



Policies & Procedures

Annual Studentships Competition

The Northern Ireland and North East (NINE) Doctoral Training Partnership is an ESRC-funded consortium of seven universities delivering postgraduate social science training in two UK regions. It comprises Durham University (DU), Newcastle University (NU), Northumbria University (UNN), Teesside University (TU), University of Sunderland (SU), Queen's University Belfast (QUB) and Ulster University (UU).

Summary of updates for 2019

1. Confirmation that the DTP will not fund +2 type awards, and that we do not encourage applications from students currently registered on a PhD programme (pg. 2).
2. Confirmation that the DTP will limit contributions to overseas fieldwork costs to £5,000

Part 1 / Policy

ALLOCATION PRINCIPLES

1. The ESRC NINE DTP runs a **single, combined annual studentship competition** to recruit and select postgraduate students of the very highest calibre to study at Durham, Newcastle, Northumbria, Teesside, Sunderland, Queen's, or Ulster universities. NINE DTP operates an **open competition for the awarding of studentships, which is centred on the quality of candidates and their proposed research.**
2. NINE DTP's **studentship competition has been designed to be as open and transparent as possible**, with academic staff from across accredited Pathways actively encouraged to engage and support the process in a variety of capacities. Furthermore, in support of NINE DTP's emphasis on quality and transparency, all decisions around which students are funded are based on **clear and agreed assessment criteria**, which build on the ESRC's former practice for the awarding of open and collaborative studentships (see Appendix 2).

AVAILABLE AWARDS

3. NINE DTP has more than 50 **fully-funded postgraduate studentships to award to students commencing their postgraduate studies from October 2020.** This allocation of studentships incorporates funding from the Department for the Economy Northern Ireland for students who will study at Queen's University Belfast or Ulster University.

TYPES OF AWARDS AVAILABLE

4. A range of studentships can be applied for (in line with the host institution regulations), including:

- a) **+3 Year Studentships** for students who have already completed, or will have completed by the commencement of their PhD, a Masters that included 60 credits or more of core research methods training.
- b) **1+3 Year Studentships** for students who are yet to commence a research methods training Masters degree.
- c) **+3.5 Year Studentships** for students who have completed, or will have completed by the commencement of their PhD, a Masters in a relevant discipline, but who have not completed or will not successfully complete 60 credits or more of core research methods training. Students selected for these awards will also be registered on and **required to complete a 60-credit Research Training Certificate during their first year of study**, but receive an additional six (6) months funding in support of this.
- d) **2+3 Year Studentships** for students needing to undertake a research training Masters and a language-training Masters. This type of award is only available to students funded to undertake research into the Language-Based Areas Studies (LBAS).

Please note: NINE DTP no longer offers support for +2 studentships; the DTP does not encourage applications from candidates who are already registered on a PhD programme of study.

5. **Part-time equivalents to the above studentships are available across all accredited pathways.** Part-time studentships are provided for 6 years in duration (for doctoral study), funded at or 50% of the full-time rate. Where a part-time award-holder needs to also complete a research training Masters degree a further two years funding will be provided for this prior to the commencement of their PhD. Should a part-time candidate be successful the NINE DTP will consult with the successful candidate and their host Pathway to ensure the appropriate arrangements are in place to support their studies and that they comply with the ESRC's employment requirements affecting part-time award-holders.

ACCREDITED PATHWAYS

6. Studentships can be held in the following accredited Pathways within the ESRC disciplinary remit:

| Pathway | Durham | Newcastle | Queen's | Ulster | Northumbria | Teesside | Sunderland |
|---|--|--|--|-----------------------------------|-------------|----------|------------|
| Anthropology | Department of Anthropology | | School of History, Anthropology, Philosophy and Politics | | | | |
| Economic & Social History | Department of History | Newcastle University Business School | Queen's Management School | | | | |
| Education | School of Education | School of Education, Communication and Language Science | School of Social Sciences, Education and Social Work | | | | |
| Environmental Planning | | School of Architecture, Planning & Landscape School of Agriculture, Food and Rural Development | School of the Natural and Built Environment | | | | |
| Human Geography | Department of Geography | School of Geography, Politics & Sociology | School of the Natural and Built Environment | | | | |
| Language Based Area Studies | School of Government and International Affairs | School of Modern Languages | | | | | |
| Law and Society | Durham Law School | School of Law | School of Law | School of Law | | | |
| Linguistics | | School of Education, Communication and Language Sciences. School of English Literature, Language and Linguistics. School of Modern Languages | School of Social Sciences, Education and Social Work. School of Arts, English and Languages | | | | |
| Management, Business and Economics | Durham University Business School | Newcastle University Business School | Queen's Management School | Ulster University Business School | | | |

