

Discover the International Placement Scheme for PhD and Early Career Researchers 2026 in the USA and Asia – Webinar Q&A summary

Q: Will my PhD stipend of salary continue during placement period?

IPS awardees will continue to receive any stipend or salary they receive as part of any current AHRC or ESRC award funding. However, please note that PhD students will not be allowed additional time to be added to their AHRC or ESRC award end date or submission date to account for time spent on their placement.

Q: Are deferred entries allowed?

No. Deferred entry applications are not permitted unless delays are caused by exceptional circumstances such as COVID-19.

Q: Where can I get help?

- General queries: enquiries@ahrc.ukri.org
- Technical support: support@funding-service.ukri.org
- All host institute emails are listed within the Funding Finder page.

Q: If I'm funded by an overseas organization in one of the UK universities and I can't apply as a PhD student, can I apply as an ERC?

You need to be based at a UK Research Organisation and be funded by AHRC if a PhD applicant, but you can be funded by any other funding sources if an early careers researcher.

Q: Are international students in the UK on a student visa eligible for these placements?

Yes, international students are eligible, as long as they are funded by AHRC/ ESRC (LoC).

Q: One slide said, 'If PhD is funded through a consortium of research organisations,' but elsewhere it says only AHRC-funded PhD students can apply. Could you clarify?

This refers to scenarios where PhDs are funded by AHRC through a consortium of ROs - but the PhD funding is still provided by AHRC.

Q: Is there a set number of placements available each year and are the limits by institution?

The 'Available Placements' document is available on the Funding Finder page which outlines host placement windows/number of awards available.

Q: Can each applicant only apply for one host institution?

AHRC applicants can apply for a placement at more than one institution in a single round, noting that separate applications need to be submitted. However, dates and applications must:

- be for separate and distinct research work packages
- not overlap
- take place in one continuous block of time
- not be interdependent

Q: I see that PhD students must be AHRC-funded. Are students with other funding sources eligible to apply?

PhD students must be funded by AHRC/ESRC.

Only the lead UK research organisation (RO) can submit an application to UKRI. If a student's PhD is funded through a consortium of UK ROs, the application should be submitted by the student's home RO, rather than the consortia lead RO.

Q: Can you apply to undertake the fellowship in the period between PhD submission/viva and beginning a postdoctoral fellowship (using the IPS to kick off research for a postdoc project)? If so, who should be our referee?

As you won't have your PhD until you have passed your viva and submitted any potential revisions, this unfortunately is not eligible.

If applying as an ECR, your referee should be your head of department at your home organisation (the organisation that you will submit your application via).

Q: The IPS page says if you are applying as an ECR you must 'have a contract with a UK research organisation at the time of application that extends beyond the end date of the placement'.

This appears to be the criteria for Doctoral Level Research Assistants – For ECRs, there are no eligibility rules based on currently holding a permanent or open-ended academic position – however some form of employment is still required, for the application to be submitted via your research organisation.

Q: If I have previously collaborated with IPS host institutes, should research be focused on previous collaboration or new work?

These placements are intended to enrich and form part of the period of doctoral study – therefore, previous collaboration will not affect your application.