

Guidance notes for Midlands Graduate School ESRC DTP applicants October 2025 Entry

The deadline for applications is midday on Tuesday 21st January 2025 (12:00 GMT).

It is important that you allow yourself sufficient time to read these Guidance Notes before you complete your application form. Do not attempt to complete your application form before you have read them.

Before you make your ESRC DTP studentship application you need to decide which of the available [training pathways](#) is most suitable for you, and at which university you would like to study. You must have applied for a PhD place to study at that university before making your studentship application.

Student Application Form

The application form for the Midlands Graduate School (MGS) is available on [the MGS website](#). It is in two sections. Each section is a separate form, and you will find the link to Section Two on the submission confirmation page once you have completed Section One.

Section One asks for personal details which will **only** be used for equal opportunities monitoring and reporting and **will not** be seen by reviewers at any stage of the studentship selection process. This section will be downloaded separately and seen only by DTP administrative staff at the institution to which you apply and the DTP Consortium Manager. Full details about why we are requesting this data and how it will be used are available on [the MGS website](#).

Section Two will be used by reviewers to assess your application for funding, along with the research proposal that you will be required to upload. Your university student ID / applicant ID will be used to identify your application. Please ensure that your name and any other personally identifying information do not appear in either your research proposal or personal statement.

The other documents that you will be required to upload (Supervisor Supporting Statement and transcripts) and your references *will* contain personally identifying information, but these will be sent to reviewers as a separate document, using your university student ID / applicant ID to identify it, to ensure that your application and research proposal are fully anonymous during initial review.

While you may have already submitted some of this information as part of your PhD admissions application to your chosen university, we will require you to repeat it for the purposes of this form. Reviewers will only have access to the information included in Section Two, the documents that you upload, and the two references submitted in support of your PhD admissions application. It is therefore important that you include all relevant information in this form.

Think about how to make the best case possible. Make sure that you proofread your application before submitting it, to avoid spelling or grammatical errors.

Work with your prospective supervisors to complete your application

This will help you to identify the academics whose published work and research expertise are closest to your interests, and to find the team that will best facilitate your studies. Please remember that you will not be working with a single supervisor but with a team of at least two supervisors in the doctoral element of your award. Start the search process early by sending an outline of your PhD topic to the supervisors with whom you might like to work as a postgraduate researcher. It may take a number of iterations to refine your funding proposal and your potential supervisors will be the best people to help with this process.

In identifying your potential supervisors, use a number of key search terms to bring up different combinations of academics and expertise. Have the academics already published books and articles in the area of your proposed research or in an area that is related to some of your key ideas? Are they researching and presenting papers in your research area? Are they using a methodology that could underpin your project?

When considering applying for ESRC DTP funding, you should be mindful of whether your proposed project falls within the [ESRC's scientific remit](#). If it does not, then you will not be eligible to apply for an ESRC studentship. In terms of the boundaries between the ESRC and Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) remits, the Research Councils have produced a '[Joint AHRC ESRC Statement on Subject Coverage Interfaces between the Arts and Humanities and the Social Sciences](#)', which you may find useful. Your prospective supervisors should be able to advise if your project is suitable to apply for ESRC funding. If there is any doubt about the remit of your project, please refer it to the [pathway contact](#) at the university to which you are applying.

Although you will need to have applied for a PhD place at your chosen university, it is not necessary for you to have received written confirmation that you have been offered a place at the university in order to *apply* for funding. However, your application to study must have been submitted, your references must be available, and in due course you will need to hold an offer from your chosen university in order for your application to be considered for ESRC funding. This offer can be conditional. The offer must be for a PhD programme, even if you are applying for a 1+3.5 award. We recommend that you make your PhD place application as early as possible.

Section One

Question 1: Applicant Details

Please ensure that you include the student ID / application ID number of the application you have made for the PhD place to study at your chosen university. We need your date of birth for identification purposes, to help ensure that you are not confused with another applicant with a similar name or ID number.

The Applicant Details section includes a number of questions which we are asking to enable us to fulfil our reporting requirement to the ESRC around diversity statistics for our overall funding applicant pool. The ESRC have added a number of socio-economic factors to their annual monitoring based on the [Social Mobility Commission's](#) (SMC) toolkit, and so the MGS has incorporated the SMC questions into the application form. For all categories you can select 'Prefer not to say'.

This information will not be made available to those who review your studentship application, will be processed only by the DTP Consortium Manager, and will be shared with the ESRC and the MGS Management Committee in an anonymised manner for the purposes of equal opportunities monitoring. Full details on how your data will be handled are available on the [MGS website](#).

