

Postgraduate Research Studentships: Conditions of Award

Effective September 2023 - Present

Student Regulations and Policies

uclan.ac.uk/studentcontract

Purpose of Policy	These conditions of award apply to all University funded research studentships including fully funded studentships, fees-only studentships, and maintenance stipend only studentships. Regulations relate to starting sates and duration of the Studentship, absence, employment, Maternity/Adoption/Paternity/Shared Parental Leave, holidays, continuation and termination of awards, and payments in respect of studentship awards. Conditions of award may vary for international students as detailed in the policy.
Internal services involved	Research and Enterprise Services
Related UCLan regulations, policies and procedures	Academic Regulations: Postgraduate Research
Enquiries to	graduateschool@uclan.ac.uk
Senior Managers responsible	Director of Research and Enterprise Services
VCG Lead	Pro Vice Chancellor (Research and Enterprise)

Version	Approved	Effective from	Revisions made	Next Review
1	May 2023	September 2023		May 2024
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UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL LANCASHIRE
POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH STUDENTSHIPS: CONDITIONS OF AWARD

A. GENERAL

1. Students in receipt of a University Studentship should familiarise themselves with the University's Terms and Conditions and Academic Regulations, available at <https://www.uclan.ac.uk/legal/student-policies/research>
2. These conditions of award apply to all University funded research studentships including fully funded studentships, fees-only studentships, and maintenance stipend only studentships.
3. These conditions of award may vary when an award is funded either wholly or in part by an external organisation. In such cases, the terms and conditions of the external funder and/or any related contractual arrangements will prevail. Students should familiarise themselves with these terms and conditions where applicable.
4. Students who receive UKRI funding should familiarise themselves with the terms and conditions of the relevant Research Council: [UKRI Training Grant Terms and Conditions and Grant Guidance](#)
5. A University of Central Lancashire Studentship cannot be held at the same time as another award designed to provide maintenance and fees for postgraduate study unless special approval has been obtained from the Research Degrees Board. Anyone who acquires such an award while already holding a University Studentship will be disqualified from the University Studentship from the date on which the award becomes payable and section B. 7.12 below will apply if the student is overpaid.
6. Students are required to attend the University or to do fieldwork for at least 44 weeks in every 12 months (or pro rata for awards for shorter periods).
7. Full-time students are expected to live within a reasonable travel time of UCLan to ensure they can maintain regular contact with their supervisors and the University. This is to ensure students are able to access the full support, training, and facilities available to them. The only exceptions to this will apply during periods of absence that are an agreed and essential part of study, e.g. conference attendance, study visits, or professional internships or placements. If a student chooses to live outside daily travelling distance the student will be liable for any costs incurred in travelling to the University including compulsory events such as induction and research skills training as well as supervision.
8. Conditions of award may vary for international students. Students who require a Tier 4/Student visa should seek additional guidance from the Student Immigration and Compliance Team. (SICTSupport@uclan.ac.uk)
9. The University reserves the right to amend these Conditions of Award at any time.

B. REGULATIONS RELATING TO THE TENURE OF UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL LANCASHIRE STUDENTSHIPS

1. Starting Dates and Duration of the Studentship

- 1.1 Studentships will take effect, and payment will be made, from the date stated in the Offer Letter. Under some circumstances, the University may consider extending an award to compensate for time unavoidably lost. It should be noted that awards cannot be extended when, for example, it has proved difficult to complete the project within the period of the Studentship.
- 1.2 The maximum duration of the Studentship will be set out in the Offer Letter.
- 1.3 If the thesis has not been submitted by the end of the Studentship, students will be responsible for payment of their own maintenance costs and tuition fees for the remaining period of their programme of study. The tuition fees for this period are noted in the Offer Letter.

2. Absence

- 2.1 Maintenance grant payments will be stopped during any period of unauthorised absence in excess of two weeks except in exceptional circumstances.
- 2.2 Maintenance grant payments made during a period of unauthorised absence will be recovered from the student.
- 2.3 Periods of illness up to 7 days can be self-certified; longer periods must be supported by a medical certificate and reported to the Director of Studies. Return from such absence must also be reported to the Director of Studies.
- 2.6 Payment of the Studentship may continue for absences covered by a medical certificate for up to 13 weeks within any 12-month period.
- 2.7 If a period of illness lasts for more than 13 weeks, students must apply for an interruption of studies for the period beyond 13 weeks which will include suspension of their studentship award. An extension commensurate to the period of absence will be granted to the student's period of funding on their return to study.
- 2.8 Stipend payments will not normally be available during a period of interruption. Exceptionally, on application, the University may agree to extend funding during a period of authorised interruption.
- 2.9 Where the Studentship is fully or partly externally funded, approval for any extension of the duration of the Studentship or additional funding due to a period of authorised interruption is subject to the sponsor's consent.

3. International Students

- 3.1 For International students whose right to remain in the UK is by virtue of a Tier 4 Student visa, any interruption of studies for the purposes of maternity/paternity leave and for sickness leave is subject to any restrictions on remaining in the UK and the legislation and guidance relating to the granting of the Tier 4/Student visa.

4. Employment

- 4.1 Students in full-time employment are not eligible for a stipend.
- 4.2 The University does not permit holders of full-time Studentships to undertake more than a day of paid employment per week or to take up paid teaching or demonstrating work exceeding an average of 6 contact hours per week during term time. Any paid work must not adversely affect the student's programme of study.

