

*Joint PhD Scholarships 2025-26*  
*Guidelines for Applicants*

*Applicable to programmes with:*

- *The University of Hong Kong*
- *Humboldt University, Berlin*
- *The National University of Singapore*
- *The University of Sao Paulo*

***Funding code: 2526-JOINT***

## INTRODUCTION

### **About the King's Doctoral College**

The King's Doctoral College provides advice on a wide range of postgraduate funding opportunities and will, where possible, guide applicants to the most appropriate sources of funding for their degree programmes. The King's Doctoral College also administers a wide range of funding schemes that are open to students in pursuit of a postgraduate degree at King's College London.

Information about the [King's Doctoral College](#) and what it does can be found online.

### **About this document**

This document has been produced to provide information about the funding opportunities that are offered by the King's Doctoral College for joint PhD programmes between King's College London and four of its international partner universities for the 2025/26<sup>1</sup> academic year.

Within this document you will find details about the criteria, application process and selection process for the scholarships covered by this document. Also contained in this document are the full Conditions & Regulations of funding.

For details relating to other funding opportunities available at King's College London, which can include other schemes administered by the King's Doctoral College; schemes offered through academic faculties/departments/divisions at King's; and external funding opportunities, please refer to the online [Funding Database](#).

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<sup>1</sup> The 2025/26 academic year covers the period from September 2025 to August 2026.

## **KING'S JOINT PHD SCHOLARSHIPS 2025/26**

**Funding code:** 2526-JOINT

**Application deadline:** 02 March 2025 (23:59pm UK TIME)

**Number of awards available for 2025/26:** Three

### **VALUE OF AWARD**

The scholarship covers the following:

- Tuition fees
- Annual stipend (living allowance): at the UKRI rate (for the year 2024/25, this was set at £21,237)
- Annual research support grant of £1,000 - £5000, depending on the research project whilst at King's
- Joint PhD students are eligible to apply to the KCL Global Research Grant, for funds to support travel to the partner university [Global Research Grant \(Study Abroad\)](#)

### **LENGTH OF AWARD**

The award is offered for four years and depends on the successful progression of the candidate, as noted in the below Conditions & Regulations.

### **ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

**Applicants MUST:**

- be due to commence one of the below mentioned full-time joint PhD programmes run in collaboration between King's College London and the stated partners during the 2025/26 academic year;
- have applied to King's College London as the home institution;
- have provisional agreement from supervisors at both King's and the partner university;
- have submitted all the required application materials by the funding deadline, including references, transcripts, confirmation from King's supervisor to supervise you, and Travel Plan form (which can be found [online](#) or obtained via the King's Admissions office).

**Please note that:**

- scholarships cannot commence prior to October 2025;
- the funding is only offered for full-time study;
- applications for joint PhD programmes must be approved by both King's College London and the partner university before a formal admissions offer can be made. As such, the process may take longer than for a single PhD programme. Candidates can apply for the scholarship whilst their application is being considered in order to meet the set deadline. Applicants who require a visa to study in the UK may need to consider starting their PhD on one of the later entry points, i.e. February or June 2026, to allow time for approval by both universities, and visa application processing.
- students are required to spend a set minimum amount of time at the partner university (12 months for the Humboldt, NUS and USP partnerships and 50% of the overall time for the HKU partnership). Candidates must therefore note their potential periods of candidature in the Travel Plan form mentioned above.

## **Eligible programmes**

The funding is available for the following programmes. Candidates applying for programmes not listed below will not be eligible:

### **King's-HKU programmes**

- Chinese Studies Research with the University of Hong Kong MPhil/PhD
- Comparative Literature Research with the University of Hong Kong MPhil/PhD
- Dental & Craniofacial Sciences with the University of Hong Kong MPhil/PhD
- Digital Humanities Research with the University of Hong Kong MPhil/PhD
- English Research with the University of Hong Kong MPhil/PhD
- Film Studies Research with the University of Hong Kong MPhil/PhD
- Geography Research with the University of Hong Kong MPhil/PhD
- History Research with the University of Hong Kong MPhil/PhD
- Medicine Research with the University of Hong Kong MPhil/PhD
- Linguistics Research with the University of Hong Kong MPhil/PhD
- Mathematics Research with the University of Hong Kong MPhil/PhD
- Music Research with the University of Hong Kong MPhil/PhD
- Nursing & Midwifery Research with the University of Hong Kong MPhil/PhD
- Physics Research with the University of Hong Kong MPhil/PhD
- Psychiatry, Psychology & Neuroscience Research with the University of Hong Kong MPhil/PhD
- War Studies Research with the University of Hong Kong MPhil/PhD