Question 2: Residency

This section must be completed in full because it will be used to establish whether you will be classed as a home or international student for the purposes of ESRC funding. This information will be seen only by the DTP administrators who will carry out initial checks, and will not be seen by those reviewing your application. Reviewers will be told

only whether the application should be classed as home or international.

All applicants across all pathways are eligible to receive a stipend and tuition fees at the home fee rate.

To be classed as a home student, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Be a UK national (meeting residency requirements), **or**
- Have settled status, **or**
- Have pre-settled status (meeting residency requirements), **or**
- Have indefinite leave to remain or enter

If an applicant does not meet any of the criteria above, they will be classed as an international student. Please note that we can award up to 30% of studentships to international students per cohort. Applicants classed as international students may be required to fund the difference between home and international fees themselves, and so will be required to confirm that they have sufficient funds available to cover any proportion of the difference that is required.

Presented below is each institution's position on what proportion of the international tuition fee will be covered for successful international applicants. This guidance is applicable for international students beginning in October 2025.

Aston University - International students awarded funding through the MGS at Aston University **will not** be required to fund the difference between home and international fees, **except** for those studying in the College of Health and Life Sciences Research where fee scholarships may be offered to a limited number of international applicants. The Fee Scholarship will be used to help cover the difference between the level of home fees and international fees.

University of Birmingham – International students awarded funding through the MGS at the University of Birmingham **will not** be required to cover the difference between home and international fees.

De Montfort University – International students awarded funding through the MGS at De Montfort University **will not** be required to cover the difference between home and international fees.

University of Leicester - The University of Leicester may be offering Fee Scholarships to a limited number of international applicants who are successful in securing studentship funding from MGS. The Fee Scholarship will be used to cover the difference between the level of home fees and international fees.

Loughborough University - International students awarded funding through the MGS at Loughborough University **will not** be required to cover the difference between home and international fees.

University of Nottingham – The University of Nottingham will be offering a limited number of Fee Scholarships to international applicants who are successful in securing studentship funding from MGS. The Fee Scholarship will be used to cover the difference between the level of home fees and international fees.

Nottingham Trent University – International students awarded funding through the MGS at Nottingham Trent University **will not** be required to cover the difference between home and international fees.

University of Warwick - International students awarded funding through the MGS at the University of Warwick **will not** be required to cover the difference between home and international fees.

Please refer to the MGS [Eligibility Requirements webpage](#) for further information and full details regarding residential eligibility requirements.

Question 3: Stuart Hall Foundation Scholarships

To be eligible for a Stuart Hall Foundation award, you must be eligible for home fee status. We would particularly

welcome applications for these awards from candidates from non-traditional or underrepresented groups. If you wish to be considered for one of the Midlands Graduate School's Stuart Hall Foundation Scholarships, you will need to complete a short statement describing how your project aligns with the SHF's vision and purpose (see below). If you do not wish to be considered, or are not eligible, please leave this question blank.

You can apply to any pathway and select that you wish to be considered for an MGS SHF award. Your project may contain an element of interdisciplinarity and should be related to one of Stuart Hall's areas of interest such as race, ethnicity, and inequalities.

Applicants who wish to be considered for an MGS SHF award will be assessed in the same way as those who do not. After the usual MGS selection process has been completed, a shortlist of those to whom MGS will be making offers will be sent to the SHF, who will consider your full application and your answer to this question in order to make their selection. They will receive only your answer to Question 3 from this section; no personal details or residency information will be shared.

Successful applicants to the MGS SHF Studentship will benefit from working with the Stuart Hall Foundation to develop their career and research profile. Post holders will be able to engage with and contribute to the resources and networks of the Stuart Hall Foundation, including an annual gathering of Stuart Hall Foundation Scholars and Fellows, and privileged access to the work of the Foundation.

Inspired by the life and work of Jamaican-born British public intellectual Stuart Hall, founding figure of British Cultural Studies, key arts supporter, inspirational educator and leading voice for social justice, the [Stuart Hall Foundation](#) was established in 2015 to address urgent questions of race, class and intersecting inequalities through a commitment to public education.

The Stuart Hall Foundation is committed to providing opportunities for students and academics, pursuing themes resonant with the work of Professor Stuart Hall and that of the Foundation. Acutely aware of the obstacles to achievement in higher education faced by young people from culturally diverse and disadvantaged backgrounds – evidenced by admissions data and the lack of diversity among academic staff – the Stuart Hall Foundation is working in partnership with universities in the UK and internationally to continue Professor Stuart Hall's life-long commitment to teaching.

