds cannot be mixed with any other UKRI grant funds or central University funding awards (e.g. as part of initial Strathclyde Centres for Doctoral Training (SCDT) or externally-funded Centres for Doctoral Training (CDTs) allocations).

Funding Duration and Limits

EPSRC DLA studentships are funded for 3.5 years, whereas University studentships are funded for 3 years.

Minimum & Maximum University JARSS (REA, SEA and ISPEA) Request per Annum		
	Minimum	Maximum
REA, SEA and ISPEA	£5,000	£15,000

Minimum & Maximum EPSRC JARSS (REA and SEA) Request per Annum		
	Minimum	Maximum
REA and SEA	£16,000	£16,000

Submission Deadlines

There are two annual submission deadlines, as tabled below, for Faculties to submit their applications. Applications for all three studentship types (REA, SEA, and ISPEA) can be submitted in either round. Faculties will provide specific guidance and may set earlier internal deadlines. While the majority of applications are expected to be submitted in the first round, the second round will be available, contingent on remaining funds, and is intended to accommodate applications requiring additional time to secure external funding. Faculties may opt to submit all their applications by the first deadline if preferred.

Due to timing considerations, applications submitted in the second round should have an identified student (i.e. for a SEA, or a REA or ISPEA with a student already identified). To support earlier approval of individual studentships, where required, applications can be submitted ahead of the stated deadlines following Departmental and Faculty communications and alignment.

All applications are reviewed by the PGR Funding Team in RKES, with final review and approval by the Deputy Associate Principal, Research & Knowledge Exchange (DAP (R&KE)).

	Faculty Ranking	DAP Approval
Round 1	Mid-January	Early February
Round 2	Mid-May	Early June

Note: Departments and Faculties will have their own internal deadlines prior to the Faculty ranking process.

Research Excellence Award (REA)

Criteria

- Funding is awarded to support defined projects that advance the University's strategic research ambitions, with emphasis on internationally-leading research quality and increasing postgraduate research opportunities in the specified area.
- Faculties are responsible for managing the allocation of funds across Departments and for setting internal deadlines for Faculty-level review prior to final application submission.
- A maximum of £15,000 per annum for 3 years (University) or £16,000 per annum for 3.5 years (EPSRC DLA) can be requested.
- The additional funding required to complete full studentship packages must be contributed from alternative sources, such as external partners, Faculty, Departmental, or Supervisors' budgets.
- The estimated cost of the full studentship funding package is based on a 1st October start date. If the student starts later and there is a resulting funding shortfall, the Department is responsible for securing the additional funds required. Please note that the **latest permissible start date** is **1st April**

within the academic year of the relevant allocation. Awards will be rescinded if studentships do not commence by this date.

- Where external funding is included, a letter of support from the collaborating partner, confirming the financial contribution, must be uploaded with the application. This letter can be either a formal document on headed paper (signed and dated) or a confirmation email from the partner organisation. All uploaded documents (e.g. external funding confirmation/support letters) **must be in PDF format**.
- For the EPSRC DLA Collaborative Studentships, the Application type 'Collaborative - EPSRC' must be selected on the PGR Studentship System.
- REA studentships may be funded through either EPSRC DLA or University funding.

Student Excellence Award (SEA)

Criteria

- Funding is provided for named students who demonstrate academic excellence, typically with at least a 2:1 undergraduate degree (or equivalent). Faculties may set a 1st Class honours degree requirement.
- Faculties are responsible for managing funding allocations across Departments, and may set internal deadlines for Faculty review prior to final submission of applications.
- A maximum of £15,000 per annum for 3 years (University) or £16,000 per annum for 3.5 years (EPSRC DLA) can be requested.
- The remaining funding needed to complete the full studentship package must be contributed from other sources, such as external contributions, Faculty, Departmental, or Supervisors' budgets.
- Applications must include: (i) an up-to-date CV; (ii) two appropriate and relevant academic references (signed, dated – within the last 6 months - and on headed paper, or email confirmations saved and **uploaded as PDFs**); and (iii) transcripts for all relevant qualifications (awarded or ongoing), including overall degree classification and official translations if applicable. All uploaded documents must be in **PDF format**.
- Where external funding is included, a letter of support from the collaborating partner, confirming the financial contribution, must be uploaded with the application. This letter can be either a formal document on headed paper (signed and dated) or a confirmation email from the partner organisation. All uploaded documents (e.g. external funding confirmation/support letters) **must be in PDF format**.
- To avoid conflicts of interest, references from the proposed 1st or 2nd supervisor cannot be used the two primary references. However, supplementary references from supervisors may be included if they provide relevant information not covered in other application documents.
- The estimated cost of the full studentship funding package is based on a 1st October start date. If the student starts later and there is a resulting funding shortfall, the Department is responsible for securing the additional funds required. Please note that the **latest permissible start date is 1st April** within the academic year of the relevant allocation. Awards will be rescinded if studentships do not commence by this date.
- For the EPSRC DLA Collaborative Studentships, the Application type 'Collaborative -EPSRC' must be selected on the PGR Studentship System.
- SEA studentships may be funded through either EPSRC DLA or University funding.

