

Sheffield Hallam Opportunity PhD Scholarships: PhD Scholarship for Black British students

Sheffield Hallam is committed to addressing barriers to higher education for under-represented groups. To help address the underrepresentation in our postgraduate research student community, we are offering the below scholarships for UK students from ethnically minoritised backgrounds:

1. Sheffield Hallam Graduate Teaching Assistantship (GTA) PhD scholarships for Black, Asian and minority ethnic British students – please see separate advert
2. Sheffield Hallam PhD scholarship for Black British students

We are proud to be involved in three collaborative projects which seek to address underrepresentation of ethnically minoritised students in postgraduate research:

- Yorkshire Consortium for Equity in Doctoral Education ([YCEDE](#))
- Equity in Doctoral Education through Partnership and Innovation ([EDEPI](#))
- Accomplished Study Programme in Research Excellence ([ASPIRE](#))

Sheffield Hallam PhD Scholarship for Black British students

We are offering one PhD scholarship for candidates who have UK (Home) tuition fee status and identify as being from a Black ethnic background. The scholarship provides:

- Tuition fees at the Home student rate
- A PhD stipend at the standard Sheffield Hallam PhD stipend rate (this is aligned with the net Real Living Wage and the current rate for academic year 2023/24 is £19,722 per annum)

The scholarship is available in any of the university's research areas for PhDs starting in the 2024/25 academic year and is funded for three and a half years of full-time study or six years of part-time study (part-time paid at 50%).

The deadline for applications is **12.00 midday on Friday 10th May**.

Our research areas

[Culture and Creativity Research Institute](#) – for PhD study in English, History, Fine Art and Design, Media and Communication

[Health Research Institute](#) – for PhD study in Sport and Physical Activity, Health and Social Care

[Industry and Innovation Research Institute](#) – for PhD study in Materials Engineering, Biomolecular Sciences, Computing

[Social and Economic Research Institute](#) – for PhD study in Law and Criminology, Natural and Built Environment, Education, Psychology, Sociology and Politics, Regional Economic and Social Research, Sheffield Business School

Eligibility

The scholarship is open to candidates who have UK (Home) fee status and identify as being from a Black ethnic background. For an explanation of fee status rules see the UK Council for International Students' [HE fee status guide](#).

Entry requirements for each research area will be listed on the relevant course entry on our [online prospectus](#). Please [contact](#) the relevant Research Institute PGR team if you are not sure which course is applicable to your research area.

Further information on Sheffield Hallam University PhD scholarships is provided in the [Conditions of Award](#) document.

How to apply

The deadline for applications is **12.00 midday on Friday 10th May**. We are unable to accept applications received after this deadline.

1: Explore our research areas and staff research interests.

More information on our research areas and academic staff is available on our [research centres and departments](#) pages or through the links above. Each research centre or department has a staff profiles page where you can find out more about the research interests of staff members. You can also search the [Sheffield Hallam Research Archive](#) to find staff who are publishing in the research area you are interested in.

2: Contact a potential supervisor

If you are confident that you have identified a potential supervisor who has research expertise in the relevant area, you can contact them by email. Your email should give an overview of your level of study and experience, your research interests and why you would like to study for a PhD with the member of staff. You should also say that you are interested in applying for these scholarships.

If you are not sure of the right person to contact, email the [Postgraduate Research Tutor](#) for your research area who will help with your enquiry. Please don't e-mail multiple staff members at the same time to find a potential supervisor; it is worth taking the time to ensure your enquiry relates to the staff member's research expertise. Once you have identified a potential and willing supervisor, you can work with them to refine your research proposal.

3. Prepare your research proposal

Once you have discussed your research idea you should prepare a clear, detailed research proposal. You will submit your research proposal as part of your application.

Through your research proposal we will assess your knowledge and understanding of the research area, your ability to research the literature and frame a research idea within the current field of knowledge, and your ability to present ideas clearly and concisely.