Learn more about the Stuart Hall Foundation here: www.stuarthallfoundation.org and Professor Stuart Hall himself here: www.stuarthallfoundation.org/stuart-hall.

Question 4: Placement during PhD

All ESRC-funded students who begin their studentship in or after 2024 will be expected to undertake a 3-month placement in academia (research or professional services), policy, business or third sector organisations. The placement will provide a practical opportunity to apply and develop transferable skills gained during the PhD and apply research skills and theoretical knowledge in a different context. Support will be available for successful applicants from MGS to identify or develop opportunities. For more information on placements, please visit our [Research in Practice webpage](#).

As MGS develops its placement offering, we are keen to hear from applicants on your preferred type of placement, and if you already have a host organisation in mind, as this will help to inform our planning and development of our offer. If you do not yet know what type of placement you would like to do then it's fine to tell us that as this question will not form part of the assessment process and is for MGS office use only.

Question 5: ESRC award at any other DTP for a 2024 start

Please give details here of any other applications you have made for ESRC funding. This is for information only and will not affect whether or not you are made an offer of MGS funding.

Section Two

Question 1: The university, pathway, and School/Department in which you intend to study and your

proposed supervisory team

Please give the name of the university, pathway, and School/Department in which you intend to study and the names of your proposed supervisors. Please note that not all pathways are available in all DTP institutions – check the [pathway grid](#) for which pathways are available in each institution. It is your responsibility to ensure that you select the correct institution and pathway in this question.

Your lead supervisor must be based in the pathway to which you are applying, but your second supervisor can be drawn from a different department, including those which do not form part of the MGS. To be eligible to lead supervise, academic staff must have supervised at least one PhD to completion as either lead or second supervisor, so please check with your proposed lead supervisor that they meet this requirement.

Question 2: Qualifications

Please provide details of the institutions you have attended (or are attending), and the courses you have taken at undergraduate and postgraduate level. You should enter **one** undergraduate and **one** Masters level degree (if applicable), but there is also space on the form to add other qualifications at the same level or other relevant qualifications.

If your qualification was completed outside the UK, please tell us the name of your qualification in the **original language** (e.g. Maîtrise, and **not the English equivalent**).

There is space after each qualification to tell us about any mitigating circumstances which may have affected your grades. Relevant mitigating circumstances could include, but are not limited to, caring responsibilities, having to undertake paid employment during studies, or illness. Any mitigating circumstances mentioned here will be taken into account when reviewers score your application.

Question 3: Prior Training: Research Methods, Discipline-Specific, General Skills

In the questions below, please outline any previous Research Methods and Discipline-Specific modules you have undertaken as part of a Masters and any General Skills training. General Skills training may have been undertaken during a degree programme or whilst in employment. These skills include project management, data management and analysis, ethical issues, bibliographic skills, and maximising the impact of research. Please note that there is no expectation that candidates applying for any type of award will have covered any General Skills training, and this will be provided across the course of the studentship. We will use the information provided to make recommendations on General Skills training to be undertaken.

You should give details of the composition of your Masters course by listing modules you have (or will have) undertaken. You do not need to include details of your Masters dissertation here. You must provide sufficient information for us to assess whether the Masters course contained the requisite training in Research Methods and Discipline-Specific modules to prepare you for an ESRC-funded research degree. If available, please include a link to a page with full details of the module content.

Please see the [Summaries of research methods training](#) below for details of the kinds of modules you should include here.

Please note that undergraduate-level training is not recognised by the ESRC to account for research methods training.

Guidance on Which Scheme to Apply For:

If you are applying for MGS funding directly from your undergraduate degree you will be required to undertake the full Masters in Social Science Research (MSSR) under the 1+3.5 route. Please select that you are applying for **Masters and PhD** funding.

You may be required to undertake the full MSSR under the 1+3.5 route in the following circumstances:

- If you are returning to education following a period in non-research employment and do not already hold a social science Masters degree
- If you are 'discipline-hopping' and hold a Masters degree from a non-social science discipline, e.g. Computer Science
 - This will depend upon the disciplinary norms of both a degree that you have and the social science discipline you are entering. For example, it may be that a student with an arts and humanities background will have a relevant skill set for some social science subjects and MGS pathways (e.g., Economic & Social History, Socio-Legal Studies).

