

GRADUATE TEACHING ASSISTANT PHD SCHOLARSHIPS

KEY INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS

The Graduate Teaching Assistant (GTA) scheme aims to develop highly skilled postgraduate researchers who are well prepared to enter a career in academia or research. The scheme provides a PhD scholarship that incorporates additional training and professional development in teaching and related activity, with the intention of providing opportunities for PhD students to develop a rounded academic portfolio.

Occasionally, the University may operate similar schemes which include development in a different area of academic practice, such as research projects or consultancy. The principles of the GTA scheme would also apply to such schemes.

Scheme overview

The purpose of the GTA scholarship is to support PhD research while also providing structured opportunities for development and experience in learning, teaching and assessment. Scholarship holders will be registered for a PhD, alongside which they will carry out up to 180 hours of teaching or teaching-related activity per academic year. This activity forms part of the scholarship award and there is no additional payment for it.

Scholarship holders are not University employees, and statutory employment rights do not apply. Students will be enrolled in the standard way for PhD students and subject to the Student Terms and Conditions and PhD Regulations. The Conditions of Award for University Postgraduate Research Scholarships will also apply.

GTA activities should not compromise a student's ability to complete their PhD within the timescales set out in the University's PhD Regulations, and students will be expected to meet the standard milestones and timescales in the Regulations.

Typical structure of a GTA scholarship

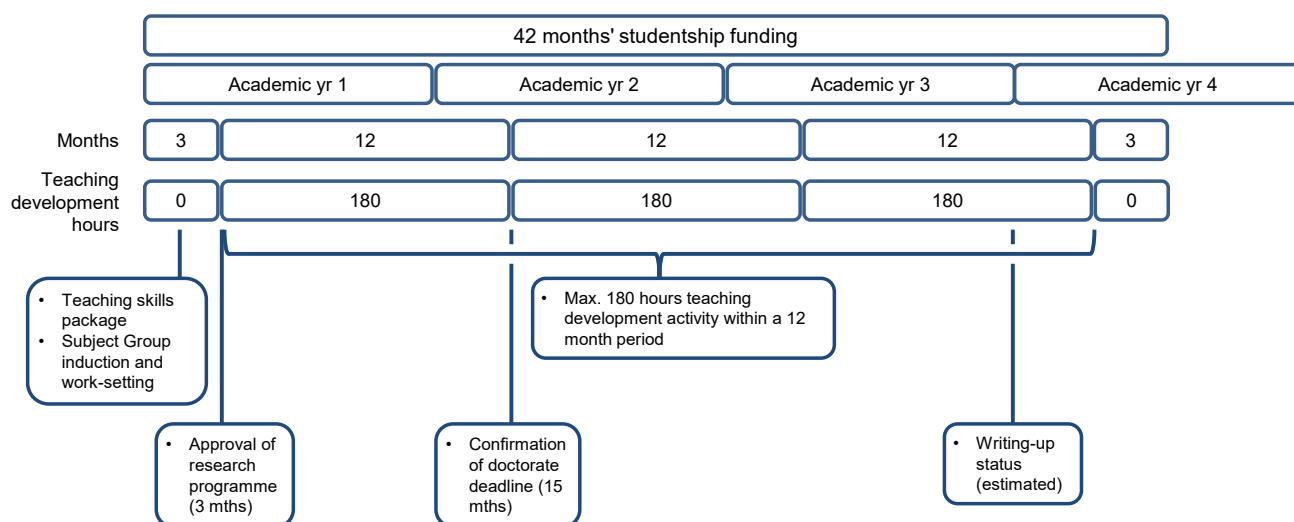
Full-time students will receive an extended PhD scholarship of 3.5 years' funding to accommodate the additional training component. The first and final 3 months of these 3.5 years will be protected from teaching activities to allow the student to concentrate on their doctoral project. Part-time students will receive 70 months' funding (at 50% of full-time rate) with the first and final 5 months protected from teaching activities.