Proposals should be up to 1500 words long, and should include

- an outline of the proposed research and the central questions, problems or hypothesis that you plan to address
- the current knowledge and context, referencing key background literature
- proposed methodology or approach, if known
- the potential significance or impact of the research
- the name of the potential supervisor you have identified

4: Complete your application

You should apply via the online application form for your chosen course, start date and mode of study. The application form can be accessed via the relevant course page on our [online prospectus](#). Please [contact](#) the relevant Research Institute PGR team if you are not sure which course you need.

To consider your application, we will need:

- a completed application form (see below for guidance on the personal statement section)
- a research proposal
- two academic references
- copies of qualifications, certificates and/or results transcripts
- proof of English language ability, where English is not your first language

In the personal statement field of your application, you must clearly state that you are applying for a Sheffield Hallam Opportunity PhD Scholarship.

You should use the Personal Statement section of the application form to demonstrate your aptitude for postgraduate research, with reference to the specific requirements of each Research Institute listed below:

For applicants to Culture and Creativity and Health Research Institutes

In your application, we're looking for evidence of:

- Your motivation and curiosity for postgraduate research
- Your analytical and problem-solving skills
- Your ability to communicate clearly in writing
- Your planning and organisational skills
- Your ability to work independently and to collaborate with others
- Your commitment to integrity and carrying out your research responsibly
- Your resilience to setbacks and challenges

You should include specific examples from your academic (including your undergraduate and/or masters dissertation, if relevant), professional or other experience.

For applicants to Industry and Innovation Research Institute

In your application, we're looking for evidence of:

- Your motivation and curiosity for postgraduate research
- Your analytical and technical expertise related to the research proposal
- Your ability to communicate clearly in writing
- Your planning and organisational skills
- Your ability to work independently and to collaborate with others
- Your commitment to integrity and carrying out your research responsibly
- Your resilience to setbacks and challenges

You should consider all your experience, whether from industrial, professional, research or social activities; and where evidence is lacking try to identify how the skills or competencies can be achieved.

For applicants to Social and Economic Research Institute

In submitting your personal statement, you must answer these 4 questions. We recommend no more than 200 words for each question and include specific examples from your previous experiences (academic and professional). We want to learn more about you.

1. What relevant skills and experience do you have which you feel would help you undertake this research project?
2. How did you come up with your project proposal?
3. What opportunities do you think the doctorate will give you?
4. Provide an example demonstrating your approach to engaging with new experiences or ideas. This can be an example from your studies, work, or personal experiences.

What happens next

Your application will be reviewed by a member of the doctoral admissions team in the relevant area. You will be assessed on your readiness for research study, the quality and feasibility of your research proposal, the fit with our research areas, and our supervisory capacity and expertise in your area of study.

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to interview by the relevant Research Institute doctoral admissions team. If you are shortlisted for an interview, you will usually be asked to give a short presentation (around 10 minutes) on your research proposal, followed by questions from the interview panel. The panel will vary but usually comprises 2 or 3 members of staff including the proposed supervisor and the Postgraduate Research Tutor or Head of Research Degrees.

Following interview, each Research Institute will nominate up to 2 applicants for the scholarship award. These nominations will be reviewed by a central panel and the scholarship offered to the applicant who the panel feels has the strongest potential to succeed as a postgraduate researcher.

Interview dates will be communicated to shortlisted candidates.

Other scholarship opportunities

Other PhD scholarship opportunities are offered by Sheffield Hallam and these will be advertised on [our website](#) when available.

Equality, diversity and inclusion

These scholarships form part of ongoing activities to increase access, diversity and inclusion among our PGR students. Under the Equality Act 2010, positive action is allowed where the action is a proportionate means of enabling or encouraging participation in an activity by those sharing a protected characteristic where the University reasonably believes that participation in the activity by those people is disproportionately low. Barriers to postgraduate research (PGR) study for UK students of Black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds have been [recognised at a sector level](#). These scholarships are intended to offer targeted support to address this underrepresentation and form part of ongoing work including reviewing our PGR admissions practices to ensure longer-term impact.