ISP Excellence Awards (ISPEA)

Criteria

- **Strategic alignment:** Applications must demonstrate alignment with one or more of the University's designated International Strategic Partners (ISPs) – see further below for a list.
- **Matched studentship:** Evidence of a matched studentship funded at the international partner institution is mandatory. This must include:
 - A signed and dated letter on headed paper confirming the funding amount and purpose (fees and/or stipend).

- Details of the research area for the partner's student and expected start date.
- **Collaborative research programme:** Applications must outline a coherent joint research programme, specifying:
 - Thematic area development plans.
 - Plans for growth of the collaboration (e.g., joint publications, external funding bids, staff/student exchanges).
- **Funding package:**
 - Maximum central University contribution: £15,000 per annum for 3 years.
 - All University funding must be split evenly over the 36-month duration of a studentship (i.e. a studentship awarded a total of £45k of central University funds must use £15k per annum). Any funds not used within the allocated academic year cannot be used in a later year, and may be lost. If a student starts late or takes voluntary suspension for any reason, attempts should be made to ensure the central University funds are used in full in any given year and the contributions from other sources are used at a later date.
 - Full funding package must cover Home fees and UKRI minimum stipend.
 - International candidates with 'International' fee status can be considered for ISP studentships; however, the PGR Funding Team must be notified of how the difference between the Home and International fee levels is being covered for the full duration of the studentship. International fee differences must be covered by Faculty/Department/external sources (students cannot use stipend for this).
 - International candidates contributing towards the difference between the Home and International fees will be required to provide a signed and dated letter in pdf format confirming the level of funding being provided towards their funding package.
 - If funding from external sources is being used to make up the full studentship package it should contribute to or cover the tuition fees with any remaining external funding contributing to stipend.
 - Academic applicants are responsible for ensuring sufficient additional funds are in place to support all non-student costs (including travel & subsistence, laboratory costs, and consumables), as well as the balance of any international tuition fees.
 - Central University budgets cannot be used as a temporary code. If budgets for external funds contributing to the studentship are in the processes of being set up, Departmental budget codes must be used in the interim to ensure students can register and receive stipend payments.
 - To initiate the contract and budget process for external funding contributions, the academic supervisor is responsible for undertaking a costing using the Costing and Pricing Module (CPM) via the [Financial Management System \(FMS\)](#). Once the costing is complete, they should then contact the [Contracts Team](#) with the costing reference, details of the external funder (including funding split), project proposal, and any relevant documentation.
- **Trusted Research & Innovation:** It's important that ISP Joint PhD Cluster applicants have ensured that their projects are compliant with the Trusted Research & Innovation initiative. Applicants are responsible for:
 - Completion of the [International Governance Enquiry Form](#) prior to submission of the application.
 - Confirmation of compliance with Trusted Research & Innovation requirements. Enquiries related to Trusted Research & Innovation should be directed to: trusted-research@strath.ac.uk
- **Start Date:** Studentships should commence by 1 October 2026 (latest permissible start date: 1 April 2027).
- **Award process:**

- The ISP Excellence Awards track has been introduced to integrate the former ISP Joint PhD Cluster Studentships into JARSS, creating one unified scheme to reduce administrative overhead and enable Faculties to balance strategic priorities across REA, SEA and ISPEA.
 - Applicants should first consult with their Faculty Vice Dean (Research) and/or Associate Dean (PGR), as appropriate, to confirm support and availability of an ISPEA studentship. Each Faculty may have set a deadline for this.
 - After submission, the PGR Funding Team will review all applications and request additional information from applicants if required. Once this review is complete, applications will be forwarded to the Deputy Associate Principal (Research & Knowledge Exchange) for final consideration and approval.
- **Application Submission:**
 - Use the PGR Studentship System, selecting “ISP Excellence Award” as the category.
 - Upload all required documentation in **PDF format** (e.g. letters confirming matched studentship and external funding contributions).

