

# EARTH Scholarships



SGSAH & British Council Scotland

## **EARTH Scholarships for PhD & Early Career Researchers - 2024**

Transnational Research: Environment, Arts, Humanities

Guidelines for Applicants

August 2023 (v1)

Please ensure that this is the most recent version of the Guidelines, accessible via:

<https://www.sgsah.ac.uk/prospective/earth-scholarships-2024/>

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## Introduction

The [Scottish Graduate School for Arts & Humanities](#) (SGSAH) is the world's first national graduate school in the Arts & Humanities, established in 2014 with a mission to work in partnership to offer unparalleled training and support to doctoral researchers in Scotland.

SGSAH's 17 Higher Education Institute (HEI) members cover the whole of Scotland, from the Highlands and Islands to the Scottish Borders. Rooted in Scotland, SGSAH is an integral part of Scottish, UK and international civil society. Working with SGSAH's supporters in the arts, culture, creative and heritage sectors, SGSAH supports positive connections and productive networks locally, regionally and globally to provide outstanding opportunities for doctoral researchers in Scotland.

The 17 SGSAH HEIs are:

[Abertay University](#)

[Edinburgh Napier University](#)

[Glasgow Caledonian University](#)

[The Glasgow School of Art](#)

[Heriot-Watt University](#)

[Queen Margaret University](#)

[Robert Gordon University](#)

[Royal Conservatoire of Scotland](#)

[University of Aberdeen](#)

[University of Dundee](#)

[University of Edinburgh](#)

[University of Glasgow](#)

[University of St Andrews](#)

[University of Stirling](#)

[University of Strathclyde](#)

[University of the Highlands & Islands](#)

[University of the West of Scotland](#)

This document summarises the British Council Scotland SGSAH EARTH Scholarships 2024, and provides guideline for applicants and Host Institutions.

We encourage potential applicants and Host Institutions to read the guidance carefully in advance of preparing applications.

If you require any further information or clarification, then please contact us at [enquiries@sgsah.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@sgsah.ac.uk). Further information about SGSAH can be found on our [website](#), via our [monthly newsletter](#), and our social media accounts ([Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Instagram](#)).

# British Council Scotland SGSAH EARTH Scholarships 2024

## Overview

The British Council Scotland SGSAH EARTH Scholarships 2024 is a programme run by SGSAH with funding from the British Council to enable international research collaborations between PhD and Early Career Researchers and Scottish HEIs and Scotland-based academic mentors, and external organisations, thematically focused on environmental arts and humanities and their interdisciplinary connections. The overall aim of the programme is to promote the role and interventions of the environmental arts and humanities, and the arts and cultural sector, in addressing the climate emergency, and their capacity for interdisciplinary research within STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts, and Mathematics) contexts. The programme will create research opportunities and international mobility which will develop and support new approaches to address the global challenge of climate crisis, and support sustainable research and cultural interchanges within and beyond the arts and, humanities and cultural sectors.

It is anticipated that the British Council Scotland funding will support 10-12 researchers in total, with additional cohort members deriving from SGSAH's AHRC- and SFC-funded PhD researchers.

The principles of this programme build on SGSAH's Internationalisation ambitions and actions, align with SGSAH's [GREEN/GRADUATE Strategy and Operational Plan](#), and with the [British Council's Climate Connections legacy programme](#). The programme will be structured around two of SGSAH's [strategic themes and priority areas](#); the Environmental Humanities and Creative Industries/Economies, with a focus on climate emergency themes, the interventions of the arts and cultural sector, and the legacy of [COP26](#), held in Glasgow in 2021. The programme will enrich collaborations between Scottish and international HEIs, building on SGSAH's [Global Connects](#) programmes, and the [SFC Saltire Emerging Researcher](#) scheme.

The programme ran for the first time in 2023. Profiles of the 2023 EARTH Scholars are available on the SGSAH website at <https://www.sgsah.ac.uk/news/earth-scholars-2023/>. Recordings of the research presentations by the Scholars are [available here](#):

## The Programme

The scholarships are for PhD and early career researchers (ECRs) in the Arts & Humanities to benefit from a concerted period of time spent in Scotland in 2024, working with a mentor and accessing the networks and resources of a Host Institution and broader Cluster (see below).

The scholarships could include a second HEI, but there must be one clear Host Institution which provides a mentor and a Letter of Support. This Host Institution must be one of the SGSAH HEIs. The SGSAH member HEIs are detailed in the Introduction to these Guidelines. Similarly, the scholarship could also include an external organisation (e.g. a creative business or organisation with significant concerns and expertise in relation to climate crisis), but the Host Institution must still be an HEI, and there must be an obvious link between the HEI and the intended external organisation.

The scholarships will take place between April and July 2024 (including a compulsory, in-person cohort training programme in April 2024). It is expected that successful applicants – for environmental and economic reasons – only travel *once* to Scotland, and therefore build proposals around the April 2024 programme. Scholarship proposals can be structured to further existing work

being undertaken as a PhD or postdoctoral project, or be a discrete, standalone project which nonetheless furthers the knowledge base, networks and expertise of the researcher. The scholarship can also be structured as the researcher joining and furthering an existing project at the Host Institution. A range of outcomes and outputs are anticipated, depending on the nature of the proposed exchange.

Scholarship proposals may include in-person and hybrid aspects and can last from six weeks (ie 45 days) to three months (ie 90 days), *including* the 2-week cohort programme in April 2024. The programme includes an in-person, hybrid and online cohort development programme to nurture PhD and ECR perspectives, skills and qualities. Scholarship holders will additionally have the opportunity to showcase their work through SGSAH's [online research showcase](#), and participate in the 2023 SGSAH Global Connects programme.

## **Clusters**

The EARTH Scholarships will take advantage of and be located within three geographically and thematically structured Clusters, which will offer research placements, training and development opportunities for researchers, and contribute to cohort training in April 2024. The Clusters will enable:

- Wider awareness and study of environmental arts and humanities disciplines in the Scottish context
- Interdisciplinary working within and beyond the arts and humanities (STEAM)
- Field trips and engagement with other scholars, practitioners and professionals
- Access to arts and cultural sector organisations, resources, expertise and experience in different geographical contexts, including urban and rural areas.

