

ESRC Studentships 2016 – *Migration Studies* Pathway Information and FAQs

Terms used

- +3 A three-year studentship for those applicants who already have an [ESRC-accredited masters](#) degree and who are applying directly for a DPhil in a migration-related subject
- 1+3 A four-year studentship, covering one year's study at masters level (on either the [MSc MS](#) or [MSc RFMS](#)), then progressing to a DPhil in a migration-related subject
- 2+2 A four-year studentship, covering two years' study at masters level (for example on a two-year MPhil), then progressing to a DPhil.
- NB: 2+2 AWARDS ARE NOT AVAILABLE TO APPLICANTS FOR MIGRATION PATHWAY STUDENTSHIPS**
- COMPAS The ESRC [Centre on Migration, Policy and Society](#), based in the Department of Anthropology ([SAME](#)): one of Oxford's three world-class research centres for the study of migration, whether voluntary/economic ([COMPAS](#) and [IMI](#)) or forced ([RSC](#))
- DPhil [Doctor of Philosophy](#): 3-year research degree (Oxford's term for the PhD)
- DTC [Doctoral Training Centre](#): a national network of 21 centres of postgraduate excellence accredited by the ESRC – Oxford is home to one of these [DTCs](#)
- ESRC [Economic and Social Research Council](#): the largest single funder of social science PhDs in the UK, funded by the UK government
- IMI The [International Migration Institute](#), based in the Oxford Department of International Development ([ODID](#)): one of Oxford's three world-class research centres for the study of migration, whether voluntary/economic ([COMPAS](#) and [IMI](#)) or forced ([RSC](#))
- ODID [Oxford Department of International Development](#) (also known as QEH, or Queen Elizabeth House), one of the two main Oxford departments to host the Migration Pathway studentships, along with the [SAME](#) (the Department of Anthropology)
- MSc Master of Science by coursework: the 9-month taught postgraduate degree at Oxford
- MSc MS [MSc in Migration Studies](#): one of the two eligible 9-month masters courses for the ESRC Migration Pathway studentships on the 1+3 route; offered jointly by [ODID](#) and [SAME](#), and taught by staff from [COMPAS](#) and [IMI](#)
- MSc RFMS [MSc in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies](#): one of the two eligible 9-month masters courses for the ESRC Migration Pathway Studentships on the 1+3 route; offered by [ODID](#) and taught by staff from the [RSC](#)
- RSC The [Refugee Studies Centre](#), based in [ODID](#): one of Oxford's three world-class research centres for the study of migration, whether forced ([RSC](#)) or voluntary/economic ([COMPAS](#) and [IMI](#))
- SAME [School of Anthropology and Museum Ethnography](#) (sometimes also referred to as the Department of Anthropology), one of the two main Oxford departments to host the Migration Pathway Studentships, along with [ODID](#) (the Oxford Department of International Development)

Background Information

How many Migration Pathway Studentships are awarded?

We have **three** Migration Pathway studentships to award in 2016.

Will the Migration Pathway Studentships be available after 2016?

Funding beyond 2016-17 has yet to be confirmed.

How competitive are the Migration Pathway Studentships?

Since the studentships were introduced in 2010-11, with the first cohort of ESRC DTC studentships, we have received around 30-40 applicants each year for the 3 available Migration Pathway Studentships.

Why does Oxford have Migration Pathway Studentships?

The ESRC has earmarked **three** studentships on the [Migration Pathway](#) in recognition of Oxford's research strength in interdisciplinary migration studies, based in the ESRC Centre on Migration, Policy and Society ([COMPAS](#)), the International Migration Institute ([IMI](#)), and the Refugee Studies Centre ([RSC](#)).

Can I apply for an ESRC Migration Pathway Studentship if I only want to read for the MSc?

No. These studentships are designed specifically for students who want to undertake doctoral study and are not intended for those taking taught masters degrees on their own.

Are 2+2 Studentships available on the Migration Pathway?

No: there are only 1+3 and +3 Studentships available on the Migration Pathway. However, there are 2+2 ESRC Studentships available on the [Development Studies](#) or [Social Anthropology](#) pathways.

Why aren't these studentships available for overseas students?

The ESRC is the single largest funder of social science PhDs in the UK, and is funded by the UK government. It changed the way its studentships were administered recently, and now works through DTCs located within universities and higher education institutions, rather than awarding funding directly to individual students. But it remains primarily a national scheme, with the funds mainly intended to sponsor postgraduate research and to develop the social sciences in the UK. They do fund EU students, primarily on a fees-only basis; but not students who are eligible to pay the overseas fee.