International Strategic Partners

Please note that the institutions where Strathclyde is strategically promoting collaborative relationships (see table below, plus any new ISPs announced in the coming year) have been established by the Principal following strategic institutional engagements. Not all such international institutions will have dedicated funding schemes in place for a matched studentship. It is the responsibility of the academic applicant at Strathclyde to establish a reciprocal relationship with the partner institution, and for the partner institution to explore funding opportunities within their own institution for the matched student.

Asia	Europe	North America
Hong Kong University of Science and Technology	Aalto University	City University of New York
Nanyang Technological University	Chalmers University of Technology	California Institute of Technology
Tsinghua University	Danish Technological University	Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Middle East University	Delft University of Technology	New York University
Asian Institute of Technology	ETH Zurich	Stanford University
Peking University	KU Leuven	Waterloo University
King Abdullah University of Science and Technology	Politecnico di Milano	University of Southern California
Princess Nourah Bint Abdulrahman University	RWTH Aachen	
	University College Dublin	
	Graz University of Technology (TU Graz)	
	Comillas Pontifical University	
	TU Braunschweig	
	University of Pavia	
	KTH Royal Institute of Technology	

EPSRC DLA-funded REAs and SEAs

Student Eligibility

- EPSRC DLA studentships are open to Home and International candidates. However, the standard funding package covers Home fees and UKRI stipend only. EPSRC funds cannot be used to cover the difference between the Home and International fees.
- To qualify as a Home student, applicants must meet one of the following criteria:
 - Be a UK national (meeting [residency requirements](#))
 - Have settled status
 - Have pre-settled status (meeting [residency requirements](#))
 - Have indefinite leave to remain or enter.
- Students who do not meet these criteria are classified as International students. UKRI permits universities to award up to 30% of studentships per cohort, per training grant, to the very best International students. Please see the *30% rule* and *Differential Fee Scholarship (DFS)* sections below for further information.

Fees and Stipend Levels

All EPSRC DLA-funded students must have a full [UKRI minimum stipend](#) in place for the duration of the studentship. International students may contribute only towards the fee difference between Home and International rates. Contributions cannot be used for the stipend or Home fee. Home fees and [UKRI minimum stipend](#) must be covered by the funding package. Stipend payments to students cannot be used to cover the difference in Home and International fees, as they are intended to cover living costs of the student. The EPSRC DLA contribution to a studentship must cover the Home tuition fee with remaining funds allocated to stipend. Stipend top-ups are permitted, but detailed breakdowns of these must be provided to the [PGR Funding Team](#) for inclusion in the studentship offer letter. All students receiving EPSRC funding must receive at least 50% of their fees and stipend from the EPSRC grant for the duration of the studentship, as per UKRI rules; therefore, any stipend top-up proposal must be assessed in line with this grant regulation.

Collaborative Studentships

The EPSRC DLA terms and conditions require a minimum of 25% of studentships funded through a DLA grant each year to be collaborative. These studentships involve active engagement with non-academic partners, who contribute to the project's direction, outputs, and the student's career development. This must include cash or in-kind contributions to support the studentship. To be classed as an EPSRC DLA Collaborative Studentship, it is EPSRC's expectation that the student will also spend at least 3 months hosted by the external collaborating partner.

The aim of collaborative studentships is to increase collaboration between academic researchers and non-academic partners, whilst providing students with experience of diverse work environments beyond their academic research, cultivating transferable skills and contributing to personal and professional development.

The PGR Studentship System has an additional section for these 'Collaborative Studentship' applications. Academic applicants must detail the collaborator engagement and their role in the project, and specify in-kind support from the external partner (in the relevant sections of the application). Each Collaborative Studentship application must include a letter of support from the external partner confirming: the value of the financial and estimated in-kind support; their active involvement in the project and career progression of the student; and, their commitment to hosting the student for a placement of at least three months during the doctoral research period.

Notes Regarding Collaborative Studentship Placements:

- Students undertaking 'Collaborative Studentships' may undertake multiple shorter placement with their external collaborator, provided that the total duration is at least three months over the duration of the project.
- Placements can be partially in-person and partially online, if appropriate to the project and subject to agreement between the supervisors and external partner.
- Collaboration with local organisations is encouraged to make placement opportunities as accessible as possible for students.