The three Clusters are:

### **Cluster 1: Place, time and action**

HEIs: University of Aberdeen, Abertay University, University of Dundee, University of the Highlands and Islands, Robert Gordon University, University of St Andrews

Academic Leads: Professor Ingrid Mainland (UHI, Cluster Lead), Professor Mel Woods (Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art & Design, University of Dundee, Cluster Deputy Lead)

We are a consortium of universities located mainly in the east and north of Scotland but also including researchers in archaeology and palaeoecology at the University of Glasgow. Our expertise stretches across the arts and humanities, from historical and political ecology, to modern policy making, to the psychology of behaviour change, and ecocritical approaches to literature, art, design and architecture. Within this, we have a focus on the historical and futures dimensions of environmental change and the potential offered therein by deep-time perspectives and indigenous oral histories, and on climate action research through creative practice, place-based research and other forms of engagement and participation. Our researchers are engaging with climate emergency themes through training, KE and within a research context. Running through all our activities is a strong commitment to interdisciplinary research. We would welcome applications that sit anywhere within these broad themes but also encourage applicants to explore linkages with existing research projects at one of our participating centres or research groups.

### **Cluster 2: 3Ms: Making, Method and Multispecies**

HEIs: University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh Napier University & Heriot Watt University

Academic Leads: Dr Emily Alder (Edinburgh Napier University; Cluster Co-Lead); Dr Mark Hilley (University of Edinburgh; Cluster Co-Lead);

Cluster 2 will prioritise applications of high quality and originality that address the strength of Edinburgh research in three broad areas: **Making**, **Method** and **Multispecies**.

**Making** captures our long tradition of creative practice (from art, film, writing, performance, curating, gaming and beyond). **Method** foregrounds methodological diversity within the arts and humanities and also looks to learn from wider approaches in the social and environmental sciences, as well as considering issues of fieldwork, globalism/localism, communication, data, representation



and exchange across the academic-public-political boundaries. **Multispecies** questions boundaries of animal-plant-fungal life, tackles issues of equality and justice, multisensorialism, extractivism, posthumanism, deep time, archaeology and heritage beyond the human alone.

The cluster delivers training through key existing research projects and centres including (but not limited to) *The Edinburgh Environmental Humanities Network*, *The Institute of Advanced Studies in the Humanities*, *Humanimal Kind*, *The CRITIQUE Reading Group*, *British Animal Studies Network*, *The Edinburgh Futures Institute*, *Fossil-Fuel.ed*

The wide range of Scottish sector partners and potential sites for research placements include Creative Scotland, Creative Carbon Scotland, Little Sparta, Fife Contemporary, Edinburgh Sculpture Workshop, The Barn, The Scottish Poetry Library

The cluster also commits to providing cross-cluster training where possible, and to hosting a cohort-wide networking or programme event hosted by Hospitalfield, Cove Park, Talbot Rice Gallery, etc.

### **Cluster 3: 'Triple E' – Economy, Ethics and Environment**

HEIs: *University of Glasgow*, *Glasgow Caledonian University*, *University of Stirling*, *University of Strathclyde*, *University of the West of Scotland*

Academic Leads: Professor Mark Banks (University of Glasgow, Cluster Lead); Dr Charles Pigott (University of Strathclyde, Deputy Lead)

This cluster draws together a range of interdisciplinary arts and humanities expertise around three broad and inclusive themes; firstly, the cultural and creative **economy** and theories of its sustainable and socially-just future; secondly, issues of **ethics**, politics and political ecology as they play out in human and non-human contexts, and in different historical periods; and, thirdly, theories of **environment**, including creative approaches to researching species, energy, ecology and the geohumanities. The cluster will take an inclusive approach to these themes, and seek to deliver training through its range of key existing research projects and centres including (but not limited to) *Centre for Cultural Policy Research*, *The Dear Green Bothy*, *Creative Geohumanities*, *A + E Collective* (Glasgow), *Centre for Environment Heritage and Policy* (Stirling), *British Animal Studies Network*, *One Ocean Hub* (Strathclyde), *Centre for Climate Justice* (GCU), and the *Protracted Crisis Research Centre* (UWS) as well as other relevant academic groupings and affiliates. The wide range of Scottish sector partners and potential sites for research placements might include BBC Scotland, The Hunterian Museum, Creative Scotland, Creative Carbon Scotland, Fife Contemporary, the Scottish Council on Global Affairs, and Zero Waste Scotland *inter alia* – plus our members have an extensive range of international and institutional networks on which to draw in order to support student recruitment and training. The cluster also commits to providing cross-cluster training where possible, and to hosting a cohort-wide networking or programme event hosted by *The Dear Green Bothy* at the new University of Glasgow *Advanced Research Centre* (ARC).

More details of each of the Clusters are available via [the Programme webpages](#).

## ***Cohort Building, Training and Development***

The EARTH scholarships' cohort development activities for the programme are built on a hybrid model, to provide tangible learning outcomes and networking opportunities in order to support the cohort pre-and post-research placement, and to enable flexibility in the timing of scholarships to maximise opportunities in their receiving HEI and Cluster. There is a compulsory, in-person cohort development programme which will take place between 15-26 April 2024, for which successful applicants must be available in Scotland. This programme will form part of the (maximum) 3-month scholarship.

All EARTH scholarship holders will take part in cohort building and networking opportunities through the following activities:

- Online pre-placement induction and training event, covering areas including cultural and institutional awareness, translating knowledge, and outlining key academic and professional practice
- In-person cohort development programme in Scotland in April 2023 (between 15-26 April 2024)
- Regular hybrid social activities, including 'research sharing' opportunities, as well as an introductory 'residential' event
- Showcasing of research during the SGSAH 2023 Global Connects: International Summer School programme (dates to be confirmed)
- Engagement with SGSAH 2023 Summer School's extensive range of training and networking events (online and in-person, w/c 17 June 2024)
- Dissemination of research at the end of the programme through SGSAH's [Research Showcase website](#) as a mechanism to promote individual research and the programme more broadly
- 1-day online post-placement training event outlining legacy of the research undertaken on the programme, and further career and network enhancing opportunities.

