SCOPE / EPSRC DLA Doctoral Studentships – Student Guidance for October 2027 Entry

*****Submission links near end of document*****

Overview

The Faculty of Science offers SCOPE Doctoral Studentships for October 2027 entry. These studentships aim to attract outstanding candidates to pursue PhD research aligned with EPSRC funding priorities. The scheme supports global talent and fosters an inclusive research culture.

Timetable / key dates

Important dates	Action
08 December 2026 12 noon	MS Form opens for applications
09 December 2025 12:00 – 13:00	Webinar for prospective applicants (sign up here)
14 December 2025	Latest advised date for students to contact potential supervisors
01 January 2026	Latest advised date for students to have applied for a place to study via the University Central Admissions System (linked from here: Research degrees - Durham University or individual department websites).
19 January 2026 3pm	Deadline for students and supervisors to submit Faculty SCOPE studentship funding application forms (student form triggers supervisor confirmation form – allow time for both steps).
W/C 8 February 2026	Outcomes communicated to successful applicants
2 weeks from offer	Students are expected to confirm acceptance within 2 weeks of receipt of an offer of funding.

Eligibility Criteria

- Applied to a full-time PhD programme at Durham University, and eligible for a place without concessions (except for degrees you are still completing between now and the PhD start date). This requirement includes meeting the Durham University's current English language requirements.
- Hold an excellent academic record (preferably MSc/MEng and first-class honours).
- Evidence of awards, publications, or research contributions.
- Excellent research proposal with societal impact.
- Commitment to professional conduct and adherence to EDI policy.
- Not currently enrolled in a doctoral programme, have studied for over 12 months on a doctoral programme or previously awarded a PhD.
- There is no prohibition on applying to this scheme if you are applying to other Durham University studentship schemes, however, if you are made an offer and choose to accept, you will be expected to withdraw yourself from consideration from other applications at that point.

Funding Details

Each studentship covers:

- Stipend at UKRI agreed level.
- Payment of tuition fees (Home or International rate).
- Research Training Support Grant (RTSG) provision by departments (covering training, consumables and access to analytical facilities).

Application Requirements (Main)

- Durham University application number.
- Confirmation of eligibility (including English language & degree).
- CV (max 2 pages, PDF).
- Brief research proposal (max 300 words + 1 figure as PDF).
- Strategic fit statement (max 200 words).
- Supervisory team statement (max 150 words).
- Letter of support (PDF, if collaborative studentship with external partner).

A full version of the application form allowing you to see all the sections in advance will be available in a link at the start of the form or the folder here when the form goes live: https://shorturl.at/8jbzD [Link should work externally to Durham University]

Links for submission of application to SCOPE, October 2026 start:

Student submission form for Faculty of Science SCOPE Doctoral Studentships for 2027 Entry – Fill in form – open December 8th 12 noon until January 19th 5 pm. (see above for a pdf of all the questions on the form to help prepare your application).

Additional documents for this call can be uploaded here (https://shorturl.at/qrE43)

Note the ONLY documents you should upload are a CV, one proposal image, and (if applying to be considered as a collaborative project with an external partner providing cash/in-kind support) a Letter of Support from the external partner.

Please save your file with the format your *"application number ID (from Q4)"_"Last Name"_"FileType("CV", "Figure" or "LoS")_"Version Number"*:

> Examples for the last name "Fulhame" might be: *27102405_Fulhame_CV_1.pdf, 27102405_Fulhame_Figure_1.pdf* and/or *27102405_Fulhame_LoS_1.pdf*.

If you spot a mistake after uploading but before completing this MS form, you can upload a copy with a higher version number - *e.g. 27102405_Fulhame_CV_2.pdf* - we will assume the file with the highest number at the end is the correct one to consider.

Other Useful Links

Durham Online Application Portal (apply for a place using links in this page or on departments' individual postgraduate pages):

Research degrees - Durham University

Webinar (09th December) Registration:

https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/c07e5d09-cd91-4979-a9d0-57c1c49c6aab@7250d88b-4b68-4529-be44-d59a2d8a6f94

Equality, Diversity & Inclusion Policy:

https://www.durham.ac.uk/about-us/environmental-social-and-economic-sustainability/our-sustainability-policies/equality-diversity-and-inclusion-policy/

Faculty PGR Funding Routes:
https://www.durham.ac.uk/departments/academic/science/research-excellence/science-doctoral-training/pgr-funding-routes/

PDF version of the online MS form to be completed and other documentation:
https://shorturl.at/8jbzD