- Academic applicants should engage early with the external collaborator to discuss placement-related costs (e.g. accommodation, additional travel or other costs incurred due to the placement) and encourage partners to cover these expenses.
- If the external collaborator is not able to cover the placement costs (e.g. an SME), the PGR Funding Team should be notified as soon as possible. Additional Research Training Support Grant (RTSG) funds may be available to contribute to relevant travel and/or accommodation costs, subject to proposal submission, approval and fund availability.
- A risk assessment must be completed for all placements, as well as discussion about any reasonable adjustments or flexibilities needed.

Research Training Support Grant (RTSG)

EPSRC DLA-funded students have access to Research Training Support Grant (RTSG) funding of £1,500 per annum, which can be used to cover project-related expenses, such as conference attendance, consumables, and travel. This funding can be accessed through the Departmental EPSRC DLA subprojects (activity code 469). These funds are strictly reserved for students receiving stipend and fee support from the EPSRC DLA grant.

The RTSG is intended solely for expenses related to the individual student to which they are allocated and their doctoral project and cannot be used for academic costs or expenses that should be covered by other University funds, such as computers, laptops, or general laboratory costs. An RTSG guidance document is available on the PGR Funding Team's [Portal pages](#).

Funding Allocation

All EPSRC DLA funding should be evenly distributed over the 42-month duration of a studentship. For example, a total award of £54,250 of EPSRC DLA funds should be profiled as £15,500 per annum. Where even distribution is not feasible, particularly where external funding is concerned, the EPSRC DLA funds can be profiled differently on agreement with the PGR Funding Team.

30% Rule

In accordance with UKRI regulations, up to 30% of new EPSRC studentships per grant, per year may be awarded to exceptional International candidates. Supervisors must contact the relevant Faculty to enquire about the availability of a 30% rule space under this Faculty-managed quota and deadlines for applications. An International candidate cannot be recruited to an EPSRC DLA studentship without an approved 30% rule allocation.

Differential Fee Scholarship (DFS)

The difference between the [Home and International fees](#) for studentships for which the 30% rule applies cannot be covered by funding from a UKRI grant. Sources such as external funding, Faculty or Department budgets, student self-funding, or the University's Differential Fee Scholarship (DFS) scheme can be used to cover this difference.

Supervisors must contact their Faculty for details of DFS funding available and application deadlines. Where the difference between the Home and International fees will be covered by sources other than the DFS (e.g. external project partner), supervisors must still contact their Faculty to apply for a 30% rule space.

UKRI Joint Electronic System (Je-S)/ Studentship Data System (SDS)

As a condition of UKRI studentship funding, all UKRI-funded students' details must be entered into UKRI's Joint Electronic System (Je-S)/Studentship Data System (SDS) by no later than one month after the student commences their studies.

Academic supervisors will be contacted by the PGR Funding Team and asked to complete a dedicated form with the required student information. This data will be submitted to UKRI to create the student's record. Submission of this information by the specified deadline is a **mandatory condition** of the **JARSS studentship award**.

Each funding council has a dedicated form, which can be found on PGR Funding Team's [Portal pages](#). Supervisors and Departments must also notify the PGR Funding Team of any and all changes to a student's status throughout the duration of the studentship, as these must be recorded on UKRI system.

Leave

All EPSRC DLA-funded JARSS students are eligible for paid Medical, Maternity/Birth Parent, Paternity/Partner, Neonatal, Adoption, Carers and Special (Discretionary) leave. Further details can be found in the [UKRI Leave Provision Guide](#). For extended Carers, extended Paternity, Shared Parental, and Discretionary Leave, EPSRC DLA funded students can apply to the [PGR Leave Support Fund](#).

[Voluntary suspension](#) should be taken for the period to allow fee payments to be suspended and the studentship duration to be extended. International students should contact the [International Student Support Team](#) with any questions regarding visa implications noting that certain visas allow a 60-working day 'leave of absence'. Students, or their Department or Supervisor, should contact the PGR Funding Team as soon as possible when considering taking voluntary suspension, as it may have an impact on the overall studentship funding package.

The EPSRC DLA grant can only contribute up to the percentage of the studentship covered by the EPSRC DLA funding, and the remaining funding must be covered by additional funds from the co-funders of the studentship (e.g. Dept/Faculty/external partner).

Extensions to maximum duration of study, other than for the reasons above, are not recognised by EPSRC, and students who are granted extensions by the University will be recorded as late submissions.