## Equalities Statement

The British Council Scotland SGSAAH EARTH Scholarships intend to ensure equity of experience and opportunity to access the programme, in alignment with SGSAAH's existing Equality Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) policy. In so doing, SGSAAH intends to remove barriers and widen access to international exchange, supporting active participation in mobility and global opportunities by creating an in-person, hybrid and online cohort development programme to nurture global PGR and ECR perspectives, skills and qualities. Core to the programme is an understanding that any international opportunity is accessible, ethical and diverse in terms of our researchers, international partners and the projects they propose to undertake.

Specifically, SGSAAH's programme includes:

- An extended time period for ECR participation from 1 to 2 years post-PhD completion for individuals with circumstances such as caring responsibilities and mental and physical health issues, particular as exacerbated by COVID-19

- A flexible approach to the structure of the proposed research project, including via online and hybrid approaches

- A contingency fund for those with access requirements and additional responsibilities which might otherwise inhibit full participation in the programme

If you have any queries about SGSAAH's approach with regards to EDI in this programme, including your particular circumstances and how we might support your application, please email [enquiries@sgsah.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@sgsah.ac.uk).

## Key Dates

<p>Programme launch and call for applications Online Registration link: <a href="https://tockify.com/sgsah/detail/183/1691406000000">https://tockify.com/sgsah/detail/183/1691406000000</a> (please note this session will be recorded)</p>	Monday 7 August 2023, 12pm BST
<p>Pre-application information sessions to be held on Zoom, recorded for subsequent reference:</p>	
<p>Introduction to the Programme Online Registration link: <a href="https://tockify.com/sgsah/detail/187/1693227600000">https://tockify.com/sgsah/detail/187/1693227600000</a> (please note this session will be recorded)</p>	Monday 28 August 2023 2pm BST
<p>Completing your Application Online Registration link: <a href="https://tockify.com/sgsah/detail/188/1695031200000">https://tockify.com/sgsah/detail/188/1695031200000</a> (please note this session will be recorded)</p>	Monday 18 September 2023, 11am BST
<p>Information session for Host HEIs and Mentors Online Registration link: <a href="https://tockify.com/sgsah/detail/189/1696251600000">https://tockify.com/sgsah/detail/189/1696251600000</a> (please note this session will be recorded)</p>	<p>Monday 2 October 2023, 2pm</p> <p><b>NB this session is not for applicants</b></p>
Application deadline	Wednesday 1 November 2023, 12pm GMT
Notification of application outcomes	by Friday 1 December 2023
Acceptance of award deadline	Friday 8 December 2023
Online induction and scholarship preparation session	TBC: January 2024
Research placements (6 weeks-3 months)	April-July 2024
In-person cohort development programme	15-26 April 2024
SGSAH Summer School	w/c 17 June 2024
Global Connects 2024 programme	TBC: Summer 2024

## Eligibility

The programme is open to applicants via two routes:

- As a current PhD researcher in the Arts & Humanities registered at any non-UK university
- As an ECR in the Arts & Humanities who graduated from any non-UK university

PhD researchers are able to apply at any stage of their PhD, but must have the full support of their supervisor within their Letter of Support. PhD researchers who are on the point of submitting their thesis, or are awaiting the outcomes of their examination process, should apply via the Current PhD researcher route.

For the purposes of this programme, ECRs must be within 1 year of notification of award of the PhD. Notification of award means the date at which you received formal notification that your PhD would be awarded/has passed, not the date of a graduation ceremony, receipt of a certificate, or viva defence or equivalent. As the programme launched in August 2023 with a deadline in November 2023, ECRs must therefore have received notification of award of PhD by **1 October 2022 or later**.

Under exceptional circumstances the ECR time from notification of award can be extended from 1 to 2 years (ie from **1 October 2021**). Exceptional circumstances might include substantial caring responsibilities, or physical or mental illness, including those brought about or intensified because of the circumstances of COVID-19. If you would want to claim exceptional circumstances, please do so via the designated section of the application form (see the Guidance on completing the application form for more detail on this).

All applicants must be currently registered for a PhD, or graduated with a PhD, which broadly falls under Arts & Humanities subject areas. These subject areas are [detailed by the AHRC](#). Research proposals must also fall into Arts & Humanities subject areas. For any interdisciplinary PhDs, at least 50% of the project must fall within Arts & Humanities disciplines. The programme strongly encourages research project proposals that have interdisciplinarity approaches beyond the Arts & Humanities.

The Programme is open to all eligible PhDs/ECRs registered for or with completed PhDs from outside the UK but will particularly welcome applications from countries in the Global South and the British Council's priority geographies (France, Germany, South Africa, Nigeria, India and China). See 'Assessment Criteria' for more detail.

## Insurance

If you are offered an award, you will be asked to confirm that you are covered by your home HEI for insurance purposes to undertake the research project, and also that you have appropriate approval from your HEI to allow the research project to take place.

If you are an ECR not currently affiliated with an HEI, please include appropriate insurance in the Budget section of the application form.

## Application process

### ***Introduction***

SGSAH operates an online application system which is open from **Monday 7 August until Wednesday 1 November 2023** via [the Programme's webpages](#).

Read these Guidelines thoroughly before applying, ensuring you are reading the most recent version. You should then contact your PhD supervisor (or former PhD supervisor if you are an ECR; see below in the 'Letter of Support from PhD Supervisor' section if this individual is not available) and proposed Host Institution as soon as possible to give them time to prepare their support documents.

It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that you have all the necessary documents ready to upload to the application system.

### ***Finding a Mentor and Host HEI***

To make your application, you need to identify an academic mentor and a Host HEI.

Your Mentor will be the key point of contact at your Host HEI. They will be an academic member of staff, who has expertise in the environmental arts and humanities. They will initially speak to you about your proposal and – if there is a good fit between your research interests and their own, and there is capacity to support you at their HEI – they will support your application.

