

Stuart Hall Foundation (SHF)-QMUL HSS Principal's Studentship

Explanatory Memo

General Considerations

To apply to this studentship, there are no restrictions on areas of research/disciplines/Schools within which candidates intend to pursue their studies. As long as the eligibility criteria are met, students applying (or that are already enrolled in their first year of a PhD programme) to any School within HSS can also apply for the SHF-QMUL HSS Principal's Studentship.

Whilst candidates need to meet at least one or more of the eligibility criteria, their evaluation by the Assessment panel will not be quantitative. This means that candidates meeting one criterion only will not be assessed less favourably than those meeting two or more criteria.

Candidates will need to indicate in their application whether they want to be considered for the SHF – QMUL HSS Principal's Studentship.

Applications will be considered from both new full-time and part-time applicants (*i.e.* those wishing to start their PhD studies in 2024/25) and students who are currently in the first year of a full-time PhD programme (or the first two years of a part-time programme).

There is no separate assessment of candidates applying for the SHF-QMUL HSS Principal's Studentship. They will be assessed together with all applicants for the HSS Principal's Studentships. All candidates are assessed first at School level and then at Faculty level.

At School level, the assessment panel will evaluate applications on the basis of the following criteria and weighting: Quality of proposal (50%); Preparedness of applicant (25%); Feasibility of Project (25%).¹ This is the same process for all applicants to the HSS Principal's Studentships.

The only difference will be in the assessment at Faculty level, as follows:

For "standard" HSS Principal's Studentships, the Faculty will assess the applications put forward by the Schools on the basis of the following criteria and weighting: Quality of proposal (40%); Preparedness of applicant (20%); Feasibility of project (20%); School ranking (20%).

For SHF-QMUL HSS Principal's Studentships, the Faculty will assess the applications put forward by the Schools on the basis of the following criteria and weighting: Quality of proposal (40%); Preparedness of applicant (20%); Feasibility of project (20%); Points (b) and (c) of the candidate's Statement of Purpose (20%).²

The general rules on the HSS Principal Studentship competition shall apply to any matter not already specified in this Guidance.

Eligibility criteria:

To be eligible to apply for the Stuart Hall Foundation - QMUL HSS Principal's Studentship a candidate must:

¹ For a description of each criterion, see separate guidance.

² For an explanation of the statement of purpose and its assessment, see relevant section in this document.

--Have applied for a PhD at QMUL by 24 January 2024 (or by 6 December 2023 for the School of Law)³ for an October 2024 start; OR being currently enrolled at QM in the first year of a full-time PhD programme, (or the first two years of a part-time programme) **[criterion 1]**

AND

--qualify for home fees **[criterion 1.1]**.

AND

--meet one or more of the following eligibility criteria **[criteria 2a-g]**:

- a) Having lived in a qualified neighbourhood* for at least 5 years in total until the start of their undergraduate programme (in other words, the residency requirement covers only the years before enrolment in higher education)
- b) Do not have access to familial loans or financial gifts
- c) Do not have more than £5,000 in their savings account, current account, ISA or held elsewhere
- d) Have caring responsibilities for an ill or disabled family member
- e) Having been in receipt of free school meals before their undergraduate studies
- f) Being part of the first generation of their family to attend higher education
- g) Living with a parent/guardian in receipt of any of the following

Income Support

Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance

Income-related Employment and Support Allowance

Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

The Guarantee element of State Pension Credit

Child Tax Credit, provided they are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual income (as assessed by HM Revenue & Customs) that does not exceed £25,000

Working Tax Credit 'run-on' - the payment someone may receive for a further four weeks after they stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

Universal Credit

* A qualified neighbourhood is defined as

Living in an area of low participation in higher education, defined as POLAR4 quintiles 1 and 2 (check your POLAR4 quintile here [Search by postcode - Office for Students](#)), OR

Living in an area of disadvantage, defined as IMD quintiles 1 and 2 (check your IMD quintile here [English indices of deprivation 2019: Postcode Lookup \(opendatacommunities.org\)](#))

PLEASE NOTE: For the successful candidate, we may ask to provide evidence of their meeting the criteria before confirming the award.

