



## **DARWIN TRUST OF EDINBURGH**

### **Selection Criteria and Conditions for Darwin Trust PhD Studentships tenable at the University of Birmingham.**

The purpose of the Darwin Trust's PhD studentship programme in the University of Birmingham is to award PhD studentships to individuals who are not UK nationals allowing them to pursue a PhD in Microbiology.

1. Students must be of the highest calibre and normally hold a First or Upper Second-Class honours degree or its equivalent.
2. A studentship may not be held by a student who is already a graduate of the University of Birmingham.
3. A studentship may not be awarded to an applicant who is eligible for the home/UK tuition fee.
4. Applicants will normally have obtained either their first (Bachelors) degree, or their first Masters degree, no more than five years prior to the closing date for applications to the Trust. This period may be extended, at the Trust's discretion if an applicant's career has been interrupted by exceptional circumstances such as maternity or paternity leave or severe illness.
5. A studentship will only be awarded to an individual who has been accepted as a postgraduate student by the University of Birmingham.
6. A student who has already started a PhD at the University of Birmingham, no matter how this has been funded, may not be awarded a Darwin Trust studentship.
7. Each studentship is for up to four years and includes a stipend and the University tuition fee up to the level charged by the University of Edinburgh each year. No stipend payments will be made after a student has been notified by the University that s/he has satisfied the requirements of a PhD.
8. Continuation of the studentship through the second, third and fourth years is contingent upon satisfactory performance in the University's annual assessment of progress. The studentship cannot be extended beyond four years except in the case of maternity, paternity or shared parental leave, or a formal interruption of studies granted because of ill health or for compassionate reasons. The conditions for maternity or paternity leave and an interruption due to illness are the same as those for a student holding a UKRI/Research Council studentship. These can be found in the "UK Research and Innovation Training Grants Standard Terms and Conditions of Training Grant" at Training Grant" at <https://www.ukri.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/UKRI-020424-TrainingGrantTermsConditionsApril2024.pdf>.

9. The Darwin Trust will make a contribution to the cost of accredited childcare for one or more children living in Birmingham with a student. There is no other dependent's allowance
10. The Darwin Trust will reimburse the costs associated with obtaining a visa to enter the UK as a research student. If a student is not a resident of the UK the Trust will also make a contribution towards the cost of travel to Birmingham at the start of the studentship and for returning to the student's home country at the end. The amount of these payments will be determined by the Trustees and will be paid directly to the student by the Darwin Trust.
11. Students may apply to the Darwin Trust for funds to allow them to present their work at a conference, or to attend an advanced training course or workshop. A maximum of two awards will be made to a student during their PhD and the maximum amount that will be awarded is £2,000 in total.
12. The Darwin Trust expects that the University of Birmingham will ensure that each student is provided with strong supervision and with the resources necessary to carry out her/his research project successfully.
13. The Darwin Trust should be informed promptly should a student withdraw or be granted an interruption of their studies. If a student is granted an interruption to their studies by the University, then their studentship will be extended to the new end date of their period of study.
14. No one shall be Principal Supervisor to more than one Darwin Trust student in the first year of their award.
15. The arrangements for exploitations of Intellectual Property generated by the holder of a Darwin Trust studentship are the same as those for holders of a UKRI studentship.
16. Studentships normally start on 1 October. Any other start date will be allowed only in exceptional circumstances and with prior agreement of the Trust.
17. Recipients of Darwin Trust of Edinburgh Studentships are neither employees nor agents of the Darwin Trust of Edinburgh.
18. The Darwin Trust's support of the students that it funds must be acknowledged in any output resulting from a student's PhD research including posters, oral presentations, and publications.

Revised September 2024

The Darwin Trust of Edinburgh is a charitable body, registered in Scotland, with registration number SC006400.