How do the three migration-related research centres relate to each other, and to the University departments?

The three migration-related research centres ([COMPAS](#), [IMI](#) and the [RSC](#)) are all based in one of the University's departments. [COMPAS](#) is based in the Department of Anthropology ([SAME](#)); and [IMI](#) and the [RSC](#) are both based in the Oxford Department of International Development ([ODID](#)).

The three centres cooperate closely, with IMI and COMPAS primarily investigating voluntary/economic migration; and the RSC focusing on the causes and consequences of forced migration.

All degrees are awarded by the University of Oxford through its departments (such as Anthropology or International Development). You should therefore apply to a department, rather than to one of the research centres.

However, much of the teaching on the MSc MS and MSc RFMS, as well as doctoral supervision on migration-related subjects, is undertaken by the academic staff at one of the three migration-related research centres ([COMPAS](#), [IMI](#) and the [RSC](#)), who routinely supervise across different departments.

Before Applying for an ESRC Migration Pathway Studentship

Am I eligible to apply?

To be eligible for one of the three ESRC Migration Pathway 2016 Studentships you should be applying for a place at Oxford in October 2016 to read for:

- **either** for one of the two eligible masters degrees (the [MSc in Migration Studies](#); or the [MSc in Refugee and Forced Migration Studies](#)), with the intention of progressing to a DPhil in a migration-related subject (the 1+3 route);
- **or** for a DPhil in a migration-related subject (the +3 route).

You must:

- Meet the academic entry requirements for your chosen degree (see here for the [MSc MS](#); [MSc RFMS](#); [DPhil in International Development](#); or [DPhil in Anthropology](#); for DPhils in other disciplines related to migration studies, please check the relevant departmental websites).
- Have completed your online application for that degree by the January application deadline. This is 22 January 2016 for most degrees; but some have an earlier January deadline. Please make sure you meet the relevant deadline for your [chosen degree](#).
- Submit a separate application for the ESRC Migration Pathway Studentship by **22 January 2016**.
- Not have previously been awarded a PhD, or have completed more than a year on a full-time research degree programme.
- Be a home (UK) or EU student (as determined by your [fee status](#)).
- Meet the residency requirements set out by the ESRC.

What is my fee status?

For full details about how your fee status at Oxford will be determined, visit the [fee status](#) page on the University's website.

If you have any queries about your fee status or other fee-related issues, you should contact the Fee Status Clerk for advice: fees.clerk@admin.ox.ac.uk.

What fees does the ESRC Migration Pathway Studentship cover?

Home (UK) applicants will in almost all cases receive a **full award**. Please refer to the section below on residency. This covers the full University and College tuition fees for the duration of your Studentship. In addition, you will receive a maintenance grant (stipend) and may apply for a Research Training Support Grant (RTSG). Students who are undertaking overseas fieldwork may also apply to the DTC for funding to support associated fieldwork expenses. Students who are undertaking overseas fieldwork may also apply to the DTC for funding to support associated fieldwork expenses taking place during the DPhil only and not for any master's course fieldwork.

EU applicants (who have not been 'ordinarily resident' in the UK for at least three years by 30 September 2016) will receive a **fees only award**. This does not offer the maintenance grant (stipend) received by home (UK) applicants.

Before Applying for an ESRC Migration Pathway Studentship (continued)

What are the residency requirements for an ESRC Studentship?

To be eligible for a **full award** (stipend and fees), you must have:

- Settled status in the UK, meaning there are no restrictions on how long you can stay.
- Been 'ordinarily resident' in the UK for three years prior to the start of the studentship grant. This means you must have been normally residing in the UK (apart from temporary or occasional absences).
- Not been residing in the UK wholly or mainly for the purpose of full-time education. This does not apply to UK and EU nationals.

To be eligible for a **fees only award**, you:

- must be ordinarily resident in an EU member state, in the same way as UK students must be ordinarily resident in the UK.

All applicants must satisfy the ESRC's citizenship and residence requirements. You are advised to acquaint yourself with the relevant [ESRC sources of information](#) on these requirements directly.

If you have any queries about the residency requirements, you should contact the Oxford DTC for advice: daniel.meacoe@socsci.ox.ac.uk.