If you are successful, your Mentor will have regular meetings with you, and introduce you as relevant to other members of staff, PhD and ECR researchers, and invite you to e.g. research seminars, relevant events, workshops etc. It is anticipated that your Mentor will meet with you roughly every two weeks, but these meetings could take the form of seminars or workshops which involved other staff, PhD and ECR researchers, as well as one-to-one meetings.

The Host HEI (Higher Education Institution) will be the university or other institute at which your academic mentor is based, and at which you will be located during your research proposal. The Head of Department (or equivalent) must – if there is a good fit between you, your mentor, and your research proposal – write a letter of support for your application, which confirms you will be accepted as a visiting researcher to the HEI during your time as an EARTH scholarship holder. You can mention more than one HEI in your proposal, but you can only have one as the Host HEI.

In order to find a Mentor, look at details of the Clusters on the webpages for the EARTH Scholarships (nb each Cluster is comprised of several different HEIs): <https://www.sgsah.ac.uk/prospective/earth-scholarships-2024/#/clusters>. Each Cluster has its own page, with details of its particular thematic orientation and links to various research centres, networks and groupings which you can follow to find details of individual members of staff.

If you're not sure who might be a good Mentor for you, you can email the Cluster Leads and Deputies (contact details are available on each of the Cluster pages), explaining your potential proposal briefly, and they can make some suggestions of contacts.

Once you have a contact, email them directly (we suggest being relatively formal, using their title and surname – e.g. 'Dear Professor Squires'), and explaining briefly your interest in applying for an EARTH scholarship (add a brief sentence explaining the programme and the url, just in case your mentor doesn't yet know of the programme). Explain your background and your initial ideas for your research proposal, and ask whether it might be possible to discuss this with them further. Do make it

clear (in brief) why you might be interested in having them as a mentor (ie look for their staff page and their description of their research interests, publications and projects).

If the potential Mentor is interested in potentially supporting your application, they will explain how they'd like to take this forward (e.g. via an email discussion, an online meeting). Do make it clear to them what the timeline is for submission (they will need to ask their Head of Department or equivalent for a Letter of Support, which you must have for the application deadline).

Please note you can only have one Mentor, and one Host HEI to support you, and you cannot make multiple applications. If you do find more than one academic interested in supporting you (at one HEI or two), it is possible to name other academics and HEIs in your application – speak to your potential Mentor about how to handle this.

### ***Application deadlines***

**Full application:** The online application system will close at **12 noon GMT on Wednesday 1 November 2023**.

Late applications will only be considered where there is evidenced breakdown in SGSAH's operational systems and where such systemic failures have made submission by the deadline impossible. Please note that we will **not** accept late applications where there has been failure at the applicant's end (e.g. failure of internet connection). For this reason, **we strongly advise applicants to complete the application process at least 48 hours in advance of the deadline.**

### ***The Online Application System***

SGSAH uses an online application system, which you can access by [clicking here](#) or via [the Programme's webpages](#).

You need to create an account on the system, using an email address (ideally an institutional email address) which you check regularly. Please ensure you check your spam or junk filters for any emails from the system.

Use the 'Save and Continue Editing' button as you go, in order not to lose your draft. Once you have completed each section, press 'Mark as Complete' (although you can still edit each section if you want to, until you submit the application).

When you have completed your application, please use the 'Submit' button. Once you have pressed this button you cannot edit it any further. You must do this by Monday 7 November 2022 (12pm GMT).

You should receive email confirmations from the system at the submission of the application.

## **Guidance on completing the application form**

### ***General notes on the application***

Read these Guidelines thoroughly before you begin your application.

All aspects of the application must be written in English, including the supporting letters from PhD supervisors and the proposed Host Institution.

Be aware that the online application form will automatically cut off entries over the stated word limits.

### ***Route***

You are asked here to tick the route through which you are applying. As detailed in the Eligibility section above, you must be either a currently registered PhD or recently graduated Early Career Researcher (ECR) registered at or graduated from any non-UK university.

### ***Personal details***

This section asks you to provide your name and contact information. We will normally contact you by email so please ensure you use an address you check regularly, and which will be available to you at least until August 2023. The section also asks you for your nationality.

### ***Date of Award of PhD***

This section will only appear if you are an ECR.

Please input the date on which you received notification that your PhD would be awarded/has passed, not the date of a graduation ceremony or receipt of a certificate. As the programme launched in August 2023, ECRs must therefore have received notification of award of PhD by **1 October 2022 or later**, unless you are applying for Exceptional Circumstances (see below), in which case notification of award will be from 1 October 2021 or later.

### ***Home and Host Institutions***

In this section, you are asked to give details of the HEI at which you are currently registered or from which you graduated. Please include a URL of your HEI's home page.

### ***Title of your PhD***

Please translate your PhD title into English if necessary.

### ***Arts & Humanities Subject Areas***

In this section, pick which Arts & Humanities subject area(s) your proposal fits into. You can choose more than one.

### ***Research Project Host Institution***

Choose from the dropdown list which HEI will host your research project. The HEI must be one of the SGSAH member HEIs, detailed in the Introduction.

### ***Cluster Membership***

Choose from the dropdown list which of the three Clusters you propose to be a member of. If your Host Institution is included within one of the three Clusters, you must choose that Cluster. For any research project at an HEI not included in one of the Clusters, please choose the Cluster most



relevant to you, bearing in mind the section on the form on 'Cluster Membership, Cohort-Building, Training and Development'.

For more details on the Clusters, see the section above and at the [Programme web pages](#).

### ***Exceptional Circumstances for Extension to the 1-year period from date of award of PhD (300 words maximum)***

This section will only appear if you are an ECR.

The date of award from the PhD can be extended to 2 years, if you have exceptional circumstances. These would include caring responsibilities and physical and mental health issues, particularly if exacerbated by COVID-19. If you are applying for exceptional circumstances, please briefly detail here your situation. Please note that this section will not be seen by the reviewers, and will be independently assessed.

### ***Research Project Proposal Summary (100 words maximum)***

This section should provide a summary of the proposed research project that will be comprehensible to non-specialists and suitable for PR and communication channels. It should be written in the 3<sup>rd</sup> person. In it, you should state your home institution (where you are currently registered for or graduated from your PhD), and your proposed Host Institution.

