The University of Manchester

Faculty of Science and Engineering

Doctoral Training & Development Support Fund 2026/2027

Introduction

The Doctoral Training & Development Support Fund is available to postgraduate researchers in the Faculty of Science and Engineering to facilitate conference attendance or support further training and development. PGRs can apply for awards up to a maximum of £500.

Please carefully read the eligibility criteria and guidance outlined below. Following the deadline, the panel will consider all applications.

The closing dates of all three calls are as follows:

Round 1: Friday, 30 October - 12pm
Round 2: Friday, 26 February - 12pm
Round 3: Monday, 31 May - 12pm

This competitive fund is open for applications to support:

1. Cross-sector collaboration and engagement.
2. Facilitate meaningful connections that contribute to future collaborations and research partnerships.
3. Equip PGRs with valuable skills and knowledge to excel in their research and future careers.
4. Enhance research capabilities and knowledge transfer.
5. Facilitate a culture of continuous learning and development.

Eligibility

- All eProg milestones should be completed and up to date – or provide justifiable grounds for late completion.
- For PGRs in submission pending, the conference or training must take place prior to their submission deadline.
- The application must be approved prior to the PGR attending the conference or training.
- Retrospective applications will not be considered.
- The fund does not support research or research associated costs (e.g. costs towards a placement that is for generating thesis data should not be eligible, whereas a placement that is an internship for professional development can be eligible).

Assessment criteria

Applications will be prioritised as follows:

- Applicants who do not have access to a conference/travel or training budget through an existing studentship or sponsor arrangement.

- All applications need to be cost estimated with explanations for the funds required.
- Applicants who have applied for external funding for a portion of the expenses or show a clear plan to apply for external funds.
- The Doctoral Academy will assess remaining RTSG balance.
- Applicants who have not previously presented a poster or talk on the topic of their PhD research at a local, national, or international conference (excluding internal UoM conferences).
- Applicants who have research and training needs that are not currently covered by the UoM Researcher Development Team.
- Applicants who are in years 2 or 3 of their research.
- Applicants who can demonstrate that the conference or training will have additional benefits.
- Applications where there is strong academic support regarding the quality of the presentation/data or the standing of the conference in the discipline.
- Applications where there is strong academic support regarding the quality of training as an industry benchmark.

Frequency

- The Doctoral Training & Development Support Fund can be awarded once per academic year and a maximum of twice throughout the duration of a programme.

How to apply

- Submit the Doctoral Training & Development Support Fund Application Form.
- Submit in accordance with the advertised deadlines and prior to attendance at the conference/training.
- Include a statement of support from the supervisor that outlines the importance of the event and the relevance to the PGR's research.
- The Doctoral Academy will notify all PGRs of the individual application outcome.

Eligible expenditure

Awards will be made up to a maximum of **£500** per successful PGR and limited to one per academic year. This funding can be used towards:

- Conference registration fees
- Training and development attendance fees
- Transport
- Additional carer support e.g. for children, family members or themselves associated with attendance at a conference or training event, such as conference nursery costs or travel costs for children or carers.
- Standard class travel
- Accommodation
- Visa application costs (conference or training purposes only)

Information for Successful Applicants

Successful PGRs will be contacted with further information on how to claim this funding. Ensure that you liaise with your local Ops team and use your RTSG to make any bookings through KeyTravel.

Contact

If you have any questions relating to the Doctoral Training & Development Support Fund please contact the FSE Doctoral Academy Experience Team: FSE.doctoralacademy@manchester.ac.uk.