

# CHASE Studentship Competition for 2024

---

*Dr Edward Roberts*  
*CHASE Academic Lead - Kent*

Stand for ambition.  
[kent.ac.uk](https://kent.ac.uk)



# Today's briefing

- Benefits of CHASE funding
- Eligibility
- What to do now
- Application and selection process + timeline
- How proposals are assessed
- Resources to use when working on proposal
- Information about further upcoming webinars

# Consortium for the Humanities and the Arts South-East England (CHASE)

- The **CHASE** Arts and Humanities Research Council Doctoral Training Partnership brings together 8 universities in the South East of England engaged in collaborative research activities.
- Over **1000 academics** in the arts and humanities many of whom are leading practitioners (artists, curators, novelists, poets, musicians and lawyers)
- Over **200 CHASE doctoral researchers** across the partner institutions
- There are **52 CHASE doctoral researchers** at **Kent**.
- CHASE benefits from a range of strategic partnerships such as Bloomsbury Publishing, The Brilliant Club, The British Library, Canterbury Cathedral, Institute of Contemporary Arts, Learning on Scree, National Portrait Gallery, Shakespeare's Globe, V&A Museum and Vitae.



# Disciplinary spread and offer

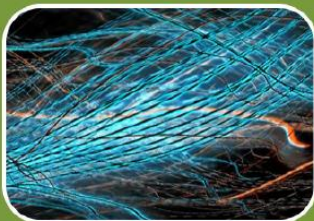
## CHASE selection panels



History, thought and systems of belief



Art history and visual cultures



Media and creative practice



Literature, language and culture

- Innovative **training in advanced research skills** across the consortium and with other cultural institutions.
- Opportunities for **work placements**, international study trips, and professional development.
- The possibility of a **cross-institution** supervisory team.
- Twice yearly 'Encounters' conference.
- Virtual Research Environment (VRE).
- Opportunity to shape **future development** of CHASE via Student Committee.
- Studentship award covers the cost of **fees** and **maintenance** (£18,622 in 2023/24).
- Successful applicants can draw on a Research Training Support Grant (RTSG), Engagement Provision (EP) and Cohort Development Funding (CDF) during the lifetime of their award.

# CHASE Stuart Hall Foundation studentships

- CHASE will offer two studentships this year in partnership with the Stuart Hall Foundation
- The Foundation is committed to addressing urgent questions of race and inequality in culture and society, and building a growing network of Stuart Hall Foundation scholars
- Candidates from Black or ethnic minority backgrounds are eligible for these awards
- If longlisted you will be asked to provide a short statement (up to 200 words) describing how your project fits with the Stuart Hall Foundation's mission. You can find more information at [www.stuarthallfoundation.org/about-us/](http://www.stuarthallfoundation.org/about-us/)

# Period of funding

Studentships will be awarded for 3 years initially (or 6 years part-time), but applicants can apply to extend the funded period to 3.5 or 4 years (or part-time equivalent), if their project:

- Involves a period of intensive skills development (e.g. language learning) identified at application or during first year of funding.
- Involves additional or complex methodologies identified during first year of funding.
- Includes a placement with a partner organisation applied for at any point during the funded period.



# Eligibility and Residential Criteria

- Home and international students are eligible; note that the number of international awards are limited by UKRI.
- Existing PhD students are also eligible if they have at least 50% of their period of study remaining at end of Sept. 2024.
- To be classed as a home student candidates must meet the following criteria:
  - ✓ Be a UK National (meeting residency requirements), or
  - ✓ Have settled status, or
  - ✓ Have pre-settled status (meeting residency requirements), or
  - ✓ Have indefinite leave to remain or enter.
- If a candidate does not meet the criteria above, they are classed as an International student. Further guidance on residential eligibility is in Annex B of the [UKRI Training Grant Guidance](#).