Who to contact for further information

We hope this information sheet will answer most of your questions about the ESRC Migration Pathway Studentships.

However, for further information, please check the University's [DTC in Social Sciences](#) website. Further information about the courses can be found on the websites of [ODID](#), [SAME](#) or other relevant departments.

For general enquiries about the ESRC Migration Pathway Studentships and the application process:

Andrea Smith, Postgraduate Courses Coordinator
Tel: 01865 281701 / andrea.smith@geh.ox.ac.uk

For information on your fee status or other fee-related issues:

Fee Status Clerk
fees.clerk@admin.ox.ac.uk.

For further information on residency requirements:

Daniel Meacoe, Oxford DTC
Tel: 01865 614866 / daniel.meacoe@socsci.ox.ac.uk

The Two-Stage Application Process

Stage 1

Please apply for your chosen degree using the standard online graduate [application form](#), indicating on the form that you wish to be considered for an ESRC studentship.

To be considered, you must apply for your chosen degree by the January application deadline. This is **22 January 2016** for the MSc MS, MSc RFMS and most other degrees. But note that some programmes close earlier than 22 January. Please check the relevant course pages on the Oxford University website to be sure that you do not miss the final application deadline of your chosen degree.

Stage 2

There is no separate application form for the ESRC Migration Pathway Studentship, but in order to apply, you should send the following by **12 noon (UK time) on Friday 22 January 2016**:

- One-page **letter of application**, outlining why you are applying for the an ESRC Migration Pathway Studentship; what has inspired your interest in studying a migration-related subject at doctoral level; and what skills and experience you bring, including any experience of research or practical work in the area you have.
- Your doctoral-level **research proposal** (3-4 pages) containing a description of your proposed research project, the problem to be addressed, the methods to be used, and a brief timetable for your proposed research.
- Two-page **curriculum vitae** including full contact details.
- WHERE YOUR PROPOSED RESEARCH INVOLVES WORK WITH RESEARCH USERS OR KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE WITH RESEARCH COLLABORATORS THEN YOU SHOULD DRAW PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO THIS IN YOUR PROPOSAL
 - For research students, the benefits of knowledge exchange and working collaboratively can include:
 - informing and improving your research;
 - enhancing your understanding of research 'users' and their needs;
 - applying evidence based knowledge to important business or policy issues.
 - As a doctoral student at Oxford, you are strongly encouraged to:
 - take advantage of the opportunities to engage with practitioners;
 - develop your communication skills;
 - take every opportunity to make an impact.
 - One rewarding route to meaningful knowledge exchange is through an internship or placement in a relevant organization. Any possible planned internship should be mentioned in your application.

Notes for candidates applying for a 1+3 Studentship:

- Please ask your referees to comment on your suitability for doctoral work, as well as for the taught masters, when they submit their online references to support your application for the MSc MS or MSc RFMS.
- We appreciate that the research proposal you submit at this stage is likely to change between now and when you apply for the DPhil, since you will inevitably develop your research ideas during the MSc.
- Please make sure that you tick the relevant box confirming that you intend to progress to doctoral study as part of the online application process for the MSc. **If you do not do this, we cannot consider you for an ESRC Migration Pathway Studentship.**

Your application for the ESRC Migration Pathway Studentship should be sent either by post or by e-mail to:

The Director of Graduate Studies
c/o Andrea Smith
Postgraduate Courses Coordinator
Oxford Department of International Development
University of Oxford
3 Mansfield Road
Oxford OX1 3TB
E-mail: andrea.smith@geh.ox.ac.uk.

We will acknowledge receipt by e-mail.

Please make sure that your application reaches us by **12 noon (UK time) on Friday 22 January 2016**.

Questions about the 1+3 and +3 Routes

I already have a masters degree: should I apply for a 1+3 or a +3 studentship?

If you are confident that your masters degree is both [ESRC accredited](#), and has equipped you to enter directly for a DPhil, you could apply for a +3 studentship. You may have to take at least one examined course from the range of our MSc/MPhil programmes at the start of your DPhil – but the choice of which course would be most appropriate for you would be very much up to your supervisor, and would be based on relevance to your thesis topic, or on perceived gaps in your skills/knowledge. You could also audit other courses from these taught degrees (i.e. attend the classes and do any formative work expected, but not sit the exams).

Is there a difference between the 1+3 and +3 routes in terms of competitiveness?