### ***Research Proposal (1000 words maximum)***

This section describes the details of your research project. It should include:

- How your research project will be structured (timeline; mix of virtual/in-person elements)
- What research you will undertake while based at your host institution
- The fit of your project to the host institution
- What outcomes you plan or anticipate from the research project
- Any additional organisations, institutions, networks or individuals you anticipate working with while based at your host institution
- How this work will fit with your broader PhD topic or post-doctoral research
- What benefits being based at your host institution will bring to you
- What benefits you will bring to your host institution
- What you anticipate the legacy of the research project will be

Note that proposals can be structured to further existing work being undertaken as a PhD or postdoctoral project, or be a discrete, standalone project which nonetheless furthers the knowledge base, networks and expertise of the researcher. The research project can also be structured as the researcher joining and furthering an existing project at the Host Institution. A range of outcomes and outputs are anticipated, depending on the nature of the proposed project. These could include planned or future publications, but they could also be knowledge exchange or impact-related activities, the creation or analysis of datasets, performances, exhibitions, the development of networks a range of partners (academic and external). It is not necessary to include a bibliography, although relevant brief in-text (ie Author-Date) references can be made.

### ***Cluster Membership, Cohort-Building, Training and Development (300 words maximum)***

Please detail in this section:

- how your proposal fits your proposed Cluster
- how you will benefit from and contribute to the programme cohort-building activities

- what further training and development opportunities you anticipate developing from participating in the programme

Please ensure that you refer to the Cluster you chose from the dropdown list earlier in the form, and refer to the details of the Cluster on the programme webpages.

In addition to the overview of clusters, cohort-building, training and development activities mentioned above, please consider the training and development opportunities that will be available to you via your proposed Host Institution, as well as the events offered via SGSAH, including via our [Discipline+ Catalysts](#) and [Knowledge Exchange \(KE\) Hubs](#):

**Discipline+ Catalysts** support the pursuit of knowledge and advancement of disciplines through regular methodological and thematic training at the leading edges of arts and humanities. Our Catalysts also drive cross- and interdisciplinary collaborations which support student-led events funded through Cohort Development Funding. Doctoral researchers must participate in at least one Catalyst event annually.

**Knowledge Exchange (KE) Hubs** SGSAH has three KE Hubs: Citizenship, Culture and Ethics Hub; Creative Economies Hub; and, Heritage Hub. Supported by key partners including the BBC, the V&A, the British Council and the Scottish Parliament, the Hubs deliver industry-focused events, and work-related training within a UK and international context. Doctoral researchers must participate in one Hub event annually.

Further details of SGSAH training and events [are available via our website](#).

### ***Budget and Justification of Resources (300 words maximum)***

In the first section of the form, please give a budget in £s sterling for your project. If a cost is not relevant, enter 0.

**Travel:** Cost travel from country to country, as well as any required internal travel. If you are starting from a different country from that in which your home HEI is located, this is allowable, but please explain this in the Justification of Resources. SGSAH is keen to encourage sustainable travel, and would like you to consider where feasible using alternative modes of transport to planes. In terms of travel we therefore do not expect you to choose the cheapest possible mode of transport if it is a plane, when there is a *viable* option via trains/buses/ferries. (In the final reporting process for the programme, you will be asked to calculate your carbon footprint for your research project, which SGSAH will offset).

**Accommodation:** Include costs for accommodation for the time you plan to spend at your Host Institution. If you are proposing to spend time in a particularly expensive location, please note this in your Justification of Resources to explain any high accommodation costs. Accommodation costs should represent value for money, but should be safe and within a distance to your Host Institution that makes daily travel feasible. Please note that SGSAH will provide accommodation for the 2-week Cohort Programme in April 2023, but depending on the arrival dates of the scholarship holder, can also cover accommodation costs for the location in which the rest of the scholarship will be held.

**Insurance:** If you will not be covered by insurance from your home institution, please add in costs for insurance to cover your trip.

**Subsistence:** Subsistence costs should be calculated on a daily basis, at the rate of £30 per day. Please multiply this day rate by the number of days (45 to 90) that you plan for your research project to last in-person).

**Visa costs:** Add in details for any visa costs for which you would be eligible. Please see the FAQs in order to establish what visa you will need, and whether there is an associated cost.

**Additional funding for particular needs (e.g. childcare, access requirements, relating to disability):** if you would like to request an amount of additional funding to make the programme possible to you, please add the estimated amount here, and detail in the Justification of Resources what you are asking for.

**Financial contributions from elsewhere:** If you have commitment from any other funding stream (e.g. via your home HEI) to support part of your research proposal, please add details here, and the amount will be automatically subtracted from your total requested. Please note that you are not required to provide any additional funding, and any applications with additional funding will not be viewed more favourably than those without.

**Bench fees:** please note that SGSAH member HEIs have been asked to waive any bench fees or other charge for registration at their institution, and these are therefore not an eligible cost.

### **Justification of resources (300 words maximum)**

Please provide an explanation of your budget, including details of the time period for the research project. Please detail how many days (from 45 to 90) you are planning your research project to last in-person (in order to justify the subsistence rate). If you are applying for additional costs for particular needs (e.g. childcare, access requirements, relating to disability) in order to make the programme accessible to you, please detail them in this section.

The average total cost to SGSAH of each research project is anticipated to be £8,500, with the possibility of a maximum of £10,000 per person where value for money is clearly evidenced.

### ***Additional Document Uploads***

You are additionally asked to upload three documents in PDF format. Please note all document uploads should be in English.

**CV (4 pages maximum):** There is no specific format for the CV, but it could include (as relevant) academic achievements, publications and presentations, grant funding, service roles, and any relevant external activities.

