



**Faculty of Humanities Doctoral Academy  
ESRC NWSSDTP CASE Studentship  
October 2027 Entry**

The University of Manchester, as part of [The North West Social Sciences Doctoral Training Partnership](#) (NWSSDTP) consortium, receives [Economic and Social Research Council](#) (ESRC) accreditation and funding for doctoral studentships and training.

The NWSSDTP runs an annual collaborative studentship competition (CASE) where academics from the five NWSSDTP institutions can apply for funding towards postgraduate projects that will be co-supervised with a representative from a non-HEI partner organisation. Successful applicants will then be invited to recruit a postgraduate candidate to undertake the project.

The NWSSDTP CASE studentship competition is a two-stage process. The **first stage** is the proposal stage, where an academic and a non-HEI partner organisation collaborate to propose a CASE Studentship.

Full details including guidance and the CASE Application form can be found on the [NWSSDTP Collaboration page](#)

## **Process**

The Humanities Doctoral Academy will support applicants with their CASE Studentship Application Form ahead of the deadline for this first stage. To facilitate the first stage and to ensure Manchester submits high-quality and strong CASE applications the Humanities Doctoral Academy requires applicants to submit an **Expression of Interest Form (EOI)** (slimmed-down application form without partner input at this stage) to gauge initial interest and feasibility of the project.

A Doctoral Academy CASE panel will review the EOIs and decide which projects progress to the full application stage, providing constructive comments and feedback. Applicants whose EOIs are selected will then work with their non-HEI Partner to complete the full CASE Application Form and submit it by **30 September 2026** for further review by the Doctoral Academy CASE panel before the formal submission deadline.

- [Expression of Interest Form](#)
- [Manchester Additional Guidance to support completion of the EOI and Full CASE Application](#)

For CASE applicants who were unsuccessful in the awards offered for the 2026 entry and are considering reapplying, you are only required to submit a revised full CASE Application Form by 30 September 2026. An Expression of Interest (EOI) will not be necessary for reapplication.

Given the participation of five institutions, it is crucial to acknowledge that most pathways will only provide one funded CASE studentship. Therefore, the CASE panel will prioritise applications that exhibit the highest quality, featuring clear and well-defined proposals, to ensure the selection of the strongest applications.

## Timeframe

|                                                                                         |                                   |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Call for Projects Opens                                                                 | June 2026                         |
| Deadline for submission of EOI Proposals                                                | 31st July 2026                    |
| Doctoral Academy CASE Panel to review EOIs                                              | 4th - 14th August 2026            |
| EOI outcome communicated to supervisors                                                 | 20th August 2026                  |
| Supervisors to complete the CASE Studentship Application Form                           | 21st August – 30th September 2026 |
| Supervisors to submit CASE Studentship Application to the Doctoral Academy CASE Panel   | 30th September 2026               |
| Doctoral Academy CASE Panel to review applications and provide feedback (if applicable) | By 12th October 2026              |
| Supervisors to review feedback and update the proposal (if applicable)                  | 13th – 2nd November 2026          |
| Deadline for submission of proposals to ESRC NWSSDTP (1 <sup>st</sup> stage)            | <b>Monday 2 November 2026*</b>    |

\*These dates are not yet confirmed by the ESRC but align with last year's timeline.

## Funding

- tuition fees at (Home) UKRI approved rate
- an annual stipend at the standard UKRI rate (or pro rata if part-time)
- Access to a Research Training Support Grant (RTSG) for reimbursement of research-related expenses including - but not limited to - conference attendance, training courses and payment of participants.
- Opportunity to apply for additional funding towards:
  - Fieldwork costs (usually only permitted when the need for fieldwork is outlined at this initial application stage)
  - Overseas Institutional Visits
  - Internships with non-HEI Partners

Please also be aware that the NWSSDTP is only permitted to award a maximum of 30% of its studentships - a maximum of 18 awards across the DTP and CASE competitions to international students per annum.

All queries should be directed to Charles Rhodes, PGR Recruitment and Admissions Officer, HUMS Doctoral Academy or the Deputy Associate Dean for PGR overseeing the scheme Dr Stuart Shields [stuart.shields@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:stuart.shields@manchester.ac.uk)