# CHASE Application Process: What to do now

- Discuss your research proposal (**ASAP**) with a prospective supervisor.
- Apply for a PhD place at Kent by midnight on **Sunday 3rd December 2023** [www.kent.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/apply/](http://www.kent.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/apply/)



# The process after applying to Kent

- Selected candidates are invited to a Kent admissions interview.  
*Interviews will take place between 04/12/2023 – 10/01/2024*
- Selected candidates are *longlisted* for CHASE.
- Longlisted candidates will be invited to complete a CHASE online application form.  
*Candidate will have between 11/01/2024 – 24/01/2024 to complete a CHASE application*
- Selected candidates are then *shortlisted*. The shortlisted candidate applications will be sent to an internal Kent panel for consideration.
- Kent University panel considers all *shortlisted* applications and selects 17 of these to send forward to CHASE to be part of the consortium competition.  
*All candidates will know the outcome of the Kent panels by 04/03/2024 at the latest.*

Before you find out whether you are longlisted, you can prepare by reading [CHASE guidance](#) notes about writing your proposal, drafting your proposal, and attending briefings.

# If you are invited to complete a CHASE application

- If you are longlisted and asked to complete a CHASE application form:
  - Your supervisor will need to make a 500 word statement about your proposal for the CHASE form.
  - You will also need two references commenting on: academic record, quality of the research proposal and preparedness for doctoral study.
  - Both referees may be the prospective supervisors.
  - Supervisor statements should support the necessity of any period of language study applied for.
- Contact your prospective referees in good time to check they can provide this reference in mid-January.

# Consortium level selection process

1. The final 17 selected applications are submitted to the consortium stage on **6 March 2024**.
2. CHASE Selection Panels will meet in late March and recommendations for awards will be approved by the CHASE Management Board in **April**.
3. Applicants will be advised of the final outcome by the first week of **May**.

# How are proposals assessed?

## Assessment criteria

Criterion	Assessed using
Research proposal (50%)	Research proposal task
Preparedness for research (25%)	Preparedness for research task 2 x References
Suitability of research environment (25%)	Research proposal task Supervisor statement

# Research proposal

## 1. Research proposal (50%)

(evidence:  
Research proposal,  
supervisor  
statement)

- The proposal is clearly-written and demonstrates engagement with an academic field at a high level of sophistication.
- The project demonstrates original thinking in its field (or fields)
- The project is clearly situated in its field (or fields)
- The methodology proposed clearly demonstrates the viability of the planned research.
- The planned research is described in a way that inspires confidence that it will definitely be completed within the funded period.
- The application demonstrates excellent motivation for the research project.
- The proposed research may be timely or urgent in nature, but not all excellent projects will be time-critical or topical.

# Research proposal

Grade	Quality	Descriptor
10	Exceptional	The proposal is <b>outstandingly clearly-written</b> and demonstrates engagement with an academic field at <b>the highest level of sophistication for a PhD proposal</b> . The project demonstrates <b>original thinking in its field</b> . The methodology proposed clearly demonstrates the viability of the planned research, and the <b>literature review is of the highest quality</b> . The planned research is described in a way that inspires confidence that it will be completed within the funded period. The application demonstrates excellent motivation for the research project. This is the <b>highest priority</b> for funding.
9	Outstanding	The proposal is <b>outstandingly clearly-written</b> and demonstrates engagement with an academic field at <b>a high level of sophistication</b> . It demonstrates <b>original thinking in its field</b> . The methodology proposed clearly demonstrates the viability of the planned research, and the <b>literature review is of high quality</b> . The planned research is described in a way that inspires confidence that it will be completed within the funded period. The application demonstrates excellent motivation for the research project. While not exceptional, this is a <b>very high priority</b> for funding.
8	Excellent	The proposal is <b>clearly-written</b> and demonstrates engagement with an academic field at <b>a high level of sophistication</b> . The project demonstrates a <b>degree of original thinking</b> in its field. The methodology proposed clearly demonstrates the viability of the planned research, and the <b>literature review is of high quality</b> . The planned research is described in a way that inspires confidence that it will be completed within the funded period. The application demonstrates excellent motivation for the research project. This is a <b>very high priority</b> for funding.
7	Very good	The proposal is <b>clearly-written</b> and demonstrates engagement with an academic field at <b>a moderate level of sophistication</b> . The proposal is <b>very strong, but falls short of 'Excellent'</b> on one (or slightly short on more than one) of the following: originality, methodology, viability, literature review, or motivation for research. This is nevertheless a <b>high priority</b> for funding.
6	Good	The proposal is clearly-written and demonstrates engagement with an academic field at a moderate level of sophistication. The proposal is very strong, but <b>falls short of 'Excellent' on more than one</b> of the following: originality, methodology, viability, literature review, or motivation for research. This is nevertheless a <b>high priority</b> for funding.
5	Fair	The proposal has <b>originality and rigour but could be better designed or elaborated</b> . Despite good potential, there are <b>one or more areas for obvious improvement</b> . This is a <b>medium priority</b> for funding.
4	Adequate	The proposal has merit but there are <b>concerns in relation to one or more areas</b> . This is <b>not a priority</b> for funding.
3	Weak	The proposal does not display <b>originality</b> and there are <b>flaws in the methodology or literature review</b> . This is <b>not a priority</b> for funding.
2	Poor	The proposal is <b>flawed and poorly written</b> , with serious concerns in relation to both methodology and literature review. This <b>should not be funded</b> .
1	Very poor	The proposal has <b>significant and serious flaws</b> such that it <b>should not be funded</b> .



