# **Collaborative Doctoral Scholarships**

# **FAQs**

1. **Can the funding cover a studentship which has already started?**

Yes – as long as the funding is matching the external contribution. However the strongest proposals will be able to demonstrate that the project would not take place without the match funding and this is normally clearer with a new project.

1. **If I have already secured 100% of the funding for one studentship, will this funding cover 100% of a second studentship?**

No. The aim of the funding is to generate new funding and new or strengthened relationships, so if a fully-funded studentship has already been secured, this has already been achieved. However, if, at proposal stage, a funder can be convinced to fund 50% of two studentships, rather than 100% of one, then this is within the scheme’s remit. It is a question of agreeing the match funding at bid stage rather than in retrospect.

1. **Can the Sussex funding top up a scholarship where a grant funder only pays a partial scholarship?**

Yes. Some grant funders offer partial doctoral scholarships, such as £10k pa. In this case, the Sussex funding could pay the balance of the award if the proposal was successful. The Sussex match funding should be mentioned in the proposal.

1. **Will the external funding be Research Income for the PI and their School?**

In most cases. The external funding will generally be managed by Research Finance officers who will invoice the funder and set up a G code. In some cases, the external income comes to the University as a philanthropic donation handled by DARO and this does not normally count as research income.

1. **What is the maximum Sussex funding per student?**

There isn’t a fixed maximum amount, but Sussex funding will not be greater than the external funding.

1. **Can the funding cover more than one studentship with the same funder?**

Yes. The proposal should justify the need for more than one student to work on a particular project.

1. **Can the funding cover a shortfall in a School scholarship?**

No. The funding is to match external income, not other internal sources of income from the School or Sussex Research.

1. **Do students have to be UK or EU residents?**

There are no nationality criteria for scholarship holders and the funding can be used to cover overseas fees as long as the external funder is also happy to meet the higher costs.

1. **Can the awards be taken up on a part-time basis?**

Yes – as long as the external partner agrees to this arrangement.

1. **Does the external partner have to be a new partner for Sussex?**

No. There could be a pre-existing collaboration or a new one. The strongest proposals will align with School plans for doctoral training centres with a view to including the external funder as a partner in the proposal.

1. **Does there have to be a placement with the external partner?**

No. The external partner may take more of an active role in the project and provide a supervisor and a placement – as with Research Council CASE or collaborative awards – or they may just fund the studentship.

1. **Is there any requirement for School funding?**

No. Generally the collaborative studentships are funded 50% central University match funding and 50% external partner. In some cases, there have been School contributions, but this is not a requirement.

1. **Can there be more than one funder?**

Yes. In some cases, there has been a fee waiver from the School or two external funders, but the University collaborative match funding cannot be greater than the external funding (so will not match the School contribution).

1. **What are the terms and conditions of the funding for the students?**

PhD students will be subject to the standard Sussex regulations detailed in the [Handbook and Regulations for Doctoral Researchers](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/rsao/documents/handbook-for-doctoral-researchers-2015-16-whole.pdf).

The terms and conditions of the funding (including intermission, maternity and paternity leave etc. are listed in the Terms and Conditions of Collaborative Doctoral Scholarships on this page.