All EPSRC DLA funded JARSS students are entitled to annual leave, with a minimum of 30 days to a maximum of eight weeks per year to include public holidays.

All EPSRC DLA funded JARSS students can take unpaid parental leave to provide care for a child for up to one month each year.

University-funded REAs, SEAs and ISPEAs

Student Eligibility

All students (Home and International) are eligible to apply for University-funded JARSS awards. The difference between the Home and International fees can be covered from sources such as external funding, Faculty or Department budgets, or student self-funding. The DFS scheme is not available for University-funded REAs, SEAs and ISPEAs (as detailed above, it has been established specifically to help fund international students appointed to a UKRI studentship under the 30% rule).

Where an International student is contributing towards the difference between the Home and International fee rates, a signed and dated letter confirming that they agree to pay towards the fees must be submitted, including the estimated fee difference for the full duration of the studentship.

If the student is subsequently unable to cover the difference in fees due to unforeseen/exceptional circumstances during the doctoral research project, it is the responsibility of the Department to work with the student to identify an alternative way to cover the difference in fees.

Fees and Stipend Levels

All University-funded JARSS students must have a full [UKRI minimum stipend](#) in place for the duration of the studentship. Financial contributions from International candidates can only be made towards the difference between Home and International fee levels, not the stipend or Home fees. Home fees and [UKRI minimum stipend](#) must be covered by the funding package. Stipend payments to students cannot be used to cover the difference in Home and International fees.

Research Training Support Grant (RTSG)

University-funded JARSS students do not receive Research Training Support Grant (RTSG) funding from central sources.

Funding Allocation

All University funding must be evenly distributed over the 36-month duration of a studentship. For example, a total award of £45,000 should be profiled as £15,000 per annum. Any funds not used within the allocated academic year cannot be carried forward for use in a later year. If a student starts late or takes voluntary suspension, attempts should be made to ensure the central JARSS funds are used in full in any given year and the contributions from other sources are used at a later date.

Where it is not possible to use the full central allocation within a given academic year, the unspent funds will be lost, and the Department will be responsible for covering the resulting shortfall in the funding package.

Leave

All University-funded JARSS students, without access to these forms of paid leave from a co-funder, can apply to the University's [PGR Leave Support Fund](#) for paid Medical, Maternity/Birth Parent, Paternity/Partner, Adoption, Shared Parental, Carers and Discretionary (Special) Leave. [Voluntary suspension](#) should be taken for the period to allow fee payments to be suspended and the studentship duration to be extended. International students should contact the [International Student Support Team](#) with any questions regarding visa implications noting that certain visas allow a 60-working day 'leave of absence'. Students, or their Department or Supervisor, should contact the PGR Funding Team as soon as possible when considering taking voluntary suspension, as it may have an impact on the overall studentship funding package.

All University funded JARSS students are entitled to annual leave, with a minimum of 30 days to a maximum of eight weeks per year to include public holidays.

All EPSRC DLA funded JARSS students can take unpaid parental leave to provide care for a child for up to one month each year.

All JARSS Awards

External funding

All external funding contributions to a funding package must be evidenced by a letter or email confirming the value of the contribution, and the purpose (e.g., fees, stipend, travel etc.). This should be saved and uploaded as a PDF file.

By submitting a JARSS application for review and approval by the DAP, R&KE, departments are committing to underwrite any external funding contributions that do not materialise.

Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI)

When completing the required Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI) section on a JARSS application the following should be considered:

- Diversity and inclusion strategies to promote equitable participation in research.
- RRI training that both the supervisors and student will undertake to ensure ethical and responsible research practices.
- Collaboration with policymakers and industry to align research with societal needs and regulatory frameworks.
- Promotion of open science through open-access publishing, data sharing, and reproducibility initiatives.
- It is recommended to use the [UKRI Anticipate, Reflect, Engage, Act \(AREA\) framework for RRI](#).

Applications that do not have sufficient information on RRI will be considered incomplete.

Trusted Research and Innovation (TRI)

All supervisors and doctoral researchers are expected to follow [Trusted Research and Innovation \(TRI\)](#) best practice. TRI considerations include [Export Control](#), the [Academic Technology Approval Scheme \(ATAS\)](#), the [National Security & Investment Act 2021](#), and partner due diligence requirements from funders such as UKRI.