| Pathway | Durham | Newcastle | Queen's | Ulster | Northumbria | Teesside | Sunderland |
|--|--|-----------------------------------|--|--|-------------|---|------------|
| Politics & International Studies | School of Government & International Affairs | - | School of History, Anthropology, Philosophy and Politics | Politics and International Studies | | | |
| Psychology | Department of Psychology | School of Psychology | School of Psychology | | | | |
| Sociology, Social Policy, and Social Work | Department of Sociology | Geography, Politics and Sociology | School of Social Sciences, Education and Social Work | School of Sociology and Applied Social Studies. School of Criminology, Politics and Social Policy | | School of Social Sciences, Business and Law | |

Interdisciplinary Pathways

| | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|---|--|--|------------------------------|---|--|
| Children Youth and Families | Department of Sociology | School of Education, Communication and Language Sciences. | | | | School of Social Sciences, Business and Law | |
| | School of Education | School of Geography, Politics & Sociology | School of Social Sciences, Education and Social Work | | | | |
| | Department of Geography | School of Law | | | | | |
| | | School of Arts and Cultures | | | | | |
| Conflict Security and Justice | School of Government & International Affairs | School of Geography, Politics & Sociology | School of History, Anthropology, Philosophy and Politics | School of Criminology, politics, and social Policy | | | |
| | Department of Geography | School of Architecture, Planning & Landscape | School of the Natural and Built Environment | | | | |
| | Durham Law School | School of Geography, Politics & Sociology | School of Law | | | | |
| | | School of Law | School of Social Sciences, Education and Social Work | | | | |
| Health Well-Being and Society | Department of Anthropology | School of Geography, Politics & Sociology | School of History, Anthropology, Philosophy and Politics | School of Sociology and Applied Social Studies | Nursing Midwifery and Health | | |
| | Department of Sociology | | School of Social Sciences, Education and Social Work | | | | |
| | Department of Geography | School of Psychology | School of Psychology | | | | |

| Pathway | Durham | Newcastle | Queen's | Ulster | Northumbria | Teesside | Sunderland |
|-------------------|--------|--|---------|--------|--|----------|----------------------------------|
| Media and Society | | School of Arts and Culture School of Geography, Politics & Sociology | | | Department of Social Sciences and Languages | | Media and Cultural Studies |

STEERED AWARDS

7. The ESRC requires the NINE DTP to make the following 'steered' awards across its partner institutions:
 - a) 30% or more collaborative studentships, which involve collaboration with a non-academic organisation(s);
 - b) Two (2) awards to be cross-Council (e.g. NERC, EPSRC, MRC, AHRC).
 Pathways may submit any number of steered awards **in addition to** their allocated quota.

8. **Collaborative studentships are defined as doctoral research that directly involves and engages with non-academic partner organisations outside of the University sector**, including businesses, industry, government departments and agencies, charities, the NHS, local authorities and think-tanks. **The collaboration will make a distinct contribution to both the student and the partner organisation, generating both intellectual and practical benefits/outcomes.** Collaborating partners can be national, regional, or local organisations and based in any geographic location and should provide some or all of the following forms of support to the student:
 - a) Substantive and sustained project supervision and support;
 - b) Placement and work shadowing opportunities;
 - c) Specific training and development provision;
 - d) Access to research facilities and equipment; and
 - e) Office space and other resources.

9. The ESRC no longer requires collaborative partners to make a direct financial contribution towards collaborative studentships; however, such contributions are strongly encouraged and will demonstrate the partner's commitment to the collaboration. Partners may wish to consider providing dedicated financial support towards the costs of the award-holder's research, such as travel, specialist equipment and other related expenses. **NINE DTP is particularly keen to encourage and consider collaborative studentship nominations that involve financial contributions** that can part-fund a studentship, such as meeting up to 50% of the total costs of the award.

