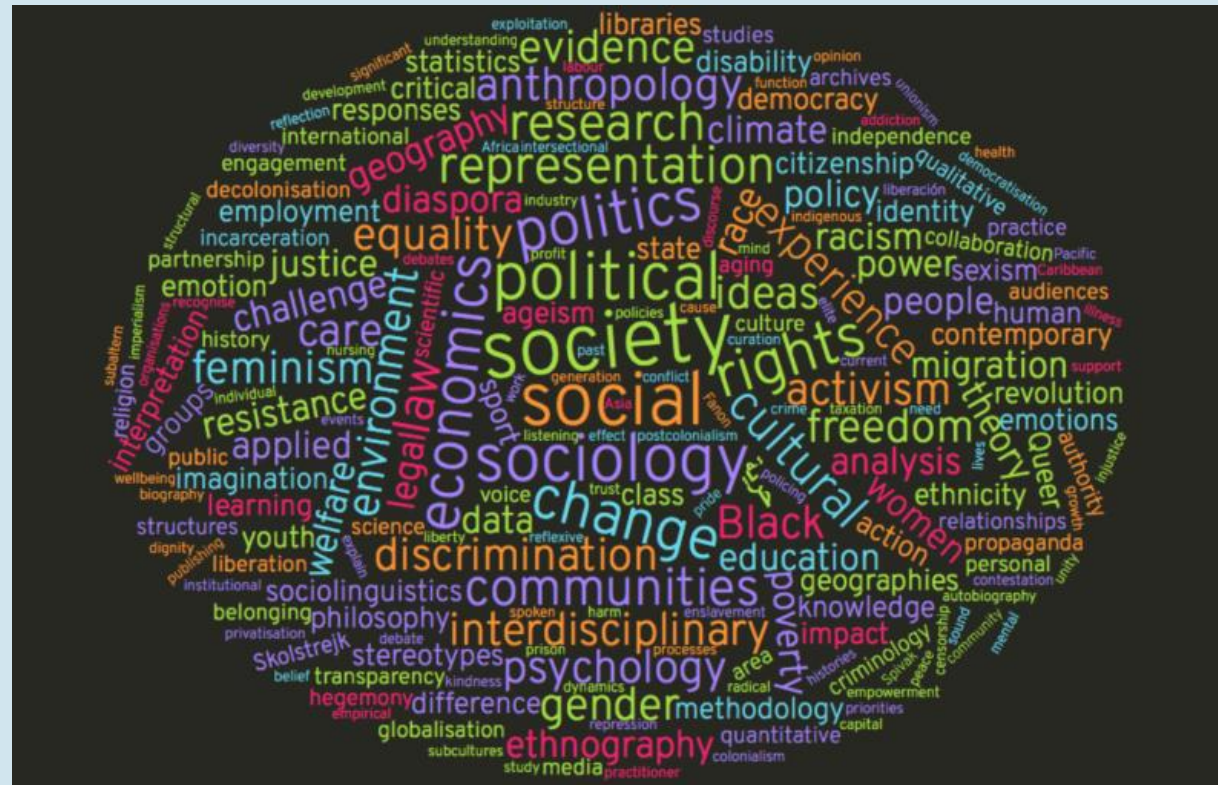


The ESRC Grand Union DTP: Apply for a Studentship



Structure

- What is the GUDTP?
- What are the benefits of a GUDTP Studentship?
- Preparing an application...
- How will your application be assessed?

What is the Grand Union DTP? (GUDTP)



- ✓ DTPs are the way the government funds doctoral training
- ✓ 'GU' is one of 15 ESRC Doctoral Training Partnerships
- ✓ GUDTP comprises 3 universities with complementary strengths
- ✓ 24 'Pathways' – 19 Oxford, 7 Open University, 2 Brunel
- ✓ Annually awards 35-40 ESRC Studentships
- ✓ More than a 'studentship' = training, placements, overseas institutional visits

What does a studentship cover?

- A **stipend** (£20,780 in 2025-26 for 12 months) and **university tuition fees** are covered
- Placements – all students must carry out a 3 month placement in academia, policy, business or a third sector organisation
- Support for some research-related costs, e.g. fieldwork expenses, additional training, overseas institutional visits (OIVs)
- Opportunity to apply for support for student-led events and interdisciplinary initiatives
- Access to an exclusive range of cohort activities, training and events
- Not covered: Visa, health surcharge and travel costs for international students

Eligibility for an ESRC studentship



- Applications must be for study on an eligible course on of the 24 pathways
- Qualifications/experience equal to the standard undergraduate honours degree at a First or Upper Second Class level from a UK research organisation
- Masters qualification is not a prerequisite for the award of a studentship from the Grand Union DTP
- No residency or nationality restrictions for a full award (stipend & fees) but the DTP can only offer up to 30% of its awards each year to international students



Education

Undertaking research across a range of fields including inclusive



Innovation in Learning

Exploring the factors that support or impede inclusive approaches to



Linguistics

Encompassing the study of language, socio- and historical linguistics, and



Psychology

Exploring and applying the principles of human thought and behaviour in

Studentship Structures



- Part time or Full Time
- Masters + PhD (1+3.5 or 2+2.5 awards) or straight PhD (3.5-year awards)
- No standalone Masters programmes, applicants must be intending to carry out doctoral research
- Some studentships ('Steer Awards') are awarded for research specifically focusing on:
 - Advanced Quantitative Methods
 - Data Skills
 - Interdisciplinary Research
- Collaborative Studentships – projects advertised on the GUDTP website