The Strathclyde approach towards TRI is a key enabler of collaborative and international research both in the [Strathclyde 2030 strategic vision](#) and [Research Code of Practice](#), protecting our people, academic endeavour, and reputation.

TRI information and resources are available to all staff via the dedicated internal [RKES Portal](#) and an online [University of Strathclyde awareness raising course on TRI](#) is available on [MyPlace](#).

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (E,D&I) Monitoring

An internal equality, diversity and inclusion monitoring and reporting process for all JARSS studentships (UKRI and University-funded) has been established to facilitate the collection of data for internal and external reporting requirements. Full guidance on the new process and requirements can be found on the PGR Funding Team's [Portal pages](#).

Although candidates are *not* required to provide requested E,D&I data, and have the option not to disclose information on the E,D&I form, it is a condition of all JARSS awards that Supervisors and Departments follow the E,D&I monitoring and reporting process.

Process Following Approval on the PGR Studentship System

Once JARSS applications have been fully approved by the DAP via the PGR Studentship System, the academic applicant will be notified via email by the PGR Funding Team.

All 2026/27 JARSS students are expected to start on the 1st of October 2026. The latest a 2026/27 JARSS student can start is the 1st of April 2027 and, if this is not possible, the JARSS funding will be reclaimed by the centre. For start dates later than 1st October 2026, there will be a shortfall in funding as the studentship will fall into later years and this shortfall will need sourced by the Department. In such circumstances, please contact the [PGR Funding Team](#) for further information.

If an external partner organisation is contributing financially to a studentship funding package, the applicant must ensure that a costing is completed via the University's Costing Tool and a contract/agreement is drawn up in collaboration with the RKES Grants and Contracts Team. External partners are required to contribute to paid leave where appropriate and the contract should include this.

Once a REA or ISPEA application is approved, recruitment for a candidate should start straight away. Advertisement of individual studentships are the responsibility of Departments/Faculties, which may have different processes.

All candidates must apply for a place of doctoral research study at Strathclyde via PEGASUS. Faculties and/or Departments may have different processes for applications. If a candidate has not already applied via PEGASUS prior to a SEA application being approved, the Supervisor/Department is responsible for requesting the candidate to do so as soon as possible.

Once JARSS applicants have applied via Pegasus, the PGR Funding Team will check the candidate's eligibility for the funding source and issue a studentship letter to the candidate once satisfied that they meet all eligibility requirements. Studentship letters sent by the PGR Funding Team serve as confirmation of JARSS awards to candidates. Candidates should not be informed by Departments that they have received a studentship until the PGR Funding Team letter has been received.

The PGR Funding Team must be notified if a student declines an offer. If a SEA student declines an offer the Faculty will then be consulted to determine if they are happy for the studentship to remain with the Department or if they would like to reallocate within the Faculty. In either case, a new full application is required, with all necessary documentation, and will then require subsequent final approval by the DAP. If a REA or ISPEA student declines an offer, the supervisor can re-advertise the studentship but must ensure a new student can be found for the intended start date of 1st October. A change of primary supervisor or project title on a REA or ISPEA must be approved by the PGR Funding Team, and a new application may be required.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion in recruitment and beyond

Equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) should be considered at all stages of JARSS studentships. All supervisors of University centrally-managed PGR studentships (including UKRI-funded studentships) are strongly encouraged to undertake Strathclyde's Equality and Diversity Office's suite of [training](#) prior to commencing supervision of a PGR studentship project. Where possible, supervisors should undertake this training prior to starting recruitment.

For further information on EDI in recruitment please see the central University funding [EDI expectations](#) document. Academic supervisors are responsible for supplying applicant details to nominated Departmental EDI Contacts as soon as applications are received, to facilitate the University's EDI reporting procedures, as a condition of the awarding of a studentship application.

Working Hours and Additional Work

Students in full-time employment are not eligible for a stipend or fee payments of any kind from the JARSS. To take on full time employment (e.g. an Research Assistant post) a student must take [voluntary suspension](#) from their doctorate for the relevant period (duration of the employment).

A student in part-time employment (50% of full-time) may be eligible for a part-time award, which must be 50% of full-time.

To maintain focus on doctoral research, internal teaching or tutoring work must be limited to a **maximum of 7 hours in any given week**. Although VISA regulations may allow 20 hours of work per week, full-time students are restricted to a maximum of 7 hours of work per week, and only for teaching activities (e.g. tutoring or demonstrating) to provide the student with teaching experience. Students may only undertake teaching or demonstrating work when this is compatible with their training and does not interfere with their doctoral progress, and provided that this is approved by their Supervisors. The total time spent (including preparation and marking) must not interfere with the progress of the doctorate.