**Letter of support from your PhD supervisor (2 pages maximum):** You should include a letter of support with an institutional header and contact details from your lead supervisor if you are a current PhD researcher, or from your lead supervisor of your PhD if you are an ECR. In either case, if it is not possible to get a reference from your lead supervisor, please ask another member of your supervisory team or the Head of Department or equivalent, and ask the replacement to detail in their letter (in brief) their relationship to you. The letter of support should be written in the form of a reference, and detail why you would particularly benefit from the proposed research project. If you are currently registered as a PhD researcher, your supervisor should confirm that they are in support of you undertaking the research project in addition to or alongside your PhD research. This support is particularly crucial if you are within the early stages of your PhD (ie Year 1), or the final

stages (ie writing up). If you have completed your PhD, please ask your supervisor to confirm the date of award. Note that it is the applicant's responsibility to upload the letter, not the supervisor.

Letter of support from your proposed Host Institution (2 pages maximum): You should include a letter of support with an institutional header and contact details from the Head of Department or equivalent in the proposed institution (this can be co-written with the member(s) of staff with whom you intend to work). The letter should confirm that the Host Institution supports your application and will be able to host you, including arrangements for registration and as appropriate, office space and access to facilities. The letter should detail in what ways your proposed research project is a good fit to the Host Institution, include a lead mentor who will be your point of contact and will oversee your time while on the research project, and how the expertise of the mentor will support your research. The letter could also detail the broader research environment that will be offered to you, including additional members of staff and PhD/ECR researchers with whom you will work, any activities and groups with which you'll be involved (e.g. seminar series, reading groups, training activities), and the opportunities that will be available to you while you're undertaking the project. The letter should also confirm that any bench or registration fee associated with registering with the Host Institution will be waived. Note that it is the applicant's responsibility to upload the letter, not the Host Institution.

### ***Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form***

This part of the form asks for standard demographic data. Although this section of the form is compulsory, for most sections you are able to choose the option 'Prefer not to say', although it is useful to SGSAH to be able to monitor the diversity of applicants.

Please note that this information will remain confidential and will not be shared with reviewers.

## Assessment Criteria

In order to determine which proposals will be funded, reviewers will be asked to assess the quality of each proposal, its fit to the proposed Host Institution, the proposal's potential fit and contribution to Cluster membership, and cohort-building, training and development activities, and value for money.

Marks are organised into broad bands A-D. Reviewers are asked to allocate precise marks within each band. Total marks available for award are 25.

The assessment criteria are detailed below, in order to help applicants further understand what is required of proposals.

As detailed above, the programme particularly welcomes applications from countries in the Global South and the British Council's priority geographies (France, Germany, South Africa, Nigeria, India and China). After the assessment of individual applications and during a final ranking meeting, reviewers will seek to have a balance of successful awardees from different demographics, geographies, across the range of environmental arts and humanities areas, and spread across the Clusters.

The reviewers for the programme will be a mix of UK and international academics (including from the programme Clusters), and those with relevant expertise from external organisations.

### Quality of Proposal (10 marks)

Band	Mark	Description
<b>A</b>	10	<p>An exceptional proposal in all of its components. The proposed research project is cogent, a comprehensive awareness of the research context is demonstrated, and the proposal demonstrates an extremely clear plan that will contribute to the programme's overall aim to promote the role and interventions of the environmental arts and humanities, and the arts and cultural sector, in addressing the climate emergency, and their capacity for interdisciplinary research within STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts, and Mathematics) contexts. The proposal demonstrates significant potential to build long-term relationships between partners and stakeholders, by developing networks and encouraging openness in knowledge creation to enhance the quality and reach of research and scholarship.</p> <p>The research project is feasible within its proposed timescale. The proposed outcomes/outputs are evident, viable and demonstrate clear benefit to relevant audiences and stakeholders.</p> <p>The proposal clearly articulates how the research project will benefit the applicant, including in ongoing career terms (which can include careers outside of academia). There is full support from the PhD supervisor articulated in their Letter of Support.</p> <p>The proposal is compelling.</p>
	9	
	8	
<b>B</b>	7	<p>A strong proposal in the majority of its components. The proposed research project is comprehensible, a strong awareness of the research context is demonstrated, and the proposal demonstrates a clear plan that will</p>
	6	
	5	

		<p>contribute to the programme’s overall aim to promote the role and interventions of the environmental arts and humanities, and the arts and cultural sector, in addressing the climate emergency, and their capacity for interdisciplinary research within STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts, and Mathematics) contexts. The proposal demonstrates potential to build long-term relationships between partners and stakeholders, by developing networks and encouraging openness in knowledge creation to enhance the quality and reach of research and scholarship.</p> <p>The research project is likely to be feasible within its proposed timescale. The proposed outcomes/outputs are articulated and make a case for benefit to relevant audiences and stakeholders.</p> <p>The proposal articulates how the research project will benefit the applicant, including in ongoing career terms (which can include careers outside of academia). There is good support from the PhD supervisor articulated in their Letter of Support.</p> <p>A good case is made for the proposal.</p>
<b>C</b>	4 3 2	<p>A solid proposal in the majority of its components. The proposed research project demonstrates some awareness of the research context, alongside a sense of a plan that will contribute to the programme’s overall aim overall aim to promote the role and interventions of the environmental arts and humanities, and the arts and cultural sector, in addressing the climate emergency, and their capacity for interdisciplinary research within STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts, and Mathematics) contexts.</p> <p>The proposal demonstrates some potential to build long-term relationships between partners and stakeholders, by developing networks and encouraging openness in knowledge creation to enhance the quality and reach of research and scholarship.</p> <p>The research project may be feasible within its proposed timescale. The proposed outcomes/outputs are identified.</p> <p>The proposal articulates how the research project will benefit the applicant, including in ongoing career terms (which can include careers outside of academia). There is partial support from the PhD supervisor articulated in their Letter of Support.</p>
<b>D</b>	1 0	<p>A proposal with serious shortcomings in one or more of its aspects.</p>

