UGS Scholarships (PGR)

Supporting Information 2023-24

(Formerly Westmere Scholarships)

# The UGS Scholarship Scheme

The University Graduate School (UGS) enables PGRs from across the University to integrate and cooperate, intellectually and socially. Our main delivery space is Westmere House, which supports PGR-led interdisciplinary workshops and conferences, social events, training, and networking.

UGS is offering ten scholarships, each UGS Scholar will receive a fixed scholarship of £2500, from their start date in August 2023, to the end of July 2024. In return for this scholarship, the UGS Scholars are asked to support community building and researcher development activities delivered by the UGS as well as initiate and deliver community building activities as detailed in the Terms and Conditions document. To take full advantage of the opportunity and make a valuable contribution to the scheme, the successful scholars will need to regularly commit a meaningful amount of their time. This commitment will vary throughout the year but should average to be approximately half a day a week. However, the role is flexible and every effort will be made to accommodate Scholar’s research commitments.

These scholarships will provide an ideal opportunity for postgraduate researchers to develop professional skills in a number of areas including: organising and promoting events; communication; project management; budget management. The scholarship holders will be able to improve and expand their professional research networks and gain valuable insight and knowledge of issues affecting PGRs.

# UGS Scholarship Applications

Applications should take the form of a **500-750 word statement and short CV** demonstrating the applicant’s potential to support the key aims of the UGS Scholarship Scheme outlined below.

Applicants will be required to **complete a short online application form** gathering basic details about the applicant.

The application form will also ask you about your interests, hobbies, or special skills. This won’t determine who is shortlisted, but is just a way for us to learn more about you, and what you might bring to our UGS Scholar team and events.

Applicants are expected to gain the support of their supervisory team. Supervisor details are requested as part of the application form and supervisors will be contacted prior to interview.

Applications from current and previous UGS Scholars are welcomed, but applicants must fulfil the same application process and shortlisting criteria of new applicant. Returning Scholars must fill in the application form fully, and attend an interview on the 7th or 8th August if shortlisted.

**The closing date for applications is 23:59pm on Tuesday 25th July 2023.**

**If shortlisted, you will be invited to an online 1hr group task followed by a short, individual ‘get to know you’ chat. You must be available on the 7th or 8th August to be shortlisted.**

**If successful, you will be invited to start the scholarship in the week commencing 21st August.**

# Key aims of UGS Scholarship Scheme

The UGS Scholars will work together to:

* Contribute to promoting and raising awareness of the University Graduate School and Westmere PGR Community Hub by working closely with the University Graduate School and key contacts in their Colleges/Schools
* Initiate, organise and promote relevant researcher development and community building activities
* Support design and delivery of the Postgraduate Research Festival
* Support existing formal and informal researcher activities held by the University Graduate School and wider UoB researcher development partners including The Student Guild
* Promote the existence of both physical and virtual researcher communities within UoB
* Use social media and other platforms to engage PGRs, promote discussions and facilitate peer support
* Contribute to relevant projects by advising on the PGR experience at UoB
* Refer researchers to other support available within the University as appropriate (e.g., Student Services, Careers Network, IT Services, the Guild of Students…)

# Shortlisting criteria:

* A normally registered UoB postgraduate researcher within their minimum period of registration at the start of the academic term, 25th September 2023. The end of minimum period of registration is the earliest date on which you may submit your research degree thesis for examination.
* If you will enter thesis awaited, often called ‘writing up stage’, during the scholarship period you must demonstrate your intent to stay committed to the scheme throughout the scholarship period.
* Be based near to campus, in order to support in-person events, unless registered as a distance student.
* Broad understanding of the challenges and issues facing postgraduate researchers.
* Ability to work both effectively and flexibly within a team and independently.
* Ability to engage with postgraduate researchers at all stages and in a range of disciplines.
* Excellent presentation skills in person or virtually.
* Excellent written and oral communication skills.
* Confident user of online engagement platforms (e.g. Zoom, MS Teams).
* Experience of organising and promoting events would be an advantage.
* Experience of leading and organising people would be an advantage.
* Time management skills.
* Familiarity with and knowledge of the University Graduate School.
* Ability to engage with diverse groups such as international or distance students
* Demonstrable knowledge of University support services.
* Must demonstrate that the Scholarship would not hinder progression of own research.

For an informal discussion about the scholarships, please contact the Postgraduate Community Engagement team at: graduateschool@contacts.bham.ac.uk