If you have (or will have) a social science Masters degree which covered training in the [research methods areas summarised below](#), you will be given a standard +3.5 award*. Please select that you are applying for **PhD-only** funding.

If you have (or will have) a social science Masters degree which did not cover any/all of [these areas](#), you will be given either a +3.75 or a +4 award, to allow additional time for this training to be undertaken. If this applies to you, please select that you are applying for **PhD-only** funding.

- If your subject-specific Masters has no research training component, you will receive a +4 award (the standard +3.5 award plus 6 months to complete additional research training in the form of 3 x 20 credit modules from the MSSR in your first PhD year)
- If your Masters covers some research training but there are still significant gaps in two of the core areas, you will receive a +3.75 award (the standard +3.5 award plus 3 months to complete 2 x 20 credit modules from the MSSR in your first PhD year)
- If your Masters covers a reasonable amount of research training but there is a gap in one of the core areas, you will receive the standard +3.5 and will just need to complete one module from the MSSR in your first PhD year
- All students will be welcome to audit any MSSR modules even if the DTP does not require that you take them

*Please note that 3 months of the standard +3.5 award is for students to undertake the 3-month placement mentioned in Section 1 (further details on the placements are available on [the MGS website](#)). If you do not undertake a placement, your funding will be reduced by 3 months, so a standard award would become +3.25, a +3.75 would become a +3.5, and so on.

Summaries of research methods training:

The ESRC expects all DTP researchers to be trained in the following areas:

- **Research Design, Practice and Ethics**
- **Quantitative Research Methods**
- **Qualitative Research Methods**

All eight institutions in the MGS DTP offer a Masters in Social Science Research designed to meet the ESRC's compulsory core training requirements for ESRC-funded students. Although students follow different, discipline-specific pathways through these Masters programmes, three core modules are common to all pathways. A summary of each of the areas is provided below:

Research Design, Practice and Ethics

By the end of this module students are able to:

- identify and address the strategic choices made in the design of a research project, including the ethical issues which need to be considered;
- formulate research questions and hypotheses (where appropriate);
- discuss the relationship between theory and evidence and the potential biases in research findings;
- understand different forms of sampling and case selection;
- demonstrate an understanding of concepts of validity, reliability and replicability and the different perspectives on how these may be defined.

Training in ethics provided through this module includes: the ESRC Framework for Research Ethics; integrity; consent; assessment of harm to researchers and participants; the independence of research; confidentiality and compliance with GDPR. The module introduces students to the concepts and varieties of social science research designs. Research design consists of choices necessary to transform a research question into actual research. These choices relate to strategies and modes of case selection, data collection and modes of analysis, and they pertain equally to qualitative, quantitative and mixed-methods studies. Every research question can be elaborated in different ways; none of these will be ideal in all respects, so that design choices have implications in terms of costs and benefits. The module discusses these implications, considering the kinds of conclusions that can reliably be drawn from the different kinds of evidence produced by different designs. Key design features such as groups, timing and measurement are introduced and illustrated through a range of research designs including experimental and quasi experimental, case study design and longitudinal design. Design elements are linked into the full cycle of research activity, from knowledge synthesis through to policy or practice.

Fundamentals in Quantitative Research Methods

By the end of this module students are able to:

- make informed assessments of the design and construction of quantitative data sources and their implications for analyses;
- manipulate and analyse quantitative data using statistical software (SPSS);
- apply and interpret a range of forms of statistical analysis competently, including descriptive, inferential and multivariate techniques.

The module focuses on concepts, methods and skills central to quantitative social research, including data collection approaches and concept operationalization. Building on a grounding in ideas relating to probability sampling, sampling error and statistical inference, coverage of techniques extends from comparisons of means and simple cross-tabular analyses to a discussion of multivariate analysis approaches, focusing on linear and logistic regression, but also introducing other techniques relevant to specific analytical goals (e.g. principal components analysis, cluster analysis and hazard models).

Foundations in Qualitative Research

By the end of this module students are able to:

- critically evaluate the range and content of different qualitative methods as applied to textual, visual and aural data;
- explain their theoretical underpinnings and potential applications;
- demonstrate an understanding of how qualitative approaches can be used within mixed methods frameworks;
- understand the utility of appropriate software packages for analysing qualitative data;
- appreciate how qualitative methods might be used, both within their own discipline/research area and by other social science disciplines.