**Fit to Host Institution (5 marks)**

<b>Band</b>	<b>Mark</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>A</b>	5 4	<p>The arrangements for the Host Institution and Mentor represent an optimal fit with the applicant and their proposed research project. There is a clear plan for mentoring and hosting the applicant, and a very evident research environment into which the applicant will be welcomed, and will participate.</p> <p>There is demonstrable ‘added value’ for the research project to be held at the Host Institution, and the proposal will bring clear benefits to the Host Institution as well as to the applicant.</p> <p>The proposal has the clear support of the Host Institution. The Host Institution Letter of Support is in complete alignment with the research proposal.</p>
<b>B</b>	3 2	<p>The arrangements for the Host Institution and Mentor represent a strong fit with the applicant and their proposed research project. There is a plan for mentoring and hosting the applicant, and a clear research environment into which the applicant will be welcomed, and will participate.</p> <p>There is ‘added value’ for the research project to be held at the Host Institution, and the proposal will bring benefits to the Host Institution as well as to the applicant.</p> <p>The proposal has the support of the Host Institution. The Host Institution Letter of Support is in good alignment with the research proposal.</p>
<b>C</b>	1	<p>The arrangements for the Host Institution and Mentor represent a partial fit with the applicant and their proposed research project, with some sense of a plan for mentoring and hosting the applicant, and a research environment into which the applicant will fit.</p> <p>There is some evidence of ‘added value’ for the research project to be held at the Host Institution, and some indication of mutual benefit between the Host Institution and the applicant.</p> <p>The proposal has adequate support from the Host Institution, and the Host Institution Letter of Support is broadly in alignment with the research proposal.</p>
<b>D</b>	0	<p>There is not a good fit between the Host Institution and Mentor the applicant and their proposed research project. There is not a good case made for the ‘added value’ of the research project.</p> <p>The proposal does not have sufficient support from the Host Institution, as indicated in the Letter of Support.</p>

**Potential fit and contribution to Cluster membership, and cohort-building, training and development activities (5 marks)**

<b>Band</b>	<b>Mark</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>A</b>	5 4	<p>There is clear evidence of how the applicant will benefit from and contribute to the programme's cohort building activities. There is a strong and evidenced alignment to the proposed Cluster membership.</p> <p>The applicant has also strongly demonstrated what further training and development opportunities they anticipate developing through participation in the programme, including in relation to SGSAH's existing training and development opportunities and platforms.</p>
<b>B</b>	3 2	<p>There is evidence of how the applicant will benefit from and contribute to the programme's cohort building activities. There is a good alignment to the proposed Cluster membership.</p> <p>The applicant has also demonstrated what further training and development opportunities they anticipate developing through participation in the programme, including in relation to SGSAH's existing training and development opportunities and platforms.</p>
<b>C</b>	1	<p>There is some sense of how the applicant will benefit from and contribute to the programme's cohort building activities. There is some sense of alignment to the proposed Cluster membership.</p> <p>The applicant has also given some indication of what further training and development opportunities they anticipate developing through participation in the programme.</p>
<b>D</b>	0	<p>There is some little to no sense of how the applicant will benefit from and contribute to the programme's cohort building activities, or alignment with the proposed Cluster.</p> <p>The applicant has also given little or no indication of what further training and development opportunities they anticipate developing through participation in the programme.</p>

**Value for money (5 marks)**

<b>Band</b>	<b>Mark</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>A</b>	5 4	<p>The budget is very effectively and clearly constructed, and relates completely to the research proposal.</p> <p>The applicant provides a strong rationale for their budget within the Justification of Resources, including taking advantage where appropriate and relevant of additional costs for particular needs (e.g. childcare, access requirements, relating to disability).</p> <p>For any budget over the stated average cost of £8,500 in total, very clear evidence is provided for the additional cost (up to a maximum of £10,000).</p>



		Please note that any financial contribution from elsewhere should not be factored into scoring.
<b>B</b>	3 2	<p>The budget is effectively constructed, and relates well to the research proposal.</p> <p>The applicant provides a good rationale for their budget within the Justification of Resources, including taking advantage where appropriate and relevant of additional costs for particular needs (e.g. childcare, access requirements, relating to disability).</p> <p>For any budget over the stated average cost of £8,500 in total, evidence is provided for the additional cost (up to a maximum of £10,000).</p> <p>Please note that any financial contribution from elsewhere should not be factored into scoring.</p>
<b>C</b>	1	<p>The budget is solidly constructed. The applicant provides some rationale for their budget within the Justification of Resources.</p> <p>For any budget over the stated average cost of £8,500 in total, some evidence is provided for the additional cost (up to a maximum of £10,000).</p> <p>Please note that any financial contribution from elsewhere should not be factored into scoring.</p>
<b>D</b>	0	<p>The budget is poorly constructed, with little rationale provided for the budget within the Justification of Resources.</p> <p>Please note that any financial contribution from elsewhere should not be factored into scoring.</p>

## Guidance for Mentors and Host HEIs

Once a scholar has a confirmed award through the Programme, plans for their arrival should be put in place immediately. Mentors should work with their research office or equivalent to process the award to allow funds to be disbursed as outlined below, and also their HR office (if the scholar is postdoctoral) or their school/faculty office in order that a visiting doctoral researcher offer can be issued. Each HEI has different processes, and it would be worth you being aware in advance of your local systems so you can support a successful scholar as soon as an place on the Programme is offered to them.

Awarded scholars should start preparations for applying for visas if required (see the FAQs below for more information). We would expect host HEIs to support these applications with any documentation required, in addition to the award letter issued by SGSAH.

SGSAH will transfer the award amount to the HEI on the scholar's acceptance of the offer. SGSAH request that the money due to the scholars is distributed follows by their host HEI:

- Two-thirds of the full award amount should be advanced to the scholar prior to the commencement of the Programme, and their arrival in Scotland – ideally as soon as possible after the acceptance of award. Most of the budget will be for logistical purposes such as international travel and accommodation and it is important that they are able to book well in advance of arrival. If the local HEI – in conversation with the scholar – wishes to pay directly for e.g. flights via their travel agents, this amount should then be deducted from the amount transferred to the scholar.
- The final one-third should be disbursed when the scholar arrives in Scotland.

Our experience from the 2022/23 cohort has demonstrated that if the appropriate paperwork mentioned above is not in place in good time, payment is delayed and in some cases has caused financial difficulty for the scholar.