10. All collaborative studentships must be **underpinned by a formal written agreement with the collaborative partner regarding access, intellectual property and any financial contributions.**

11. The cross-Council awards are for interdisciplinary projects (e.g. those that cross the social science/arts or social science/science boundaries) submitted through a NINE DTP pathway, but with a supervisor and opportunities for training through a non-ESRC approved Doctoral Training Programme (e.g. NERC, AHRC, EPSRC, MRC). Strong proposals will be demonstrably interdisciplinary, with evidence of training in social science research methods **and** appropriate research methodologies used in the non-social science discipline. There is no requirement for funding from other Research Councils since these awards will be funded through NINE DTP.

An example would be a project on environmental economics, submitted through the NINE Management, Business and Economics pathway, but with an additional supervisor from a Physical Geography department that is part of a NERC DTP training pathway.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

12. NINE DTP's studentships provide successful applicants with the following financial support:
 - a) A **full tuition fee waiver**;
 - b) A **tax-free maintenance grant** set at the RCUK's national rate;
 - c) Access to **Research Training Support** funding; and

13. Additionally, applicants may apply for contributions towards funding for **international fieldwork and difficult language training**, which must be applied for by award-holders following the commencement of their studies. The need for these supplementary allowances should be highlighted in research proposals, and linked to an award-holder's planned methodology and fieldwork plans. Please note that funds for overseas fieldwork are

limited. Award-holders may apply for funds from the DTP for up to £5,000 to support overseas fieldwork; should the fieldwork cost more than £5,000 the candidate will need to find additional sources of funding to cover costs¹. We therefore encourage supervisors and candidates to work to ensure any projected fieldwork plans are economically feasible.

14. All maintenance grants are paid to award-holders in advance on either a quarterly or monthly basis by their host institution's relevant Finance Office.

COMMENCEMENT OF AWARDS

15. All awards made by NINE DTP during this studentship competition will **commence at the start of the 2020-21 academic year (October 2020)**, unless there are exceptional circumstances affecting a successful candidate, which should be raised with NINE DTP following the issuing of the candidate's official award notification.
16. **Studentships cannot normally be deferred** or started before 01 October 2020.

ELIGIBILITY FOR FUNDING

17. NINE DTP's studentships are available to **all Home and EU-based candidates**, in line with the ESRC student eligibility criteria, which is detailed in the ESRC Postgraduate Funding Guide, which can be viewed at <http://www.esrc.ac.uk/files/skills-and-careers/studentships/postgraduate-funding-guide-for-accredited-doctoral-training-centres/>
18. **Successful candidates from other EU countries who have not been resident in the UK for three (3) years prior to the commencement of their studentship are not eligible for the ESRC-funded maintenance; however, NINE DTP will seek to meet these costs where possible from other funding sources.**
19. **International candidates are eligible to receive fully-funded studentships if they are studying either Finance or Economics; however, the DTP may only award 35% of all studentships in this area to International candidates. NINE DTP will therefore need to take this limit into consideration when allocating funds.** Due to funding arrangements, this applies **only to candidates seeking awards from universities in England**. This opening-up of eligibility is a special dispensation that is specifically driven by the ESRC's strategic commitment to increase national capability in Finance and Economics. International candidates are not eligible to be considered for funding in any other Pathway.
20. Candidates awarded part-time studentships are required to commit at least 50% of their standard working week to their postgraduate studies and are not permitted to hold employment for more than 50% of the time whilst studying. As noted in Paragraph 5, NINE DTP will liaise closely with all part-time award-holders to ensure their package of support is most appropriate to their needs and individual circumstances.
21. Pathways must ensure they are **aware of these eligibility rules and to ensure they have reviewed their nominees against the requirements**. The NINE DTP will also check all candidates against these rules when processing nominations.

Applicants who are or have received other studentship funding

22. Candidates who hold a doctoral degree, hold an award from or are financially supported by another organisation, or who will have undertaken more than one year full-time PhD study by the start of the award, or part-time equivalent, will not be eligible for an award. (Please note: NINE DTP does not provide funding

¹ Applicants may use RTSG monies to supplement their fieldwork; however, this will be drawn from their nominal allocation, so would limit funds to support further research activity.

to candidates on a +2 basis). The DTP does not encourage applications from students who are already registered on a PhD programme.