# Preparedness for research

## 2. Preparedness for research (25%)

(evidence:  
academic record,  
professional  
achievements,  
Widening  
Participation  
Statement,  
references)

- The applicant demonstrates understanding of appropriate research skills required for successful completion of the project.
- The applicant has appropriate training at Master's level or equivalent (including experience gained outside of higher education) to undertake the project.
- The applicant's references fully support the applicant's preparedness for doctoral study.
- The applicant demonstrates outstanding competency in organisational skills and initiative through their previous activities, and a capacity to overcome obstacles.
- Where a widening participation statement is provided, it gives context on aspects of the candidate's preparedness and on their motivation to undertake doctoral study. CHASE is committed to addressing inequalities in participation in our DTP, and encourages applications from all under-represented groups, including people with disabilities, ethnic minorities (especially Black British), lower income families and mature students. Assessors should consider information provided in the widening participation statement alongside other answers in this section.



## Preparedness for research

Grade	Quality	Descriptor
10	Exceptional	The applicant demonstrates <b>exceptional potential and preparedness</b> in relation appropriate research skills required for successful completion of the project. They have <b>appropriate training at Master's level or equivalent</b> (including experience gained outside of higher education) to undertake the project, with <b>evidence of very high attainment</b> . They demonstrate <b>outstanding competency in organisational skills and initiative</b> through their previous activities, and a capacity to overcome obstacles. <b>All skills gaps have been identified</b> , and there is a <b>plausible plan</b> to address them.
9	Outstanding	The applicant demonstrates <b>very strong potential and preparedness</b> in relation appropriate research skills required for successful completion of the project. They have <b>appropriate training at Master's level or equivalent</b> (including experience gained outside of higher education) to undertake the project, with <b>evidence of high achievement</b> . They demonstrate <b>outstanding competency in organisational skills and initiative</b> through their previous activities, and a capacity to overcome obstacles. <b>All skills gaps have been identified</b> , and there is a <b>plausible plan</b> to address them.
8	Excellent	The applicant demonstrates <b>strong potential and preparedness</b> in relation to skills, training, and previous research or fieldwork experience. They demonstrate <b>excellent competency in organisational skills and initiative</b> through their previous activities. Any <b>crucial skills gaps have been identified</b> and there is a <b>plausible plan</b> to address them.
7	Very good	The applicant demonstrates <b>strong potential and preparedness</b> in relation to skills, training, and previous research or fieldwork experience. They demonstrate <b>competency in organisational skills and initiative</b> through their previous activities. <b>Most of the small and large skills gaps have been identified</b> and there is a <b>plausible plan</b> to address them.
6	Good	The applicant shows <b>good potential and preparedness</b> in relation to skills, training and previous research or fieldwork experience. <b>Most of the small and large skills gaps have been identified</b> and there is a <b>plausible plan</b> to address them.
5	Fair	The applicant shows <b>some potential and preparedness</b> in relation to skills, training and previous research or fieldwork experience. <b>Most of the small and large skills gaps have been identified</b> and there is a <b>plausible plan</b> to address them.
4	Adequate	The applicant shows <b>some potential and preparedness</b> in relation to skills, training and previous research or fieldwork experience. <b>Some skills gaps have not been identified</b> or the plans for addressing such gaps <b>may not be plausible</b> within the timeframe.
3	Weak	The applicant has <b>not identified the skills or preparation necessary to the project</b> , and there are <b>significant gaps</b> that mean the project is unlikely to reach a successful conclusion.
2	Poor	The applicant has <b>not identified the skills or preparation necessary to the project</b> , and <b>no meaningful attempt</b> has been made to address any skills gaps.
1	Very poor	The applicant <b>does not meet the criteria</b> (e.g. requirement for M-level study or equivalent has not been met).

