



# UKRI Studentships Funding Policy CU-RIO-POL-16.0 V4

## Purpose

It is essential that staff who have responsibility for the recruitment and supervision of students funded by UKRI act in accordance with UKRI's Terms and Conditions of Training Grant Funding.

Studentships funded by UKRI must be open to both home and international students. This includes most Doctoral Landscape Awards (DLA), Industrial Doctoral Landscape Awards (IDLA), Doctoral Focal Awards (DFA), Doctoral Training Partnerships (DTP) and Centres for Doctoral Training (CDTs) from all UKRI Funding Councils.

UKRI normally limit the proportion of international students that can be appointed for each cohort to no more than 30 percent of the total. Individual grant offer letters may include specific terms and conditions and these should be referred to alongside this policy.

In implementing this policy we will ensure that recruitment processes are fair, open and transparent with equality, diversity and inclusion policies supported throughout all stages.

## Scope

This policy applies to UKRI funded studentships and includes studentships which are partly funded by UKRI with additional funding from an external partner(s).

This policy applies to studentships supported through consortia (collaborative DTPs or CDTs) unless a different position has been agreed as part of the collaborative agreement for the consortium.

Collaborative DTPs and CDTs are responsible for managing their international flexibility for their individual grant award and must agree with partner institutions how the international flexibility will be allocated across institution partners for each cohort.

## Policy Statement

### Funding awards

1. All UKRI funded students will receive a full award, to include a stipend and fees at the UKRI home level.

2. UKRI funded home students must not be charged additional fees above the fee level paid by UKRI.
3. Fees-only awards are not permitted.
4. At least 50% of the total cost of the studentship must be drawn from UKRI.
5. Students in full-time employment are not eligible for an award of any kind from UKRI.
6. A student in part-time employment may be eligible for a part-time award which should not be less than 50% of the full time equivalent.
7. Both home and international students must be resident in the UK for the majority of their studies and any time spent overseas should be for the purposes of fieldwork/long-term attachment. If a student is still in receipt of a stipend while overseas, you must consider and comply with local tax law.
8. The UKRI contribution to studentship costs must be drawn from a single Training Grant at any one time.

## **Stipends**

1. The level of stipend awarded to eligible students must be at least equal to UKRI's minimum rates for the relevant academic year.
2. A stipend may be topped up with external partner funding, but the contribution from UKRI must continue to meet their minimum level.
3. When UKRI increase their minimum stipend, changes will be applied no later than the first stipend payment after 1 October each year.

## **International student fees**

When applying the international student flexibility, the following rules apply:

1. Cranfield is not obligated to allocate the full 30 percent flexibility on training grant awards.
2. The 30 percent flexibility is the maximum threshold for international students per cohort and will be applied to each training grant where appropriate and in line with UKRI's policy.
3. For international students, international fees will be charged, however, only the home fee level can be claimed from the UKRI training grant.
4. UKRI funding cannot be used to cover the difference between the home and international fee rate.
5. The difference between the home and international fee rate can be covered from other sources, including contributions from the host institution, co-funding partners or from the student directly.
6. The institution can choose to bursary the difference in home and international fee.

## **Key Roles and Responsibilities**

All staff who have responsibility for the recruitment and supervision of students funded by UKRI must be aware of and act in accordance with UKRI's Terms and Conditions of Training Grant Funding and report any required changes to a student, once registered, to the Research and Innovation Office ([RIO-UKRI-Studentships@cranfield.ac.uk](mailto:RIO-UKRI-Studentships@cranfield.ac.uk)) .

Collaborative DTPs and CDTs are responsible for managing their own international flexibility and the Cranfield Academic Lead must agree with the partner institution(s) how the 30 percent will be allocated across institution partners for each cohort.

Supervisors wishing to offer a studentship to an international student (excluding collaborative DTPs and CDTs) using UKRI funding must request approval to use the flexibility before an offer is made through the Research and Innovation Office ([RIO-UKRI-Studentships@cranfield.ac.uk](mailto:RIO-UKRI-Studentships@cranfield.ac.uk)) .

## Monitoring Compliance

The Research and Innovation Office is responsible for monitoring the international flexibility on UKRI funded studentship awards with the exception of collaborative DTPs and CDTs.

The Research and Innovation Office are required to report details of all new UKRI funded students on the UKRI database within one month of registration. Each student record will include details of the students funding status e.g. home or international. Changes to a student's registration including, extensions, suspension, changes to mode of study etc. must also be reported to UKRI. The Research and Innovation Office should be informed of any request for changes to a student's registration.

Where offers to international students are made under this policy without seeking prior agreement from the Research and Innovation Office (with the exception of collaborative DTPs and CDTs), the offer will be retracted, and funding may also be withdrawn.

UKRI would like to have a better understanding of the students its training provision attracts and supports. Diversity information on all applicants/recruits applying for UKRI funded studentships will be shared with UKRI. The data will be aggregated and will not be shared as individual data or used to report on individuals or specific universities. The data will be used to analyse general trends in student populations across UKRI's portfolio.

## Related documents

[Terms and conditions for training funding – UKRI](#)  
[Tuition fees for research courses 2025-2026](#)

## Further guidance

For further information and support, contact [RIO-UKRI-Studentships@cranfield.ac.uk](mailto:RIO-UKRI-Studentships@cranfield.ac.uk)

## Document control

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Policy owner	Prof. Leon Terry, PVC Research and Innovation
Policy Author(s)	Michelle Carter, Research Governance Manager, Research and Innovation Office
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## Document Review

Version	Amendment	By	Date
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