23. NINE DTP will not normally offer a studentship to a student who has previously received funding to do three years of doctoral-level studies. Students who have already received government funding for Master's-level training may normally apply for a +3 studentship.

JOINT SUPERVISION

24. The ESRC NINE DTP is **committed to supporting students who are jointly supervised by academic colleagues at more than 1 NINE DTP institutions**. Jointly-supervised nominations require selection of a Pathway, and a host partner institution is required, which is where the candidate will be registered and their tuition fees charged. Where a successful candidate is benefitting from a mixed supervisory team they will be allocated two (2) supervisors from their host institution, with the academic colleague based in the other institution registered as their third supervisor.

Co-supervisors of NINE DTP award-holders registered at other NINE DTP institutions should be given workload credit in accordance with workload models or similar in their own departments. In return, all NINE DTP PhDs (or at least the proportion that reflects the supervisor contribution to their training and supervision) are returnable in REF submissions of both institutions.

Some RCUK DTPs *require* cross-institutional supervision. While NINE DTP does not require this, we do seek to encourage it to: i) pool expertise and ensure our award-holders are supervised by the most qualified team; ii) build capacity and spread good practice; iii) build collaboration within training pathways; iv) build research networks that might also be generative of other research collaborations. Inclusion in REF PhD completion data is an incentive for departments to allocate workload credit to support these activities. In addition, applications to the NINE DTP Studentship Competition can be strengthened, and thus score more highly, where supervisors have sought to fill possible gaps in supervisory expertise by engaging with colleagues in another institution.

Part 2 / Process

SUBMITTING APPLICATIONS

25. **Candidates wishing to apply for a studentship must complete the relevant institution's online postgraduate application form and submit all other supporting documentation by the date detailed in the competition timetable (see Appendix 1 for a full timeline of the competition).**
26. The research proposal, is to be included within the main application form. This should not be longer than 2,000 words in length (including footnotes, but excluding bibliography / reference list). **If a proposal exceeds this maximum length of 2,000 words it will not be considered.**
27. Candidates must provide/attach the following additional paperwork to their online application forms:
 - a) Current CV [maximum 2 pages]
 - b) Two references.
 - c) Full transcripts of their previous qualifications obtained to date.
 - d) A signed copy of the NINE DTP Consent Form
28. Candidates should avoid nominating referees who are named as their potential supervisors in their application; however, if this is not possible a justification of their use as a referee should be provided within the body of the reference.

NOMINATING CANDIDATES

29. The number of nominations Pathways can submit is demand managed by the ESRC NINE DTP. The aim of this approach is to better manage the administrative requirements of the competition, and to reward and incentivise ESRC grant success and REF performance.
30. The number of standard NINE DTP studentship nominations that Pathways can put forward will be capped; however, nominations for steered (collaborative and cross-Council) awards are not limited by the demand management arrangements and Pathways are free to nominate as many steered nominations as they wish. It should be noted that applications with a minimal collaborative element may score lower than if submitted as a standard application, so candidates and their supervisors should ensure that collaborative applications can clearly evidence that the collaboration is substantive, and makes significant contribution to the research proposed.
31. The caps on the numbers of standard nominations that Pathways can submit will be communicated via the Pathway leaders.
32. **All Pathways must submit the applications they wish to nominate for consideration for awards electronically to contact.nine@durham.ac.uk by the deadline as noted in Appendix 1** (see Appendix 1 for a full timeline of the competition).
33. The **NINE DTP's Postgraduate Studentship Nomination Form** must be completed by Pathways for each applicant put forward and the following documents attached to it (documents should be submitted as a single combined PDF):
 - a) Online University application form;
 - b) Current CV;
 - c) Letter of Support from Collaborative Partner (if nominated for a Collaborative Studentship);
 - d) Two (2) references; and
 - e) Full transcripts of qualifications obtained to date.

- f) A signed copy of the NINE DTP Consent Form; failure to submit this form will mean that the DTP cannot review your application.