Full-time JARSS studentship holders must not undertake paid work during the University's normal business hours (i.e. Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm), except for approved internal teaching as detailed above.

Placements and Internships

A JARSS funded student can undertake a placement or internship with an external partner. If the placement/internship is an integral part of the doctorate, the JARSS fees and stipend can continue as standard. If the placement/internship is work on a separate project, even if related to the doctorate, [voluntary suspension](#) must be taken, extending the duration of the doctorate accordingly. If necessary, a stipend funded by sources other than the original studentship, can be provided for a placement/internship during the voluntary suspension period. No central University funding can be provided to support an additional stipend for a period of voluntary suspension to allow a student to undertake a placement/internship.

Residency

All students in receipt of a JARSS award must reside within reasonable commuting distance of campus, typically no more than one hour. Living close to campus allows students to engage regularly with supervisors, participation in workshops and seminars, and integration into the wider PGR community.

International Tuition Fees

If a student has International fee status and is responsible for covering the difference between Home and International fees themselves, they are not permitted to use their stipend for this purpose. International

students must secure the necessary funds to cover the required fees prior to starting their PhD. Additionally, as mentioned above, students are not permitted to take on additional work to contribute toward the difference in fees.

Changes of Status

JARSS-funded students, or their Department or Supervisor, should contact the PGR Funding Team as soon as possible when any change in student status is being considered. Students can only be registered at 1 FTE (i.e. FT) or 0.5 FTE (i.e. PT). Students who withdraw from the course or permanently leave the country during their doctoral studies will have their studentship stopped. **Departments and supervisors** must notify the PGR Funding Team immediately if a student is considering withdrawal or relocation abroad during the funded period.

Head of Department (HoD)/ Director of Research (DoR) Comments Guidance

Please note that, unless there is a specific issue to address or additional explanation for support needed, the Head of Department (HoD)/ Director of Research (DoR) **comments should be brief (typically <100 words)** and should focus on the following:

REA:

As the primary goal of this award is to enhance research excellence through projects that align with the University's strategic research priorities, HoD/DoR comments should focus on the strategic alignment of the proposed research with these objectives. Additionally, comments should highlight how the project integrates with other ongoing research activities within the Department and Faculty. If a student is already associated with the project, the remarks should also briefly address the student's qualifications and suitability for the project.

SEA:

Since SEAs are awarded to outstanding named students, the HoD/DoR comments should emphasise the student's qualifications, experience, and how their skills align with the project's requirements. Additionally, the comments should address the quality of the research project and its alignment with the strategic goals of the University, Faculty, and Department.

ISPEA:

As ISP Excellence Awards (ISPEA) are designed to strengthen relationships with international institutions where Strathclyde is strategically promoting collaborative partnerships, the HoD/DoR comments should emphasise the strategic alignment of the proposed project with these objectives. If a student has already been identified, the remarks should also briefly address the student's qualifications and suitability for the project.

Responsibilities and Roles

Academic Applicant/ Supervisors

- Populating the JARSS application with all required information and ensuring all necessary documentation is attached prior to submission. The DAP will not review incomplete applications.
- Ensuring that alignment to EPSRC themes/areas are clearly articulated for EPSRC DLA applications. This also applies if an application is submitted under 'University' and is subsequently changed to an EPSRC DLA application by the Faculty. Applications for EPSRC funding that do not clearly demonstrate alignment with the EPSRC remit will be rejected.
- Ensuring that any application submitted as 'University' or 'EPSRC DLA' which is subsequently changed to an EPSRC DLA Collaborative application by the Faculty is updated to ensure the collaborative partner section is completed.
- Ensuring that the doctoral project can be completed within the funded period as an unpaid writing up period is not supported by UKRI.
- Submitting a Differential Fee Scholarship (DFS) application for an EPSRC-funded REA/SEA by the advertised deadline, if appointment of an International student is being sought.