### **King's-Humboldt programmes**

- Culture, Media & Creative Industries Research with Humboldt Universitat zu Berlin MPhil/PhD
- English Research with Humboldt Universitat zu Berlin MPhil/PhD
- German Research with Humboldt Universitat zu Berlin MPhil/PhD
- Geography Research with Humboldt Universitat zu Berlin MPhil/PhD
- Mathematics Research with Humboldt Universitat zu Berlin MPhil/PhD
- Philosophy Research with Humboldt Universitat zu Berlin MPhil/PhD
- Law Research with Humboldt Universitat zu Berlin MPhil/PhD

### **King's-NUS programmes**

- Comparative Literature Research with the National University of Singapore MPhil/PhD
- Contemporary India Research with the National University of Singapore MPhil/PhD
- Digital Humanities Research with the National University of Singapore MPhil/PhD
- English Research with the National University of Singapore MPhil/PhD
- Film Studies Research with the National University of Singapore MPhil/PhD
- Geography Research with the National University of Singapore MPhil/PhD
- History Research with the National University of Singapore MPhil/PhD
- Language, Discourse and Communication Research with the National University of Singapore MPhil/PhD
- Life Sciences & Medicine Research with the National University of Singapore MPhil/PhD
- Medicine & Dentistry with the National University of Singapore MPhil/PhD
- Nursing, Midwifery and Palliative Care Research with the National University of Singapore MPhil/PhD

- Philosophy Research with the National University of Singapore MPhil/PhD
- Politics/Political Economy Research with the National University of Singapore MPhil/PhD
- Political Science & China Studies Research with the National University of Singapore MPhil/PhD
- Psychiatry, Psychology & Neuroscience Research with the National University of Singapore MPhil/PhD
- War Studies Research with the National University of Singapore MPhil/PhD

#### **King's-USP programmes**

- International Relations Research with the University of Sao Paulo MPhil/PhD
- Pharmaceutical Discovery, Development & Use with the University of Sao Paulo MPhil/PhD

## **APPLICATION PROCESS**

**Applications open from:** 04 November 2024

**Application deadline:** 02 March 2025 (23:59pm UK TIME)

**Deadline for supporting documents:** 16 March 2025 (23:59pm UK TIME)

**Interviews:** w/c 09 June 2025

Please follow the instructions below. Applicants who fail to apply as instructed will not be eligible for consideration.

- 1) Candidates must first apply to King's College London for one of the above joint PhD programmes using the online admissions portal (<https://apply.kcl.ac.uk/>). It is recommended that the programme application is submitted by the deadline of **02 March 2025 (23:59pm UK TIME)**.
- 2) As part of the above application, candidates must have been in contact with potential supervisors at both King's and the partner university and obtained tentative agreement to work with them. Evidence of this (e.g., email correspondence) must be provided with the application materials.
- 3) In the funding part of the online admissions application form, candidates must tick the box at item 5 (Award Scheme Code or Name) and enter the code **2526-JOINT**. If this code is not entered, or is not spelled correctly, the funding application will not be picked up and the candidate will not be put forward for consideration.
- 4) The candidate must have submitted all necessary information and supporting documentation (including the Travel Plan form, transcripts, references, and confirmation from your prospective King's supervisor that they will supervise you) to the admissions portal by the funding deadline of **16 March 2025 (23:59pm UK TIME)**. Candidates should refer to the relevant entry in the online [prospectus](#) for information on what is required for their programme. If any information is missing the funding application will be ineligible but the candidate can still proceed with the application for the programme itself, using alternative means of funding.

Please note that candidates who have already applied for admission, and those who previously applied but deferred entry to 2025/26, are not required to submit a new admissions application.

## **SELECTION PROCESS**

Once the funding application deadline has passed, the King's Doctoral College will assess the eligibility of the submitted applications. Applications that are deemed eligible will be circulated to academic faculties for shortlisting, followed by assessment by a central selection panel. Assessment of applications will be based on:

- evidence and strength of academic qualifications gained and, where applicable, professional qualifications and/or relevant experience;
- strength of the research proposal;
- match of the applicant's interests with their potential supervisors.

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to attend a panel interview during the week commencing 10<sup>th</sup> June 2023 to assess their suitability for the scholarship. This will be in addition to any interviews that are part of the departmental admissions process.

## **ANNOUNCEMENT OF RESULTS:**

All results will be announced via email in the first instance. Candidates who are deemed ineligible for the scholarship will be informed about their ineligibility within 3 weeks of the funding application deadline.

Unsuccessful candidates who are not shortlisted for interview will be notified as soon as possible from mid-May and will be asked to confirm (within 2 weeks) whether they still wish to continue with their admissions application, otherwise the admissions application will be withdrawn on the assumption that they are no longer interested in the Joint degree programme.

Final decisions will be announced by the end of June.

Candidates who are successfully offered one of the scholarships will be asked to provide a decision on acceptance/decline by a given deadline. If a successful candidate fails to respond by the given deadline or declines the offer, the award will automatically be transferred to a reserve candidate who is next in line for the award. If a candidate is offered a scholarship but their programme application is subsequently rejected by either King's or the partner institution, they will no longer be eligible for the award.