ASSESSMENT PROCESS

34. Throughout the assessment process, all eligible candidates are **assessed and graded against the NINE DTP's Studentship Assessment Scheme**, which is outlined in Appendix 2. All Pathways should study this Scheme carefully and are strongly encouraged to adopt it when conducting their own internal selection processes.
35. Eligible nominations received by the NINE DTP will be reviewed and assessed in the following two stages:
- **Stage 1 / Pathway-level competition**
 - **Stage 2 / Studentships Committee (NINE DTP Directors, Deputy Directors, Academic Leads and External Reviewers)**

MAKING AWARDS TO SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES

36. Following the meeting of the Studentship Panel NINE DTP will process and issue award notifications to **successful candidates**, whilst also informing the Pathways of the status of **all other candidates**, which includes candidates placed on the reserve list and those that have not been successful. Feedback will not be provided by the Panel directly to students and will only be available through prospective supervisors.
37. Prior to the issuing of award notifications to successful candidates, an **internal memorandum will be circulated to all Pathways confirming the candidates that have been successful and those on the reserve list**. If there are any specific issues and/or questions affecting candidates following the deliberations of the Studentships Panel, these will be followed-up in the run-up to the issuing of this internal memorandum and any further contact with the candidates.
38. Please **note that final studentship offers made to successful candidates may be different to the type/duration of award originally sought by their host Pathway**. During the assessment process specific attention is given to the duration of funding to be provided to ensure each successful candidate is provided with the optimal package of support for their training and research. Specifically, NINE DTP focuses on the past training of +3 year studentships and the past training and future needs of nominations for +3.5 Year studentships, who are seeking additional funding to complete a Research Methods Certificate.
39. In cases **where a successful candidate decides not to accept the offer of a NINE DTP studentship, the next highest-ranked candidate on the reserve list will be contacted and made an offer of an award**. Where a Pathway is aware that a nominated candidate has decided to withdraw from the competition it should be reported to the NINE DTP immediately to ensure such decisions are communicated and appropriate action taken.
40. **The decisions regarding awards and the issuing of results will take place by the date noted in appendix 1.** (See Appendix 1 for a full timeline of competition.) Students will normally be expected to respond within 4 weeks.
41. Following the announcement of the competition's results and the subsequent final confirmation of candidates in receipt of funding, de-briefing sessions will be held in all institutions to consider the outcomes of the process and relevant academic and operational issues arising.
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Part 3 / Further Information

42. If students or staff need any further information about the ESRC NINE DTP's annual studentship competition please contact their local administrator:

- Durham - Katy Roberts : contact.nine@durham.ac.uk / 0191 33 41987
- Newcastle - Sarah Rylance : ninedtp.admin@ncl.ac.uk / 0191 208 6190
- Northumbria - Christine Downes : christine.downes@northumbria.ac.uk
- Queen's University Belfast - Lynda Mahon : nine.admin@qub.ac.uk
- Sunderland – Diane Davis: diane.davis@sunderland.ac.uk
- Teesside – Julie Wright : julie.wright@tees.ac.uk
- Ulster University – Carol Boyd : cm.boyd@ulster.ac.uk

Part 4 / Authorisation & Version Control

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|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Author: | NINE DTP Director Deborah Riby |
| Version: | 4 |
| Date Policy Last Approved: | September 2019 |
| Date of Next Review: | Summer 2020 |

Appendix 1 / Timetable

| Date(s) | Activity/Milestone |
|--|--|
| Friday 17 January 2020 (1600hrs) | Application deadline to the Institution's Department or School |
| Friday 7 February 2020 (1600hrs) | Deadline for departments / schools to submit nominations to prospective Pathways. |
| Monday 10 February to Friday 21 February 2020 | Pathways review nominations and select candidates to put forward. |
| Monday 24 February 2020 (1600hrs) | Nominations submitted by Pathways to the NINE DTP. (All nominations to be sent using the ESRC Postgraduate Studentship Nomination Form to contact.nine@durham.ac.uk) |
| Wednesday 26 February 2020 | Nominations sent to Studentship Committee for review. (NINE DTP Academic Leads and 4 or 5 external reviewers). |
| Thursday 27 February to Monday 16 March 2020 | Nominations reviewed by the Studentship Committee. |
| Tuesday 17 March 2020 | Submission of scores. |
| Friday 20 March 2020 | NINE DTP Studentships Committee convenes to review and confirm nominations. |
| Friday 27 March 2020 | Pathways and all nominated candidates notified by the NINE DTP of successful award decisions. |