³ If you have already applied for the HSS Principal's Studentship in the School of Law by 6 December 2023 and meet the criteria for the SHF/HSS Studentship, please email the relevant Director of Graduate Studies or PGR administrator to indicate your interest in being considered for this Studentship.

Whilst **criteria 1 and 1.1** MUST be met, applicants may still be eligible to apply for the SHF-QMUL HSS Principal Studentship if none of **criteria 2a-g** are met **but**, during their undergraduate or masters studies, they have faced exceptional circumstances in pursuing their studies due to their:

disability, mental health, sexual orientation, gender identity, race, ethnicity and social origins, religion or belief, age.

In this case, the candidate will need to provide a specific 300-word statement (in addition to the statement of purpose) describing the exceptional circumstances and the extent to which these have had a negative impact on their previous educational experience.

Statement of Purpose for applicant to the SHF-QMUL HSS Principal's Studentship and how it is assessed

Candidates wishing to apply for the SHF-QMUL HSS Principal's Studentship should write a 4000-character statement of purpose describing: a) the 4 points indicated in the general Statement of Purpose;⁴ b) why you think your project might be suitable for this Studentship; c) what Stuart Hall's 'legacy' might mean to you.

The evaluation panel will assess the clarity and persuasiveness with which the candidate demonstrates the appropriateness of this award for their planned doctoral research, and their ability to contextualise their work within Stuart Hall's intellectual and cultural legacy.

Members of the Stuart Hall Foundation will join the Faculty evaluation panel to contribute to the assessment of the candidates.

The benefits of applying for the SHF-QMUL HSS PhD Studentship

The successful applicant will become a recognised SHF PhD Scholar. As well as all the advantages of a QMUL HSS studentship, awardees will further benefit from working with SHF to develop their ideas, research profile, sense of public engagement, and professional career. In particular, post holders will be able to engage with, and contribute to, the growing UK and international network of Hall Foundation Scholars and Fellows, which meets in person annually at a dedicated conference/social gathering, with regular virtual network meetings and seminars taking place throughout the year. SHF scholars are also encouraged independently and informally to discuss their work with other SHF scholars. Online and other kinds of publication/airing of scholars' work and ideas can emerge from such interactions, and from the network seminars. The SHF can also suggest broader links with academics working in other institutions whose own topics of research or advice might be useful.

More information about the Stuart Hall Foundation's Scholars and Fellows network can be found here: <https://www.stuarthallfoundation.org/about-us/scholars-and-fellows/>

⁴ Namely:

- What knowledge, skills, and training would you bring to the proposed research? This may include relevant academic study, relevant experience as a professional or practitioner, and any specific training in research skills/methods.
- Are there any areas where you think you will benefit from training in new or more advanced skills?
- Why do you want to undertake this research at QMUL?
- How does the proposed research relate to your career goals?

See the separate document 'Guidance to Applicants' for more details.

[Scholars and Fellows - Stuart Hall Foundation](#)

New members/arrangements with universities/opportunities can often be found in the news section:

[News - Stuart Hall Foundation](#)

The Foundation website also gives details of both the inspiring work and influence of Stuart Hall, and the public/political education work of the Hall Foundation more generally. See:

<https://www.stuarthallfoundation.org/>

Established in 2015 by Professor Stuart Hall's family, friends and colleagues, SHF seeks to sustain Hall's commitment to public education and critical intellectual work, addressing urgent questions of race and inequality in culture and society through a programme of lectures, workshops and conversations. It highlights the need to bring different academic, political and artistic fields into the same space of discussion and debate; it emphasises the importance of intergenerational exchange; and it seeks to enable students and artists from disenfranchised and under-represented backgrounds to participate in advanced university study.