NIHR | National Institute for Health and Care Research
Applied Research Collaboration North West Coast

ARC NWC Doctoral Research Programme

International Applicant Financial Evidence Guidance

Introduction

The NIHR ARC NWC Doctoral Research Programme welcomes applications from international candidates. However, applicants should be aware that ARC NWC doctoral studentships cover tuition fees at UK Home rates only. International fee applicants are responsible for securing funding to cover any additional tuition fee costs and living expenses associated with doctoral study.

As part of the application process, international applicants will be required to demonstrate that they have sufficient financial resources to support themselves for the **entire three-year duration of the doctoral programme**, rather than solely the first year of study.

Why Do We Require Evidence for Three Years?

Whilst UK Student visa regulations generally require applicants to demonstrate sufficient funds to cover tuition fees for the first academic year and prescribed living costs, the ARC NWC Doctoral Research Programme requires assurance that successful applicants have considered and planned for the financial commitments associated with the full duration of their doctoral studies.

This requirement forms part of the programme's admissions process and is intended to minimise the risk of students experiencing financial hardship that may adversely affect their studies.

Financial Evidence Requirements

International applicants must provide evidence demonstrating how they intend to fund:

- Tuition fees for all three years of study (where applicable).
- Living costs for the duration of the programme.
    - Standard UK Visa requirements are £1,171 per month outside London
- Any additional costs associated with undertaking doctoral study.

Evidence may comprise a combination of personal funds, sponsorship, scholarships, studentships, or regulated student loans.

Acceptable Forms of Financial Evidence

Applicants may submit one or more of the following.

1. Personal or Parental Funds

Applicants may provide:

- Recent bank statements. Must show funds held for 28 consecutive days.
- Official bank letters. Must show funds held for 28 consecutive days.
- Evidence of savings or fixed-term deposits.

Where parental funds are being used, applicants should also provide:

- A signed letter confirming financial support.
- Evidence of the relationship (e.g. birth or adoption certificate).

Please note that overdrafts, cryptocurrencies, stocks, bonds, and other non-cash assets will not normally be accepted as evidence of available funds.

2. Sponsorship or Scholarship Awards

Applicants who will be supported by an external sponsor should provide an official sponsorship or scholarship letter.

The letter should:

- Be issued by the sponsoring organisation.
- Confirm the level of financial support available.
- Specify the duration of funding.
- Clearly state whether tuition fees, living expenses, or both will be covered.

Examples include:

- Government scholarship schemes.
- University scholarships.
- Employer sponsorship. For example, an international corporate sponsor.
- Recognised charitable or international funding programmes.

3. Regulated Student Loans

Applicants relying on student loans must provide official documentation confirming:

- The loan provider.
- The value of the award.
- Confirmation that the funds will be available for doctoral study.
- The duration of the funding arrangement.

What Information Should Your Financial Plan Include?

Applicants should provide a brief summary outlining:

- Expected tuition fee costs.
- Expected living costs.
- Sources of funding.
- Whether funding has already been secured or is pending.
- How funding will be sustained throughout the three-year programme.

Applicants may combine multiple funding sources to demonstrate financial viability.

Important Information

Applicants should note that:

- Meeting UK visa requirements does not automatically satisfy ARC NWC's financial evidence requirements.
- ARC NWC may request additional information or clarification regarding financial evidence provided.
- An offer of a studentship is conditional upon satisfactory evidence of financial support.
- International applicants remain responsible for complying with all UK visa and immigration requirements.

Applicant Declaration

International applicants will be required to confirm the following:

☐ I understand that the ARC NWC Doctoral Research Studentship does not cover international tuition fees.

☐ I understand that ARC NWC requires evidence demonstrating how I will financially support myself throughout the full three-year doctoral programme.

☐ I confirm that the financial information provided within my application is accurate to the best of my knowledge and that I can provide supporting evidence if requested.

☐ I understand that any offer made by ARC NWC may be subject to verification of my financial arrangements and ability to meet the costs associated with doctoral study.