Appendix 2 / ESRC NINE DTP Studentship Assessment Scheme

MARKING SCHEME

| Description | Percentage | Grade | Sections Marked Out of 30 | Sections Marked Out of 40 |
|-------------|------------|-------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Very Strong | >80% | A* | 26-30 | 33-40 |
| Strong | 70 to 80% | A | 22-25 | 28-32 |
| Fair | 60-69% | B | 18-21 | 24-27 |
| Poor | <60% | C | 0-17 | 0-23 |

SCORING PROFILES

| Award Type | Background, References & Qualifications | Research Proposal | Supervisory-Fit & Research Environment | Collaboration |
|--|---|-------------------|--|---------------|
| 1+3 & 2+3 Studentships (and masters + doctoral only part-time nominations) | 40 | 30 | 30 | N/A |
| +3, +3.5 Studentships (and doctoral only part-time nominations) | 30 | 40 | 30 | N/A |
| 1+3 & 2+3 Collaborative Studentships (and masters + doctoral only part-time nominations) | 40 | 30 | 30 | 30 |
| +3, +3.5 Collaborative Studentships (and doctoral only part-time nominations) | 30 | 40 | 30 | 30 |

All scores are pro-rata'ed to be out of 100 when collated.

Please note that overall scores are considered such that applicants with scores of over 80 are considered fundable and under 75 are not. Scores of 76 – 80 are considered borderline.

MARKING CRITERIA

| Section | Criteria & Guidance |
|--|--|
| Background & Testimonials | This section includes the qualifications and references of candidates and reviewers should focus on the candidate's potential to successfully complete their planned research. At least a good 2:1 is required at undergraduate level is expected from conventional candidates . A good Masters degree and/or significant relevant profession experience should also be recognised and can be used to show a positive academic/intellectual trajectory, particular for candidates from non-traditional academic backgrounds. |
| +3, +3.5, & up to +4 Awards | Reviewers should examine previous qualifications to see if they are suitable for the candidate's project. They should focus carefully on the extent to which the references support the applicant. A strong reference will focus on the particular abilities of the candidate that make them most suited for postgraduate research and should support them unreservedly. A weak reference will indicate significant problems or provide 'stock' or general replies that add no value to the nomination. |
| 1+3 & 2+3 Awards | Reviewers use the same criteria as above, but appreciate that they will need to focus on the potential of the candidate because they are at an earlier stage of their career. |

| Section | Criteria & Guidance |
|---|--|
| Research Proposal | <p>Nominations should very clearly outline, articulate and explain the research questions, the relevant supporting body of research in the discipline, and the methodology that will be adopted, together with the relevance and potential impact of the research.</p> <p>Candidates and their supervisors should ensure the research proposed is feasible both in relation to the limits of the funding available from the DTP and the duration of study.</p> <p>In advance of submitting the proposal we recommend that candidates and their supervisors cost their proposals to ensure that UK fieldwork and RTSG costs can be delivered for under £2,000 if necessary; further, if the candidate is seeking Overseas Fieldwork, they should similarly ensure that the research can be delivered within the financial restrictions of the grant i.e. with a contribution of up to £5000 from NINE DTP².</p> |
| +3, +3.5, & up to +4 Awards | <p>A strong application will have a well-defined proposal and researchable questions or hypotheses, and the candidate will have identified relevant sources, outlined and justified an appropriate methodology, shown an awareness of the potential use of the research, and will have a feasible timetable for completing the research within three years (for full-time candidates). The proposal should normally build on and complement the candidate's CV and background.</p> <p>Reviewers should consider if the research is likely to raise ethical or safety issues, which may mean that the research cannot be approved. Furthermore, Reviewers should give particular attention to any articulation of the potential impact and knowledge exchange arising from the research.</p> |
| 1+3 & 2+3 Awards | <p>Here the emphasis is on the potential of the research area that the candidate intends to develop during their Masters degree and subsequent PhD, and how this relates to their background and experience. Reviewers may consider why the candidate has chosen to complete a PhD and what they seek to gain from it. A strong application will demonstrate an interest in and understanding of the proposed research area, its importance and wider context and the possible methodology and timescale. A weak application would be poorly focused with little appreciation of the research area, robust methodology and timescale.</p> |
| Supervisory-Fit & Research Environment All Awards | <p>Nominations need to address the research strengths of their host Pathway's discipline and those of their proposed supervisory team – including reference to publications, grants and other related research outputs – and their suitability to the student and their research project. Pathways should outline how the candidate will or has obtained the key research and disciplinary training needed by them to successfully complete research within 3 years (for full-time award-holders).</p> <p>If the candidate has completed the required core research methods training this should be confirmed, but, if not, this aspect must be dealt with in more detail.</p> <p>A strong nomination will give due consideration to the research strengths and environment of the Pathway and of the candidate's supervisory team – including research centres or special facilities or research projects – that make it appropriate for the Pathway and the supervisory team to host the candidate. The quality of the supervisory team is important, but so too is the fit of the candidate, their project and the supervisor team's</p> |