## **CONDITIONS & REGULATIONS OF FUNDING**

- Awards are offered on the condition that the candidate has met/will meet all the conditions required for acceptance by their chosen faculty of study within both partner institutions.
- Each award will be made on the assumption that there are adequate resources for the research project, and that the candidate's proposed course of study is acceptable to the department/division and faculty in which they wish to study.
- New awards offered in 2025 are valid only to commence in the 2025/26 academic session; deferral of an award to a later academic session is not permitted.

- Awards granted for the 2025/26 academic session cannot be used retrospectively for whole or part of any earlier session.
- Awards cannot be transferred to another institution.
- An award-holder must be registered as a full-time student for the length of their research degree.
- Award-holders must comply with King's regulations to submit their thesis within the required time frame.
- If an award-holder wishes to make a change to: a) the research project, b) the supervisor, or c) department/division specified on their application form, they must first seek approval from the King's Doctoral College. The award-holder would need to outline the changes proposed and provide confirmation of a) the department/supervisor's support of such changes, and b) the tuition fees (if they are different from the amount attached to the original research project). Failure to inform the King's Doctoral College of such a change may impact on the continuation of an award.
- If an award-holder needs to take time out from their studies due to illness, accident, fieldwork or for any other serious cause, they must report this as soon as possible to the relevant faculty/registry office to request an interruption of studies. The award-holder must also inform the King's Doctoral College to request a temporary suspension of award funding. If the King's Doctoral College is not informed and continues to pay for a student who is absent from their studies, a refund will be sought for overpayment, and it may also impact on the continuation of an award.
- If an award-holder: a) already holds another funding award from an organisation; b) is otherwise financially supported by another organisation; or c) is to secure another funding award later on during the course of their research degree programme, and the King's Doctoral College considers the fund(s)/award(s), or other form of support to be sufficient to cover maintenance and/or the programme tuition fees, the award-holder will not be permitted to hold these funds/awards concurrently. The rule to remember is that if two funds/awards cover the same amount, e.g., both provide funds to cover full tuition fees, they cannot be held concurrently.
- Award-holders who receive funding from alternative source(s) will be required to disclose details of those funds to the King's Doctoral College so that an assessment can be made regarding any potential overlap of funding.
- Applicants must be aware of all the additional financial commitments involved when attending their chosen course of study at King's. Awards are granted on the understanding that the award-holder will take responsibility for any additional expenses incurred for the duration of study.
- An award can be terminated at any time under the following circumstances:
  - 1) If an unsatisfactory progress report on the award-holder is received from the student's supervisor/department

- 2) If an award-holder ceases to be a full-time doctoral student
- 3) If an award-holder receives other overlapping funding
- 4) If an award-holder completes and is awarded their PhD before the funding end date.

## **CONFIRMATION OF AWARDS**

- The initial offer email sent to successful candidates will include instructions on how to accept the award, and the deadline for doing so. If the candidate is unable to take up the award, they should provide a reason why (this information is used for statistical purposes only).
- Awards must only be accepted on the understanding that the candidate has read, understood, and agrees to comply with the Conditions & Regulations of Funding as set out in this document.
- Successful candidates who confirm acceptance for the award(s) will be sent an official award confirmation letter detailing the terms and conditions and the exact value of the award(s) granted.
- Where an offer-holder accepts an award but later decides that they are unable to take up the opportunity for whatever reason, we ask that, as a matter of courtesy, the candidate informs the King's Doctoral College as soon as possible so that the opportunity could be passed on to another candidate.
- A scholarship will only be fully awarded once it is confirmed that the joint PhD application is accepted by both institutions.

## **PAYMENT OF AWARDS**

- The payment of tuition fees will be managed via internal transfer and no money will be paid to the award-holder.
- Stipend payments will be made on a monthly basis into the award-holder's UK bank account.
- Research grant payments will be managed via departmental accounts and award-holders should discuss with their supervisor how they plan to use this.

## **RENEWAL OF AWARDS**

- All research degree awards are granted for one year in the first instance but will be renewed for the remaining length of the funding period, subject to the award-holder's satisfactory progress.
- Awards are renewed only if the award-holder adheres to the Conditions & Regulations of Funding.
- The maximum tenure of awards is 4 years, providing the award-holder is still engaged in the full-time postgraduate research programme at King's.



- Award-holders are not required to apply for renewal of their award for each subsequent year. The King's Doctoral College will manage the renewal process internally, providing there are no concerns with continuation. If there are any queries over the renewal of an award, then the award-holder will be notified.

## **SUBMISSION OF THESIS**

- Award-holders are required to follow the university regulations when it comes to the submission of their thesis and completion of their research degree, which requires students to submit their thesis within a maximum of 4 years (full-time) of initial registration.

## **CONTACT DETAILS**

Email: [doctoralstudies@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:doctoralstudies@kcl.ac.uk)