No. We evaluate all applications in one pool, regardless of which route you have applied for. The selection criteria are solely based on academic merit; the relevance of your research proposal to migration studies, broadly defined; and (for +3 Studentships), the availability of an appropriate supervisor in the department of your choice.

On the 1+3 route, is progression from the masters (MSc) to the doctorate (DPhil) automatic?

No. You will need to apply separately to read for a DPhil at Oxford by the January 2016 application deadline (for entry to the DPhil in October 2016). You will receive further information about this process in the Michaelmas (autumn) Term of 2015. Acceptance on the DPhil programme is subject to the approval of the relevant department's DPhil Admissions Committee. It will be based on your performance on the MSc. You will normally have to achieve a very strong pass on the degree overall; and a distinction on the dissertation. But please check the requirements for the department you plan to apply to, as admissions criteria vary. We generally recommend you apply for the DPhil using the January application deadline, since you will need to get references from those teaching you on the MSc, and they will not have had a chance to assess your work by the mid-November application deadline. You will find details about the DPhil in International Development [here](#); and about the DPhil in Anthropology [here](#). Please check other departmental websites for details of their DPhil programmes.

Can I take time out between my masters (MSc) and doctoral studies (DPhil) on the 1+3 route?

No. The 1+3 ESRC Studentships are intended for those progressing directly from the MSc to the DPhil, and do not allow time out between the two.

Must my DPhil be at one of the two 'main' departments linked to the migration-related MScs?

No. The Migration Pathway Studentships are not prescriptive about where your DPhil is based. Many recipients do study for the DPhil at either International Development (ODID) or Anthropology (SAME). But if your migration-related doctoral research falls more naturally under another discipline, you would be best advised to seek a potential supervisor in, and apply to become a student of, that department. These could include [Geography](#), [Economics](#), [History](#), [Criminology](#), [Socio-Legal Studies](#), [Politics](#) and [International Relations](#), or [Sociology](#) – it really depends on where your research is focused (as long as it is migration-related).

Questions about the 1+3 and +3 Routes (continued)

Do I need to have found a supervisor for my DPhil before applying?

If you are applying for a 1+3 studentship, you do not need to have identified a possible supervisor for your DPhil when you apply for the MSc. The MSc will give you the chance to meet and work with a range of lecturers, and you should use this opportunity to identify academic staff members whose interests align with yours, and who might be potential DPhil supervisors. For students progressing from a masters to doctoral work within either ODID or SAME, we generally ask that they have approached and receive agreement from a potential supervisor by the time they apply for the DPhil. One of the benefits of going for the 1+3 route is the contact that this gives you with our migration-related research and teaching staff, who get to know you and your research interests during the MSc.

If you are applying for a +3 studentship from outside Oxford, you are not obliged to approach and receive agreement from a potential supervisor by the time you apply for the DPhil, but it may be desirable to do so. However, you should be aware that availability of an appropriate supervisor in the department of your choice is a vital consideration in assessing applications, because a close fit between the research interests of supervisor and student greatly enhances the prospects of successfully completing the degree. Your proposed research topic should thus be explicitly related to the expertise and current research interests of specific members of academic staff in the department of your choice, information about which can be found on the various departmental webpages. But since academics from COMPAS, IMI and the RSC routinely supervise students across various departments, you may well wish to make contact with one of the centre-based staff whose research is in a similar area to your own before you make your application. They will be able to advise you on which department would best suit your proposed research topic. For details of staff at the various centres, follow the links to [COMPAS](#), [IMI](#) and the [RSC](#).

After you have applied

How are applications evaluated?

The ESRC Migration Pathway Studentships are evaluated by an inter-departmental committee here at Oxford, as well as by the Oxford DTC. They are not evaluated by the ESRC itself. Criteria used when evaluating applications are academic excellence; and the relevance of your doctoral research project to migration studies (broadly defined); and (in the case of +3 application), the availability of appropriate supervision.

Will I get any feedback on my application?

No. We cannot give feedback on individual applications.

When will I hear if I have been successful?

If you have been successful, you will normally hear from the DTC by the end of April.

Will I hear if I have not been successful?

If you have not heard by the end of April, you should assume you have not been successful. We try to contact all applicants in due course, but due to the high number of applications received this can take time.

If I'm offered an ESRC Migration Pathway Studentship, can I defer for a year?

No: if you are offered a studentship in April 2016, we would expect you to take this up in October 2016 for the 2016-17 academic year.