Given the range of approaches to be covered, this module is taught largely at the theoretical and conceptual level, exploring debates associated with the theory and practice of qualitative research. Qualitative research is examined across a range of topics, from different approaches and methods including ethnographic and observational research, discourse and conversation analysis, documentary and archival analysis, participatory research and the use of interviews. Ethics in qualitative research is specifically considered, as is the evaluation of qualitative research.

Question 4: Professional Experience that is relevant to this application

Please provide information about any employment, work or professional experience that is **relevant** to your proposed programme of study. This is of particular importance if your programme is practice-based, or if you have had no Masters-level training but substantial professional experience relevant to the subject of your proposed research. You should use this space to give details of any professional experience that you wish the assessors to take into account.

Question 5: Other Experience and/or Achievements

Please provide details of any other achievements or experience that are **relevant** to your application, including details of any relevant voluntary or extracurricular activities, academic prizes awarded, and publications. Your answer to this question could also include any personal challenges that you have overcome which you feel demonstrate your potential for PhD study through resourcefulness, resilience, and commitment.

Question 6: Project Details

This section plays a key part in the assessment of your application. We recommend that you discuss the content of this section in depth with your proposed supervisors. Reviewers are looking for evidence of high-quality research and strong potential for postgraduate study. Enthusiasm and interest are important, but reviewers seek evidence of:

- intellectual purpose and how your project will have an impact in your chosen field. What are your key research questions?
- your reasons for undertaking this specific project, your approach and methodology
- a keen awareness of the research context (i.e., what debates or secondary literature does your project engage with?)

The case for support needs to be presented clearly and concisely in a **maximum of 1,000 words*** and should include:

- An outline of your research project and its theoretical background
- How your project relates to previous and current research in the field
- How your project would generate new, or extend existing, knowledge and understanding of your topic
- The methodology and why it is a good fit for your project
- How your project relates to your previous research and experience

Please do not include your name or any other identifying details in this attachment.

1+3.5 programme applicants need to give an indicative answer as your research interests will develop further during the year of your Masters training. We are not looking for a refined research proposal with full methodological details at this stage, but an indication of your probable research area, an indicative topic and a case for why this is important. You should show how this will build towards a PhD.

Applicants for a PhD-only award (+3.5, +3.75 and +4) should give a provisional thesis title/topic, explain the context of the research, its aims and objectives and its potential research outcomes. You should give a description of the proposed research topic including the questions or hypotheses to be addressed, the methods to be used, the sources to be consulted and a brief timetable covering the period of study. Details of fieldwork, where applicable, should be included in the timetable.

You will be required to confirm that the research proposal submitted is your own original work and the MGS reserves the right to carry out any plagiarism or AI checks that staff members feel are necessary.

* You must state the project details word count at the top of your 'Project Details' attachment. You may include an additional 1 side of A4 for references and figures (this will not be included in the 1,000-word count of this section). **Please note that any project details which exceed 1,000 words will be cut off at the 1,000-word point before being sent to reviewers.**

Question 7: Personal Statement

In this section, you will need to provide a personal statement by answering three questions.

First, please explain your motivation for undertaking PhD study and how the completion of a PhD will help you achieve your wider goals. You could draw on previous experiences in your life which may have inspired you to consider PhD study, and look to your future goals, both personal and professional, to explain how a PhD will help you to achieve those goals.

Second, you will need to detail what skills and experiences you have which you think would help you be a successful PhD student. These skills and experiences can be gained either in academic or non-academic contexts and in either professional or general life contexts, for example any personal or professional challenges which you have faced and overcome, developing skills along the way.

Finally, please describe why you are a good fit for the pathway and department to which you are applying and how your supervisory team aligns to your proposed project. You could mention the specific expertise of your supervisory team, or any seminar series or other opportunities available to PhD students in the department to which you have applied. Take the time to speak to your proposed supervisors about what is available in the department to help you make the best case possible.

Please do not include your name or any other identifying details in your personal statement.

Question 8: Details of Project Partners and Collaborators

Some PhD research involves collaboration with external partners. If this is the case for your research and your project is likely to involve collaboration with an external partner, please provide details of the following:

- Name of the organisation
- Name and details of contact at the organisation
- Sector of organisation (public, private, voluntary/charitable)
- Nature of collaboration (e.g., internship, placement, allocated workspace)

Question 9: Overseas Fieldwork

If you need to carry out a study or archive visit or a fieldwork trip overseas during the period of your award, please provide indicative details of the following:

- Your planned destination(s)
- Purpose of your visit(s)
- The expected duration
- How they are integral to your research
- An approximate cost for fieldwork

If you do not mention an essential visit at this stage or fail to estimate the duration of your visit(s), funding to support this activity may not be available to you.

