

July 2016 edition

EU referendum implications

Many of you have expressed concern at what impact the result of the EU referendum might have on your eligibility for studentships.

The university has produced a webpage specifically for students that summarises many of the key questions and answers that have arisen from this issue, which can be found at <http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/eureferendum>.

In addition, Research Councils UK (RCUK), the overall umbrella organisation that brings together all seven UK research councils (of which the ESRC is one), has released a statement on the EU referendum, which can be found at <http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/media/news/160706/>. The last item in the statement refers to their studentship policy.

Finally, the ESRC have further clarified that "those students who have already satisfied our residential criteria and therefore are in receipt of a full award would not change in anyway at this time as a result of the referendum".

These should all provide some reassurance. At this stage, we are unable to provide any further information beyond the above pages/statements.

RTSG limits - policy change

Following a review of the total expenditure claimed back by DTC students on RTSG, the decision has been taken to introduce a cap on the total cumulative amount that an individual student can normally claim, of **£3,000 over the lifetime of a studentship (£4,000 for AQM students)**, irrespective of award type (e.g. full/fees only) or length (e.g. 2+2, +3).

If you wish to make claims exceeding this new limit, you will be required to submit a full academic case for the expenses to the DTC, providing an overview of why the expenses are deemed to be essential and in direct support of their research, as well as a supervisor's statement of support. This case for support should be no more than one side of A4 in length. The documentation will then be forwarded to either the DTC Director or DTC Deputy Director for final approval. **This process will need to be completed IN ADVANCE** of any expenditure being committed.

This policy change is effective immediately (i.e. as of 22/07/2016), and applies to all of those students who have **already exceeded** a total of £3,000 (£4,000 for AQM students) claimed on RTSG. The policy change does not apply to claims received today/already in process prior to this date. Guidance notes on the DTC website will be updated shortly to reflect the new policy.

Operating the scheme in this manner will ensure that the grant is more sustainable, in particular for those students who have yet to claim on RTSG, including cohorts that have not yet commenced their studentships.

Students who are unsure as to how much they have claimed to date can find out by contacting daniel.meacoe@socsci.ox.ac.uk.

Funding guidance reminders

Full funding guidance, covering all of the schemes available to DTC students such as RTSG, OFE, DLT, OIVs, etc, is regularly updated at <http://researchtraining.socsci.ox.ac.uk/current-students/ressource-and-funding-guidelines>.

Training

For information on available training courses, please see the training website at <http://researchtraining.socsci.ox.ac.uk/>.

Don't forget to check the ESRC's National Centre for Research Methods (NCRM) portal at <http://www.ncrm.ac.uk/training/> for training courses available nationally.

<http://researchtraining.socsci.ox.ac.uk/current-students/ressource-and-funding-guidelines>

RCUK Policy Internship Scheme – now open

The Research Council Policy Internships scheme provides the opportunity for research council-funded PhD students to work for three months in one of a selected group of highly influential policy organisations. Students gain an extension to their ESRC award and are able to claim for travel and accommodation costs. As was the case last year, ESRC funded students are permitted to apply to a different selection of hosts, which this year are:

- Government Office for Science
- Department for Business Innovation and Skills
- Cabinet Office
- Home Office
- Public Health England
- Scrutiny Unit
- Sentencing Council

There are over 20 internship projects available, further information can be found here. Applications must be made on the online application form, with the deadline **1st September 2016**. Please contact staq@nerc.ac.uk for any queries.

Internship opportunity - LMC Automotive

Internship opportunities have arisen through the Social Sciences Doctoral Internship Programme with LMC Automotive. Please see the attached flyer for more information on what their internship programme offers, and for further details and queries, please contact the Doctoral Internships team at the Careers Service on doctoral.internships@careers.ox.ac.uk.

Interdisciplinary Funding

The DTC provides funding for interdisciplinary projects on a rolling basis, and you can apply for funds at any point. Now is the time to plan a workshop or event for next year. It is the perfect way to get some professional experience and to connect up with scholars whose work you admire. previously, bids should include or benefit at least two ESRC-funded doctoral students.

Full guidance is available under the interdisciplinary funding section on the DTC website at <http://researchtraining.socsci.ox.ac.uk/current-students/ressource-and-funding-guidelines>.

Applications should be sent to Daniel Meacoe (daniel.meacoe@socsci.ox.ac.uk). Please note that the scheme is open to applications from students currently enrolled on DPhil programmes only.