The teaching-related activities undertaken through the GTA scholarship will not exceed 180 hours across the academic year (90 hours for part-time students), and normally not more than 6 hours in any one week. This limit includes all preparation, delivery and marking time, any related meetings

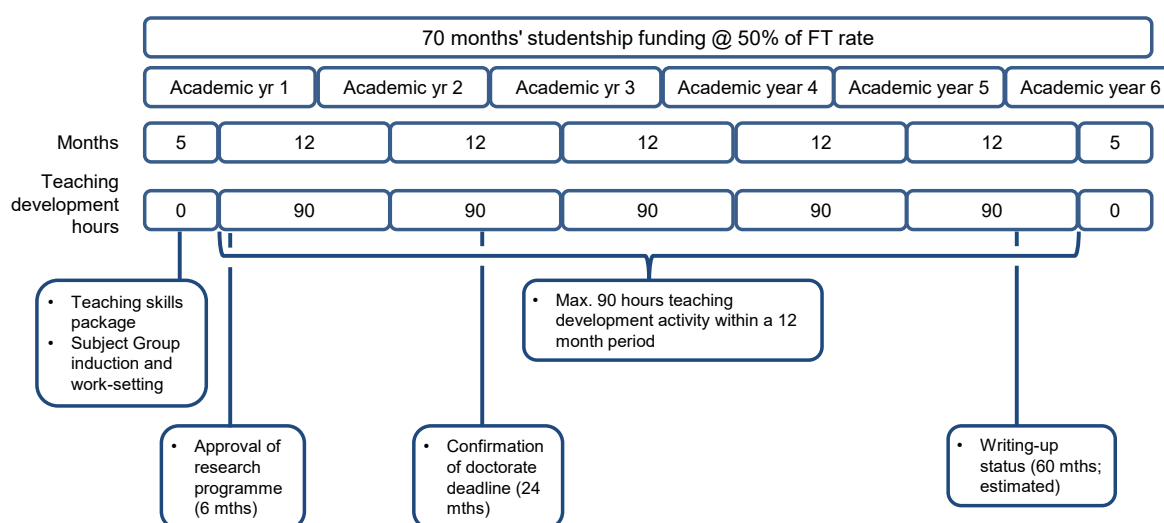
that the student may be required to attend and any mandatory training relating to the teaching-related activities. Any optional meetings, skills enhancement, personal development or CPD opportunities will not fall within the 180 hours.

GTA scholarship holders will be invited to attend a teaching skills course during their initial months and will have access to a scheme designed to support an application for Associate Fellowship of AdvanceHE.

Structure of a typical full-time GTA scholarship



Structure of a typical part-time GTA scholarship



Funding

GTA scholarships will provide tuition fees at the Home level and a stipend equivalent to the UKRI national minimum doctoral stipend. The stipend is a form of financial support intended to cover basic living costs to enable the student to undertake their studies.

The tuition fee will be covered (at Home level) by the scholarship for the first 42 months (full-time; 70 months part-time) of the student's registration. The scheme is generally open to UK and International students, although the scholarship only covers tuition fees at the Home level and students who are liable to pay tuition fees at the International level will be expected to provide the difference between the Home and International fees from another funding source.

Students will be responsible for any further tuition fees owed after the period of scholarship funding, and fees will be set in line with the University's PhD Regulations and Tuition Fees Policy.

Nature of activities

The exact nature and extent of teaching and related activity will be agreed in advance between the student, their Director of Studies and the Subject Group Leader. Activities should support a student to:

- develop their teaching skills and build a personal teaching portfolio
- improve their skills in communicating to different audiences
- strengthen/broaden their own knowledge and understanding of their discipline

GTAs will receive day to day guidance and mentoring on teaching-related activities.

It is expected that activities will support the student to achieve Associate Fellowship of AdvanceHE by the end of their studies.

Useful information

PhD and MPhil Regulations - covers all conditions and requirements of PhD and MPhil degrees at the University including admissions, conditions of registration, milestones and requirements of the award

<https://www.shu.ac.uk/study-here/terms-and-conditions-and-student-regulations>

Conditions of Award for University PhD Scholarships - outlines the funding conditions for PhD scholarships (including GTA scholarships) awarded by the University (PDF)

<https://www.shu.ac.uk/~media/home/research/research-degrees/conditions-of-award-for-university-studentships2018.pdf?la=en>

Terms and Conditions and student policies, codes and guidance

<https://www.shu.ac.uk/study-here/terms-and-conditions-and-student-regulations>