

Cardiff University Vice-Chancellor's International Scholarships for Research Excellence

Guidance for Applicants



Overview

1. Up to seven full *Vice-Chancellor's International Scholarships for Research Excellence* will be awarded on a competitive basis to applicants of the highest academic quality across all disciplines.
2. The *Vice-Chancellor's International Scholarships for Research Excellence* will be awarded for PhD study commencing in the academic year 2017-18. The awards will be made to the highest quality candidates who propose PhD projects that align with the research priorities of their chosen Academic School.
3. Through their previous academic achievements and the quality of their research proposals, applicants must be able to demonstrate that they have the potential to be outstanding researchers, together with the appropriate level of preparation for PhD study in their subject area.
4. Applicants must be clear in their application for PhD study as to why they wish to undertake their PhD at Cardiff University and why they wish to work with their proposed main supervisor and/or research group.

Key features of the Scholarship

5. *Vice-Chancellor's International Scholarships for Research Excellence* are available to support **three-year, full-time PhD programmes only**; they cannot be awarded to students undertaking research on a part-time or distance-learning basis, and are not available for any other types of research degree.
6. Successful candidates will receive the following financial support:
 - a. Full payment of the overseas tuition fee; and
 - b. Annual stipend to support living costs at the standard UK Research Council levels (currently £14,295 per year).
7. The Scholarship is **not** available for PhD programmes for which the 'Clinical Courses' tuition fee rate is applied¹.
8. The Scholarship is paid annually for up to each three years of the PhD programme, subject to satisfactory progress.

Applicant eligibility

9. In order to be considered for a Scholarship, applicants **must**:
 - hold an offer for full-time PhD study at Cardiff University;
 - hold the offer for a PhD that starts on 1 October 2017 or, with the approval of the School in which the PhD will be based, on 1 January 2018;
 - be liable to pay tuition fees at the overseas rate;
 - be a national of (or permanently domiciled in) a country on the [OECD Development Assistance Committee](#) (DAC) list of countries².

¹ More information at: <http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/funding-and-fees/fees> If you have any queries about tuition fees please email fees@cardiff.ac.uk

² For more information about the OECD Development Assistance Committee, visit: <http://www.oecd.org/dac/stats/daclist.htm>

10. Applicants from DAC listed countries with Government funded or other well-established scholarship schemes to support PhD study abroad, including in the UK, are advised to prioritise applications to their national schemes.
11. Students receiving a full scholarship (i.e. full fees and support towards living costs) from their Government or another sponsor will not be eligible for a *Vice-Chancellor's International Scholarship for Research Excellence*.

Applying for the Scholarship

12. An application for a *Vice-Chancellor's International Scholarship for Research Excellence* forms part of the standard application to Cardiff University for PhD study – no separate scholarship application form is required but the applicant must be in receipt of an **offer for full-time PhD study at Cardiff University in order to be considered for the Scholarship**.
13. Applicants responding to a pre-defined project for self-funded students and those applying for PhD with their own project proposal are both eligible to apply for a *Vice-Chancellor's International Scholarships for Research Excellence*.
14. Information on how to apply to study for a PhD at Cardiff University is available at <http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/for/prospective/postgraduate/applying/how-to-apply.html>
15. In order to be considered for a *Vice-Chancellor's International Scholarship for Research Excellence* the applicant must in the section of the application form for PhD study asking "How do you plan to fund your studies?" select the option "**I will be applying for a scholarship/grant**" and under "Please give the name of the individual or organisation to whom you are applying" copy this sentence: "**I wish to be considered for a Vice-Chancellor's International Scholarship for Research Excellence**".
16. In order to be considered for a *Vice-Chancellor's International Scholarship for Research Excellence* the **application for admission to PhD study at Cardiff University must be submitted by 26 April 2017** at the latest to allow for the application to be considered by Admission Tutors and for an offer to be issued in time for the selection process for the *Vice-Chancellor's International Scholarship for Research Excellence*.
17. Applicants who already hold an offer for full-time PhD study at Cardiff and fulfil the 'Applicant eligibility' criteria detailed above must inform the relevant School Admissions Tutor if they wish to be considered for the *Vice-Chancellor's International Scholarship for Research Excellence*. They must do this before the deadline of **26 April 2017**.

Selection process

18. The Scholarships will be offered on a competitive basis to international students of outstanding merit and potential from qualifying countries.
19. The PhD supervisor will be required to provide a statement to support the application. S/he will be asked to provide an assessment of the quality of the application and the merits of the proposed project.
20. An initial assessment and short-listing of applications will be undertaken by each School against criteria established for the *Vice-Chancellor's International Scholarships for Research Excellence* competition.
21. The evaluation criteria requires the applicant to demonstrate, in their application to study for a PhD at Cardiff University:
 - **Proven academic quality:** normally evidenced by an excellent performance to first degree and/or Master's level, but may also be demonstrated by a record of relevant professional practice.
 - **Research potential:** evidenced through their supporting statement and reference to their performance in research projects at first degree and/or Master's level, or another form of dedicated preparation for

research, including discipline-specific requirements such as a thesis proposal and writing samples, where applicable.

- **Personal motivation and commitment:** evidenced through their supporting statement, by their enthusiasm for the project area and how they see it relating to their career goals.
22. Each School will be invited to carry out a ranking of applications received and shortlist **a maximum of two applications** for consideration by the *Vice-Chancellor's International Scholarships for Research Excellence* Selection Panel. The deadline for the School nominations and the supporting documents for the consideration of the Selection Panel is **31 May 2017**.
 23. The School will complete a 'School Statement of Support' form for each application it shortlists, and must ensure that each candidate holds an offer of admission to the University (conditional or unconditional) for their intended PhD programme. The School will be required to notify shortlisted candidates that their applications will be considered by the Selection Panel.
 24. The *Vice-Chancellor's International Scholarships for Research Excellence* Selection Panel will meet in mid-June 2017.
 25. Short-listed applicants will be advised of the outcome of the *Vice-Chancellor's International Scholarships for Research Excellence* Selection Panel by email by the end of June 2017.

Notes

26. Students must satisfy certain financial requirements as part of their visa application for study in the UK. Students undertaking research in some subjects will also require an Academic Technology Approval Scheme (ATAS) certificate as part of their visa application³.
27. Information on how to apply for Postgraduate Study at Cardiff can be found at:
<http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/for/prospective/postgraduate/applying/how-to-apply.html>
General admission queries can be emailed to admissions@cardiff.ac.uk
28. Information about *Vice-Chancellor's International Scholarships for Research Excellence* can be found at:
<http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/study/international/funding-and-fees/international-scholarships/vice-chancellors-international-scholarships-for-research-excellence> General queries about the Scholarships can be emailed to: doctoral-academy@cardiff.ac.uk

³ Information on visa requirements can be found at:
<http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/for/prospective/international/coming-to-cardiff/before-you-arrive/visas-and-immigration.html> and <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/academic-technology-approval-scheme>