Placements

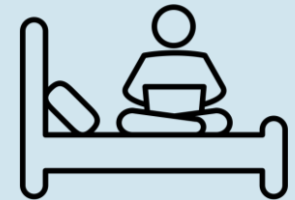
3 months professional experience in any sector

An opportunity to

- **apply your academic expertise** in different settings
- make **real-world impact**
- pave the way for your **future career**
- **collaborate** with non-academic partners



flexible timing



compulsory

remote/in-person



Scholars Association

GUDTP Annual Conference

GUDTP 24-25 JUNE 2025
Annual Conference Day 1

ABSTRACTS

GRAND UNION doctoral training partnership

Brunel University of London

The Open University

Economic and Social Research Council

GUDTP 24-25 JUNE 2025
Annual Conference Day 2

ABSTRACTS

GRAND UNION doctoral training partnership

Brunel University of London

The Open University

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Student-led Events



Everyday Experiences of Conflict

Deadline: Friday 30 May

In-person | GUDTP Hub, Manor Road Building, OX1 3UQ



Book Now >

How 2 Collaborate Mini Programme 2025-2026

In Partnership with the OOC DTP

Online via Zoom



Register Now >

AI and Work | Lunch seminar for DPhils & Post-Docs.

Student-Led Activity

In-person | GUDTP Hub, Manor Road Building, OX1 3UQ

Learning & Development Year Card



ESRC Grand Union DTP Year Card 2025-26

The training year card is subject to change, and additional training sessions will be incorporated as they become available. Further details about these events, including speakers and how to sign up, will be shared in due course on the Grand Union DTP website. In the meantime, please mark your diaries and save the dates

October to December 2025

Date		Location
02/10/2025 14:00 - 15:00	Clean Python for Reproducible Research	Online
22/10/2025 11:00 - 17:00	Student induction for new ESRC GUDTP scholars	In-person Oxford
23/10/2025 10:00 - 13:00	Logical Foundations of Critical Thinking	In-person Oxford
30/10/2025 10:30 - 12:30	Coffee Morning in the Hub October	In-person Oxford
30/10/2025 14:00 - 15:30	Funding Offer Refresher for DTP1 students	Hybrid Oxford
04/11/2025 13:00 - 14:00	AI and Work: lunch seminar	In-person Oxford
05/11/2025 15:00 - 16:30	Introduction into Policy Engagement for doctoral students in the Social Sciences	Online
12/11/2025 10:00 - 13:00	Social Science for Public Policy	In-person Oxford
20/11/2025 10:30 - 12:30	Coffee Morning in the Hub November	In-person Oxford
26/11/2025 10:30 - 15:30	Storytelling for doctoral students in the Social Sciences	In-person Oxford
27/11/2025 10:00 - 16:00	Advanced Qualitative Interviewing	In-person Oxford
04/12/2025 14:00 - 16:15	How 2 Collaborate part 1	Online
09/12/2025 09:30 - 16:30	Behavioural Science: Human Behaviour and Economic Development.	In-person Oxford
10/12/2025 & 11/12/2025 10:00 - 16:00	From Theory to Practice: Participatory Methods for Doctoral Students	In-person Oxford

January to April 2026

Date		Location
TBC	Impact and Engagement fundamentals for doctoral students in the Social Sciences	TBC
13/01/2026 10:00 - 12:15	How 2 Collaborate part 2	Online



What makes a good research proposal?

- What do I (and others) already know about this topic? How can I draw on my own experience, expertise, and contacts?
- What do I need to know and why do I need to know this?
- What kind of 'data' will answer my questions? Where can I find these data?
- How will I analyse this data? What kinds of evidence will this produce?

Things to consider

- Which departments have expertise in the chosen research area?
- Who would be a suitable supervisor?
- Would a predefined or collaborative research topic be suitable?

...and what about methods?

- Quantitative, qualitative, mixed methods, theoretical or library-based?
- What sources will you draw on?
- Where can these sources be found, how they will contribute to your research, technical skills needed to work with them (e.g. language, use of specialist software)
- Focus: local, regional, national, international?
- How to secure your research sample?
- What practical challenges will there be?
- What are the ethical issues to consider?
- Do you do a pilot (almost always helpful for empirical research)

The application process

- DEADLINE for Autumn 2026 entry: **December 2025 to January 2026** (check with your institution on exact date for your course)
- Complete and submit GUDTP application with your course application or as per specific institutional instructions.
- Your application will be assessed by your department and 'Pathway' leads.
- The strongest applications will be nominated to central studentship competition.
- Each nomination is independently read and reviewed by 5 assessors, with representation from all 3 partners and a range of expertise.

Selection criteria

- 1) Academic and professional background/experience
- 2) Aptitude, potential and contextual information
- 3) Quality of doctoral research proposal
- 4) Collaboration, impact and knowledge exchange

Widening participation to PGR research



- We take your professional career profile into account, not just academic trajectory
- We assess the potential for doctoral research to have impact and promote knowledge exchange
- Part-time provision is available on all pathways
- We consider contextual information provided in your application
- Ring-fenced awards for Black or mixed Black British students



Questions welcome



E-mail:

- Oxford: granduniondtp@socsci.ox.ac.uk
- Open University: FASS-PhD-Applications@open.ac.uk
- Brunel University London: Emma.Smith@brunel.ac.uk

Website:

<https://www.granduniondtp.ac.uk>