² Applicants may use RTSG monies to supplement their fieldwork; however, this will be drawn from their nominal allocation, so would limit funds to support further research activity.

| Section | Criteria & Guidance |
|--|--|
| | <p>research and previous track-record of PhD supervision. A strong nomination will be where supervisory teams have the necessary expertise and demonstrate an active contribution to the disciplinary area. In a weak application the supervisory team will not be expert in the disciplinary area and/or the Pathway does not constitute the suitable environment in which to host the research proposed.</p> <p>Reviewers should check that the previous research training of the candidate is suitable for their proposed research and consider if there are any weaknesses or limitations to the support on offer to successfully completed the planned research within three years (for full-time award-holders).</p> <p>Generic department / school / Pathway statements regarding general facilities available to the student will be considered much weaker than statements tailored to the specific needs of the student and the research project.</p> <p>Section 4.4 of the application form seeks to capture data on training supervisors have received to support students through their PhD. The information captured here will not be part of the academic review; rather, it is being collected for informational purposes only. However, failure to address this section may result in the nomination being returned to the supervisor for further comment.</p> |
| <p>Collaboration</p> <p><i>All Collaborative Awards</i></p> | <p>The name of the collaborator, a contact for the collaborative partner, a statement indicating the collaborative partner's support for the project, including their contribution to it both in terms of the substantive research and the financial and in-kind aspects of the project, must be provided. The Pathway will also provide a statement of what is entailed in the collaborative element of the nomination and what it adds to the candidate's research from an academic perspective.</p> <p>A strong collaboration will provide significant added value to the academic research project, placement experience, access to source materials or novel access to research opportunities. A strong collaboration will also be able to provide evidence of existing engagement by the applicant with the partner organisation. There will be evidence of clear complementarities between the research and the partner's activities, and this can be used to demonstrate the potential impact of the research, but there will also be a very strong academic motivation for the project. There will be evidence of substantive and sustained engagement with the project and support for the applicant by the partner organisation.</p> <p>A weak collaboration will add little to the candidate's planned research and will make a limited academic contribution. A weak collaboration will also provide little evidence of prior engagement by the applicant with the partner organisations. The collaboration will be considered weak if there is little evidence of substantive and sustained engagement by the partner organisation with either the research project or with supervision of the applicant. Where this is negligible, the collaboration should be scored as 0. Collaboration consistently solely of a placement with no other evidence of engagement should be considered weak and scored at 0 as there will be a lack of evidence that the collaboration is truly embedded and contributes to the academic aims of the studentship.</p> <p>Specific emphasis and recognition should be given to the potential impact and knowledge exchange opportunities arising from the collaboration. A strong nomination will be aware of these considerations and articulate potential pathways to impact, which the award-holder will be following during the course of studies.</p> |

Appendix 3 / NINE DTP Demand Management

Disciplinary Pathways will be able to submit the following number of nominations:

| Pathway | Quota |
|---|--------------|
| Anthropology | 7 |
| Economic and Social History | 4 |
| Education | 8 |
| Environmental Planning | 6 |
| Human Geography | 13 |
| Law | 7 |
| Linguistics | 5 |
| Management, Business and Economics | 10 |
| Politics and International Relations | 5 |
| Psychology | 6 |
| Sociology, Social Policy and Social Work | 9 |

Interdisciplinary pathway and Language-based Area Studies may each submit 5 nominations.

There is no upper limit on the number that a pathway may submit for a steer (i.e. collaborative or cross- Council) but Pathway Directors will be asked to provide assurance that those submitted in addition to the quota are of comparable quality.

Pathways should only submit students they consider will be competitive in the final studentship panel stage.

Pathways will not be penalised for future years should they choose not to submit up to their quota in any given year.