Question 10: Language Training

If you anticipate that any language training will/may need to occur during the period of the project, please state the language training required and indicate how it is relevant to the research project.

If you do not mention any essential language training at this stage or fail to estimate the duration of training required, funding to support this activity may not be available to you.

Question 11: Ethical and Intellectual Property Issues

You should identify and address any ethical issues relating to your research project as far as you can. Your potential supervisors will help with this. If there are no ethical or intellectual property issues related to your proposed research, then please use this space to explain why this is the case.

If the project will be undertaken with an external organisation, please explain the arrangements regarding disclosure of results. Will there be any restrictions on making the results public? Please note that contractual arrangements with external organisations must be in place before the PhD programme commences, and should include financial, intellectual property and confidentiality arrangements.

Question 12: Referee Details

As part of your ESRC DTP funding application, the MGS will also consider the two references submitted in support of your PhD application at your chosen university. References are an important component of the application review process, and **if they are not received by the funding deadline then your application will be ineligible**. Please ensure that your referees are aware of this.

When selecting your referees, you should:

- Select referees who have the detailed knowledge required to appraise your recent intellectual development, preparedness, and motivation for the programme of study you will be undertaking.
- Contact your referees and ensure that they have all the information they require, e.g., your marks from undergraduate and Masters level study if you have them.
- Ensure that your referees are aware that their reference will be used to support your application for a PhD place of study at your chosen university **and** by the MGS DTP to consider your application for ESRC funding, and that they are aware of the funding application deadline by which the reference will need to be available.

Question 13: Uploading Supervisor Supporting Statement and other Documentation

a) Supporting Statement from Prospective Lead Supervisor

Please ask your prospective lead supervisor to complete this form as part of your studentship application. The form is available [here as a Word Document](#).

This supporting statement forms an important part of the application and this will need **to be directly uploaded by the applicant** as part of the online funding application process. It is your responsibility to ensure that your lead supervisor completes this form. You should ensure they are aware of the funding application deadline that you need to meet. Late forms will not be accepted, nor will statements which are not on the official MGS form.

b) Transcripts

You should upload copies of the transcripts of all your previous qualifications. If your transcripts are not in English, please also provide a certified translation.

If you have not yet completed your current programme of study, either undergraduate or postgraduate, and therefore do not have an official transcript of marks, please provide a provisional transcript or other evidence of marks obtained to date.

c) Project Details

Here you should also upload your 'Project Details' as outlined in Question 6.

You must ensure that you complete all relevant sections of the application form, upload all relevant documentation, and ensure that your references are available. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Please note that issues with your internet connection will not be accepted as a valid reason for failing to submit before the deadline. It is your responsibility to ensure that you allow sufficient time to complete your application, keeping any potential connection issues in mind.

Assessment Criteria

Your application will be assessed on the following criteria:

Criteria	Source of evidence	Weighting
Person and Preparedness (Academic Achievement)	Qualifications Experience Academic references Transcripts	20%
Person and Preparedness (Professional & Life Experience and Motivation & Potential)	Personal statement Non-academic experience Academic and/or professional references	20%
Project	Significance of Research Project Clearly Defined Research Questions Engagement with Relevant Literature Research Design and Methodology	40%
Place	Fit between the project and the expertise of the proposed supervisors Fit between the project and the chosen pathway and department	20%

Application Submission

Applications need to be submitted online by midday on **Tuesday 21st January 2025 (12:00 GMT)**.

Please be aware, you will only be able to submit **one funding application** to the MGS DTP for entry in 2025 and you **cannot apply for funding on multiple different pathways or to the same pathway at multiple MGS DTP institutions**.

You must make sure that you have completed all relevant sections of the application form and uploaded all relevant documentation by the deadline. **Incomplete applications will not be considered.**

We expect to notify all applicants of the outcome in mid-April 2025.

Checklist

Please ensure that you have:

Applied for a place to study at your chosen university	
Completed all the sections of the 'Midlands Graduate School ESRC DTP Studentship Application' form as fully as possible	
Uploaded your 'Project Details' (Details in Question 6, uploaded under Question 13)	
Uploaded the completed 'Supporting Statement from Prospective Lead Supervisor' (Question 13)	
Uploaded transcripts of your previous qualifications (Question 13)	
Contacted referees to ensure they have all the information they require, including the deadline	

Any additional information submitted with the application (for example a covering letter) will be removed prior to assessment.