5. Maternity/Adoption/Paternity/Shared Parental Leave

- 5.1 Research students are allowed up to four months paid maternity/adoption leave without abatement of the maintenance grant. Applications should be made in advance through the Research Degrees Tutor via an Interruption of Study application.
- 5.2 There is no limit to the number of Maternity/Adoption/Paternity leave that can be taken during a Studentship.

6. Holidays

- 6.1 The period of award for a Studentship provides for annual leave during the programme subject to the approval by the Director of Studies. A maximum of eight weeks annual leave including public holidays and University closures, may be taken in each year of the Studentship, and pro rata for parts of a year subject to prior agreement with the student's supervisor.

7. Continuation and Termination of awards

- 7.1 A studentship may be terminated at any time at the discretion of the University of Central Lancashire for the following reasons:
 - Failure by the student to start the programme on the start date specified in the offer letter or complete enrolment by the notified deadline.
 - Withdrawal by the student in accordance with the published procedure.
 - A full-time student takes up employment full-time or part-time in excess of the one day per week permitted (See section 3 above).
 - Recording of a Fail outcome by the Research Degrees Board.
 - Exclusion during the academic session for unsatisfactory progress under Academic Regulation A6.3
 - Exclusion following disciplinary proceedings under the Regulations for the Conduct of Students or where the student is in breach of the University's Academic Regulations or policies relating to professional conduct and the conduct of research.
- 7.2 Where a student fails to transfer from MPhil to PhD and is either moved to an MPhil only award or chooses to exit with a Master's qualification, variation or termination of the Studentship will be at the University's discretion.
- 7.3 Continuation of the Studentship is subject to satisfactory progression throughout the programme including Research Programme Approval within regulatory timescales.
- 7.4 Continuation of the Studentship for students on a PhD (via MPhil) route is subject to successful completion of the Transfer to PhD process within published timescales.
- 7.5 Students whose progress or conduct does not satisfy the University are liable to have their studentship discontinued.
- 7.6 For DTC students, satisfactory progress and continuation of funding will also be subject to review by the DTC Management Board or equivalent.
- 7.7 Continuation of the Studentship is dependent on the student's project being within the University's research remit. Students wishing to make any major change to their research project must apply to their School for approval.

- 7.8 Funding will end from the date of expiry of the Studentship or the date of thesis submission if earlier.
- 7.9 Students who consider changing their mode of study must discuss this in advance with the Research Degrees Tutor to determine whether funding may continue or not. Continuation of the Studentship in these circumstances will be at the University's discretion.
- 7.10 Students must inform the University immediately if either:
- they fail to start their programme of study; or
 - they cease their programme of study before the studentship is due to end.
- 7.11 If students intend to take up employment before the normal expiry date of the Studentship, they must inform the Director of Studies as soon as possible of their intended date of departure and the date on which the appointment is to be taken up. Students will be required to refund any overpayments to the University.
- 7.12 Where a Studentship is terminated by the University or by the student (for example where a student withdraws from a programme), the University will not seek repayment of any of the stipend received to that point, except in cases where there has been overpayment.

C. PAYMENTS IN RESPECT OF STUDENTSHIP AWARDS

1. A full Studentship award consists of approved tuition fees, a maintenance grant (known as a stipend), and may include a consumables allowance as appropriate for the project. Studentships may also be tuition fees only or maintenance grant only. The type of Studentship and the amount awarded will be detailed in the Offer Letter.
2. A studentship award may consist of the following:

Approved Tuition Fees

The University will remit tuition fees directly at the rate specified in the Offer Letter. Where International fee rates apply, the student is required to fund the difference between the Home/International fee rate unless prior written agreement has been obtained from the University to fund the full International fee. This will need to be paid in accordance with the University's standard requirements.

Maintenance Grant (Stipend)

Maintenance grants and other payments are made direct to the student's bank or building society account. The rate of maintenance grant and allowances will be specified in the Offer Letter and will be paid quarterly in advance. Payment for periods of less than 12 months will be reduced proportionately.

Consumables Allowance

This will be agreed on a project-by-project basis.

3. Allowances for Students with Disabilities

- 3.1 Students with disabilities may be eligible for further financial support. Students who have not already done so are urged to contact the University's Inclusivity Team in Student Services as soon as possible as assessment of any special needs will be required in order for any reasonable adjustments to be put in place.

4. Tax

- 4.1 Postgraduate research students are not deemed to be employed by the University. Payments are in the form of a stipend which is exempted from income tax under Section 10(16) of the Income Tax Act.
- 4.2 It should, however, be noted that earnings from sources such as teaching and demonstrating received during the final year of the award will be aggregated with income from post-award employment when income tax liability is assessed for the fiscal year in which the award terminated.
- 4.3 Students who receive a sponsorship grant or remain in the employment of a sponsor in addition to the grant awarded by the University of Central Lancashire may be subject to tax on the income from sponsors.
- 4.4 Students are responsible for confirming their own tax arrangements and the University cannot provide advice. Part-time students should check with their tax office regarding income tax liability resulting from any employment.

5. National Insurance

- 5.1 The University of Central Lancashire will not make payment for students' National Insurance contributions. Students may become liable for contributions in connection with any paid teaching or demonstrating which they undertake.