- Supplying applicant details to nominated Departmental Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Contacts as soon as applications are received, to facilitate the University's ED&I reporting procedures.
- Notifying the PGR Funding Team of a potential candidate for a REA or ISPEA studentship.
- Initially checking the eligibility of a candidate.
- Ensuring familiarity with the University's *Code of Practice for Postgraduate Research Students* and *Postgraduate Research Data Regulations* documents.
- Ensuring familiarity with the UKRI Training Grant Terms and Conditions for EPSRC-funded JARSS studentships.
- Sourcing funding to cover a shortfall to a studentship funding package if external funding listed in an application is not realised.
- Sourcing funding to cover a shortfall to a studentship funding package if a selected candidate requires a later start date.
- Offering reasonable adjustments and making students aware that they can request them where they have a disability.
- Ensuring familiarity with leave provisions and work restrictions.
- Providing appropriate support to doctoral research students on return to their studies after extended periods of leave, including phased returns for up to 4 weeks where appropriate (annual leave can be used in part in these circumstances).
- Carrying out an individual risk assessment for a student that is either (i) pregnant (ii) breastfeeding or (iii) has given birth in the last 6 months.
- Providing requested information for the UKRI Studentship Data System (replacing the Joint Electronic System (Je-S)) record creation, for the EPSRC Annual Monitoring Reporting and any other reporting requirements. **Annual reporting to UKRI on the use of doctoral funding is a key requirement linked to the University's receipt of these funds. Consequently, failure to respond to inquiries from the PGR Funding Team regarding the allocation of UKRI funding and the progress of funded students will unfortunately lead to the suspension of future central University doctoral funding awards for the supervisors in question.**
- Notifying the PGR Funding Team of any changes throughout the studentship, including, but not limited to, when [voluntary suspension](#) is being considered and changes to the funding package.

Faculties

- Disseminating scheme launch information across the Faculty and setting internal Faculty deadlines for submission.
- Managing the Faculty competition for the JARSS.
- Ensuring all applications are complete when submitted to the PGR Funding Team prior to DAP review. The DAP will not review incomplete applications.
- Ranking applications.
- Ensuring applications adhere to EPSRC and central University funding regulations.
- Ensuring that any application submitted as 'University' which is subsequently changed to an 'EPSRC DLA' application is updated by the applicant to ensure clear articulation of the alignment of the proposed project to EPSRC themes/areas and the collaborative partner section is completed for EPSRC Collaborative Studentships.
- Ensuring the minimum 25% collaborative EPSRC DLA award target is met. A target of 30% should be aimed for to allow for student withdrawals and unfilled REAs.
- Advertisement of studentships once approved (in some Faculties this responsibility will be at Department level).

Department (PGR Admin) (Faculties for SBS & HaSS)

- Entering accurate budget information for payment of fees and stipends on the PGR Studentships System to allow students to register and receive stipend payments.
- Amending and updating the PGR Studentship System information as necessary.
- Raising required journals if errors are made or when there is a change in status (e.g. changing to part-time study or a student taking [voluntary suspension](#)).

- Informing the PGR Funding Team of changes to staffing where it will require removal or granting of access on the PGR Studentship System.
- Advertisement of studentships once approved (for some Departments this responsibility will be at Faculty level).

PGR Funding Team

- Working with the DAP to finalise Faculty allocations and launch the JARSS annually.
- Reviewing all JARSS applications, including accompanying documentation, and ensuring completeness and appropriateness of funding packages prior to informing the DAP of readiness for review.
- Confirming award and approval of JARSS applications.
- Checking eligibility of candidates once they have applied via Pegasus and the JARSS application has been approved.
- Monitoring the 25% collaborative EPSRC DLA award target.
- Issuing studentship letters when eligibility is confirmed.
- Providing annual list of centrally-managed budgets to Departments to allow of the updating of the PGR Studentship System.
- Reviewing and 2nd locking of financial records on the PGR Studentship System.
- UKRI Studentship Data System record creation and maintenance for EPSRC DLA-funded studentships, once completed forms have been received.
- Advising on funding implications of changes of status of JARSS students.
- Final reconciliations of EPSRC DLA grants and the University funding.

Deputy Associate Principal (DAP) (R&KE)

- Working with the PGR Funding Team to finalise Faculty allocations and launch the JARSS annually.
- Final review and approval of JARSS applications once notified by the PGR Funding Team.

Useful Links

- [PGR Studentship System](#)
- [Postgraduate Research Degree Regulations](#)
- [Code of Practice for Postgraduate Research Students](#)
- [Pegasus Student Applications](#)
- [PGR Funding Team Portal](#)
- [Voluntary Suspension](#)
- [PGR Leave Support Fund](#)
- [UKRI Training Grant Terms and Conditions](#)
- [UKRI Leave Provision Guidance](#)