# Research environment

3. Suitability of research environment (25%)

(evidence: Research proposal, supervisor statement)

- The research environment (as constituted by the proposed supervision, the home department(s) or equivalent, the institutional support (including available archives, sources, research centres), any external organisations) is appropriate to the project.
- The applicant has given clear thought to the fit between their project and their proposed research environment.
- The supervisor statement fully supports the project's fit with the proposed research environment.

## Suitability of research environment

Grade	Quality	Descriptor
10	Exceptional	The application demonstrates that the proposed research environment has been considered carefully. There is an excellent, mutually beneficial fit between the project and the proposed research environment <b>in all respects</b> . The project is clearly situated within its field.
9	Outstanding	The application demonstrates that the proposed research environment has been considered carefully. There is an excellent, mutually beneficial fit between the project and the proposed research environment <b>in all important respects</b> . The project is clearly situated within its field.
8	Excellent	The application demonstrates that the proposed research environment has been considered carefully. There is an excellent, mutually beneficial fit between the project and the proposed research environment in all important respects. The project <b>may not be clearly situated</b> within its field.
7	Very good	The application shows that the proposed research environment has been considered and is a <b>strong fit</b> for the project in <b>most important respects</b> .
6	Good	There is a <b>good fit</b> between the project and the proposed research environment in <b>most respects</b> , such that the project is on balance likely to be successful.
5	Fair	The research environment is good, but <b>no clear case</b> is made for why it is suitable for this project.
4	Adequate	The research environment is <b>unsuitable in some respect</b> (e.g. potential lack of access to an essential resource)
3	Weak	There are reasons for concern that the research environment is <b>unsuitable in several respects</b> .
2	Poor	There are reasons for concern that the research environment is <b>seriously unsuitable in several respects</b> .
1	Very poor	The application <b>does not meet the criteria</b> for supervision or access to essential resources.

# Resources to use when working on your proposal

- Your prospective supervisor can provide advice.
- The CHASE guidance for applicants and FAQs: [www.chase.ac.uk/guidance](http://www.chase.ac.uk/guidance)
- Upcoming webinars to help you develop a strong proposal:
  - ‘Designing a Good CHASE Research Proposal’ with Dr Jess Day and Dr Edward Roberts.  
**Tuesday 31 October - 13:00-15:00 GMT**
    - Current Postgraduate students sign up here: <https://grctraining.targetconnect.net/unauth>
    - External/new to PG study at Kent sign up here: <https://forms.gle/tqYi2zabXKqw5wP87>
  - ‘Designing a Good Research Proposal’ with Dr Jess Day (generic).  
**Tuesday 14 November – 13:30 – 15:30 GMT**
    - Find out our more: [www.kent.ac.uk/events/event/62945/designing-a-good-research-proposal-online-3](http://www.kent.ac.uk/events/event/62945/designing-a-good-research-proposal-online-3)

# CHASE hosted webinars

➤ Applying for a CHASE PhD studentship webinar.

**Friday 3 November – 12:00 – 13:00 GMT**

- Register through Eventbrite: [www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/applying-for-a-chase-ahrc-phd-studentship-tickets-737135511157?aff=oddtcreator](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/applying-for-a-chase-ahrc-phd-studentship-tickets-737135511157?aff=oddtcreator)

➤ Stuart Hall Foundation - Applying for a CHASE PhD studentship webinar.

**Friday 10 November – 12:00 – 13:00 GMT**

- Register through Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/applying-for-a-stuart-hall-foundation-chase-ahrc-studentship-tickets-737129212317?aff=oddtcreator>

**Thank  
you.**

