

Faculty of Environmental and Life Sciences (FELS) at the University of Southampton:

Black Futures Postgraduate Research Scholarships (for UK students from Black or Black-Mixed Backgrounds)

The [Faculty of Environmental and Life Sciences](#) (FELS) at the University of Southampton is launching a doctoral scholarship initiative for UK-domiciled black or black-mixed students, with 15 fully-funded scholarships available over the next 3 years.

The purpose of these annual scholarships is to address the under-representation of black people in postgraduate research, and throughout academia. This year the Faculty is inviting applications for five scholarships.

Each scholarship will cover your course fees in full and will provide you a stipend for living costs in line with the UKRI rate (£16,062 per year in 2022/23; the value will increase every year to align with the UKRI rate which is adjusted for inflation). Scholarships are made for the full duration of your course (3.5 years). Each studentship comes with an annual £1000 Research Support and Training budget which you can use for training, fieldwork, conferences, or other forms of personal development.

Scholarships are available for applicants who are eligible for home fees (more information about fee status eligibility is available [here](#)), who are black or mixed-black, and who hold an offer for a research postgraduate degree, starting in in the 2022/23 academic year.

To find out about doctoral study and potential project topics offered in each of our Schools, see the relevant School web pages:

- [Biological Sciences](#)
- [Geography and Environmental Science](#)
- [Health Sciences](#)
- [Ocean and Earth Science](#)
- [Psychology](#)

In addition, the Graduate School at NOCS (GSNOCS, part of the Faculty of Environmental and Life Sciences) also lists a wide range of [potential project topics](#) in the Ocean, Earth and Environmental Sciences, and you may wish to consult their web pages for ideas for project topics and potential supervisors. Note that, where GSNOCS or School websites provide details of project topics, these are just one route to developing a PhD programme. We welcome ideas proposed by prospective students.

You will be joining a vibrant research-led University. The Faculty of Environmental & Life Sciences has a collaborative and inclusive research environment. We provide an extensive portfolio of [training and development activities provided by our Doctoral College](#), which will support you to make the transition to becoming an independent researcher and help you pursue a rewarding career after graduation. The Scholarship also includes an opportunity to spend time embedded within [Public Policy Southampton](#) (PPS), which is the University's dedicated unit that supports the development of evidence-based policy impact.

All supervisors will have completed training on race equality and cultural competence in supervision. Students on this scholarship scheme will also be paired with an independent tutor beyond their supervisory team, who will offer pastoral support throughout your time at Southampton. Our doctoral researchers can also participate in the University's [Shine](#) network.

Additional criteria

- Applicants must have at least a 2.i at undergraduate level (or a Masters degree, normally with Merit or above)
- Although the minimum entrance criteria (above) must be met, candidates will not solely be evaluated on their past academic qualifications. Instead, we will take a holistic approach to assessing the overall ability and potential of each candidate. For this reason, amongst other things, our application process asks applicants to detail your motivation for applying for a PhD and how it might develop your long-term career aspirations. We also invite you to outline how your broad skills and background are relevant to the PhD you are applying for.
- Applicants must not have already been awarded, or be currently studying for, a doctoral degree.
- Scholarships must be taken up by 3rd October 2022.
- In most Schools candidates can apply to study full-time or part-time (but please check the eligibility requirements for each School)
- Applying from this Scholarship does not prevent a candidate from applying to other funding schemes at Southampton. However, only one funded place can be accepted.

How to apply

Stage 1—Visit your [School webpage](#) so that you can find an appropriate research area and supervisor. If you need some help finding a supervisor then our Faculty Graduate School can help (fels-gradschool@soton.ac.uk). Contact potential supervisors, and let them know that you are wanting to apply via this funding scheme. Some Schools may have advertised projects that you can apply to, whereas others may ask you to design your own research proposal.

Stage 2 – **Apply for a place on a PhD programme at the University** using our [online application form](#), which will generate a student number (see Stage 3). You should ensure you apply for a PhD place by 8th August 2022, and have provided any requested supporting documentation in advance of the scholarship deadline. Your supervisor will be available to support you through the application process and to help you navigate this. If you need any additional advice or assistance, then please email: fels-gradschool@soton.ac.uk

Stage 3— **Apply for the Scholarship** using this [online application form](#), you will need the student number that you will have been allocated in Stage 2. The deadline for this is also 8th August 2022. Interviews will be held in early September for prospective entry during the 2022/23 academic session.

Applicant webinar & further questions

Our online information session about this scholarship initiative and the application will take place on Friday 8th July 2022 at 1000-1100, a recording of the session will be available to all registered participants. You can register for this online information session here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/black-futures-scholarships-information-session-tickets-366747881787>

If you have any further questions about the scheme, eligibility, or the application process, please contact fels-gradschool@soton.ac.uk with any questions.