In addition, we would expect that mentors and Host HEIs will support EARTH Scholars by:

- providing signposting and/or key points of contact for any issue or challenges that may come about over the course of the scholarship
- helping to identify networking opportunities
- adhering to confidentiality of mentoring partnership
- maintaining commitment to supporting the scholars throughout the programme.
- advising the SGSAH Team of any breakdown in the mentoring relationship

SGSAH will be holding an online Information session for Host HEIs and Mentors on Monday 2 October at 2pm. Please register via <https://tockify.com/sgsah/detail/189/1696251600000> to attend. The session will be recorded.

## **Communication**

Please note that we will initially communicate with you via the email provided via the application system. We will subsequently add successful scholars to an EARTH Scholarships Teams channel, which we will use as the main means of communication with you.

## **Acknowledgement of Funders/Award and Promotion of Award**

From our experience of the 22/23 cohort, the British Council Scotland SGSAAH EARTH Scholarships are already leading to enhanced possibilities for the scholars, including in forthcoming publications.

As the funders, British Council Scotland and SGSAAH would expect acknowledge in any output which has arisen out of involvement of in the EARTH scholarships. Successful applications will have access to the British Council Scotland and SGSAAH logos via Teams.

We are also keen to promote the work of successful scholars through our promotional channels and social media. Please do let us know via [admin@sgsah.ac.uk](mailto:admin@sgsah.ac.uk) if there is any news you would like us to amplify, and do tag us on social media (Twitter: @sgsah; Instagram @sgsah\_ and LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/school/scottish-graduate-school-for-arts-and-humanities/>). We use #EARTHScholarships24.

## FAQs

### **As a PhD researcher can I apply in my first year/writing-up period?**

Yes you can, but you must have the full support of your supervisor, detailed within their Letter of Support. At these early or late stages, it is particularly important that the supervisor articulates this support.

### **I am an international PhD researcher, doing my PhD at a UK HEI. Am I eligible for the programme?**

No. Successful applicants need to be registered for, or completed, their PhD at a non-UK HEI.

### **I have UK nationality, but I am completing my PhD or already have a PhD from a non-UK HEI. Am I eligible for the programme?**

Yes. Do consider the assessment criteria and overall aims of the programme when putting together an application to demonstrate good fit.

### **Can I apply for a research project with more than one Host Institution, or with a non-HEI partner?**

If you see that there is a possibility for you to work with more than one Host Institution, please describe this within the Research Proposal. Please note that if you do this, you must nonetheless have one Host Institution which is the lead, and which provides the Letter of Support.

The Host Institution *\*must\** be an HEI, but if you identify an external organisation (e.g. a museum, creative business or organisation) who you would also like to be part of your research project, you can write this into your Research Proposal. The Letter of Support must come from the Host Institution (ie the HEI).

### **Is it possible to undertake a research project part-time?**

Yes, SGSAH is flexible to different models for the research project. However, do make it clear how undertaking the research project relates to your budget, particularly in terms of subsistence and accommodation costs.

### **If I am a current PhD researcher, will the time of the research project be added onto the overall time for my PhD (i.e. will my submission deadline be extended)?**

This is a question for your Home HEI, and would likely mean that you would need to take a leave of absence or temporary pause from your studies. Please discuss this with your supervisor.

### **I am currently a PhD researcher but I'm about to submit my thesis/have my viva/defence/examination. Should I apply via the PhD or ECR researcher route?**

If you do not have an award date of your PhD by the Full Application deadline (1 November 2023), apply via the PhD researcher route.

### **Do I need a visa?**

Current PhD applicants incoming to Scotland who are undergoing an exchange to the UK of less than six months can apply for a **Visitor Visa** (a Student Visa is not required). Depending upon your

nationality, you may be able to apply for a Visitor Visa upon arrival in the UK at the airport you arrive at. To see if this will be possible for you, please follow these steps:

- Go to <https://www.gov.uk/check-uk-visa>
- Select your nationality (the passport you will be travelling to Scotland on) in the drop down menu, and then select 'Study' and '6 months or less'.
- If you receive the response: 'You won't need a visa to come to the UK' this means that you do not have to apply for a Visitor Visa in advance. However, you will need to show a number of required supporting documents upon arrival in the UK. These are listed at: <https://www.gov.uk/standard-visitor/visit-to-study>. Without these documents, you will not be permitted to enter the UK. You should receive the visa as a stamp in your passport, unless you are from an [e-Gate eligible country](#), in which case you won't receive any stamp.
- If you receive the response: 'You'll need a visa to study in the UK' this means that you **must** apply for your Visitor Visa in advance. You will not be eligible to apply upon arrival, and you will need to obtain your Visitor Visa in advance in order to enter the UK.

Whether or not you apply in advance, the following terms will apply. Your Visitor Visa:

- does not permit employment - paid or unpaid
- does not permit work placements or internships
- has a maximum duration of 6 months
- cannot be extended
- does not permit 'switching' into another visa category from within the UK.

Early Career Researcher (ie post-PhD) applicants coming into Scotland can visit as an academic if:

- You are taking part in a formal exchange with a UK counterpart
- You are carrying out your own research during a sabbatical

To research certain subjects at postgraduate level or above, you may need to get an [Academic Technology Approval Scheme \(ATAS\) certificate](#) before you start your research.

If you want to visit for up to 6 months, you should:

- check you meet the [basic eligibility requirements for a Standard Visitor](#)
- [check if you need a visa to visit the UK](#)
- [apply for a Standard Visitor visa](#) online - if you need one

If you need a Standard Visitor Visa, you must apply online before you travel to the UK and attend an appointment at a visa application centre.

The earliest you can apply is 3 months before you travel and a Standard Visitor Visa fee is £100.

Please do not plan to stay longer than your visa allows.

**If I am successful in my application, but circumstances change with regard to my proposed research project, what should I do?**

Please contact us to discuss the changed circumstances, and we will advise.

## **Further queries and contact details**

If you have any further queries please refer to our FAQs or contact the SGSAH office via [enquiries@sgsah.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@sgsah.ac.uk). We will provide some additional asynchronous materials to support applications, and host online Q&A sessions – watch our website and [newsletter](#) for more details.