

SWW DTP2 Recruitment Process FAQs

Do SWW DTP2 studentships cover fees or stipends or both?

SWW DTP2 studentships entitle UK doctoral students to a tuition fee award of £4,407 per annum at 2020/1 rates (or part-time equivalent). Applicants ordinarily resident in the UK who are awarded a studentship will receive from the AHRC a maintenance award of £15,285 per annum at 2020/1 rates (or part-time equivalent).

What other financial support is available to holders of SWW DTP2 studentships?

Having taken up their award, and in addition to the fees and stipends noted above, studentship holders benefit from additional DTP funding opportunities to support their training, professional development, and research costs.

How long does an SWW DTP2 studentship last?

An SWW DTP2 studentship lasts three years eight months (or part-time equivalent).

Can an SWW DTP2 studentship be extended beyond three years eight months (or part-time equivalent)?

Yes, in very specific circumstances. Once their studentship has begun, a studentship holder may apply to extend their studentship for up to four months (so up to four years in total), *either* (a) to take up an ad hoc placement opportunity that is not planned or expected but that becomes available during the studentship, that cannot not be completed without an extension, and that would be beneficial to the student's development, *or* (b) to facilitate a project that from the outset requires a research timeline of longer than three years and eight months due to the exceptional academic requirements of the research.

Can I take up full-time employment while holding an SWW DTP2 studentship?

No, students in full-time employment during their PhD are not eligible for a studentship.

Can I take up part-time employment while holding an SWW DTP2 studentship?

Yes, you can, as a part-time student; part-time work on your PhD should not be less than 50% of full-time.

Do I need a Master's degree to apply for an SWW DTP2 studentship?

To be eligible to apply for an SWW DTP2 studentship you should normally have, or be studying for, a Master's degree or similar postgraduate qualification. If you don't have experience of formal postgraduate study, you would be eligible only if you can demonstrate evidence of sustained experience beyond your undergraduate degree that is specifically relevant to your proposed research topic and that could be considered equivalent to Master's study.

Do I need to make an application to my intended home institution as well as for an SWW DTP2 studentship?

Yes. By making an application to SWW DTP2 you are applying for a studentship only. You will still need to make a separate application to your choice of lead home institution for your place on your PhD programme of choice.

Do I need to meet the course requirements of my intended home institution?

Yes, you should also have met all the course requirements of your home institution before the start date of your SWW DTP2 studentship.

I am already studying (e.g. for a Master's) at an SWW DTP2 institution. Can I stay at the same institution for my SWW DTP2 studentship?

Yes. We have no intrinsic objection to your continuing in the same Department, University, etc. as before in your university career. As with any applicant, we would advise you to look across the whole SWW DTP2 consortium for the best supervisory team to support your project. Remember that SWW DTP2 students are normally supervised by two academics from different institutions within the Consortium.

I've already begun my doctorate. Am I eligible for an SWW DTP2 studentship?

Yes, you are, providing that, at the start of the studentship, you will have at least 50% of your period of study remaining (excluding any 'writing up' year or part-time equivalent).

I already have a PhD. Can I apply for an SWW DTP2 studentship for a new PhD project?

Yes. While almost all our applicants do not have a PhD, if do you already have a PhD and have a good reason for studying for a new one, you are eligible to apply for an SWW DTP studentship. Likewise, a successful previous record in publication or artistic practice does not count against you or render you ineligible.

Do I need to wait for the outcome of my SWW DTP2 application before applying to my intended home institution?

No, you can apply before then. Note that if awarded a studentship, you must ensure that you have a confirmed place at your choice of home institution by the start of the award.

How can I find supervisors for my SWW DTP2 research project?

You can search for prospective supervisors [on our website](#) and on the websites of SWW DTP2's member institutions. SWW DTP2 recommends contacting both your intended supervisors as early as possible in the application process.

Can my two nominated supervisors come from the same SWW DTP2 institution?

Your two nominated supervisors must come from *different* SWW DTP2 institutions, unless appropriate academic expertise is available within only one institution. Almost all our students have supervisors at different institutions.

Can I apply to be supervised by three supervisors?

Yes, you can, but you must justify the need for the additional supervisor at the appropriate point on the application form and the third supervisor must bring experience, knowledge, and/or expertise to the project that is not provided by the other two. The third supervisor may be from the same institution as one of the other two. CDAs are always supervised by three supervisors (two from Consortium HEIs, and one from a non-HEI partner).

Does my project have to be interdisciplinary to secure SWW DTP2 funding?

No, we support disciplinary and interdisciplinary research. Both are important and we don't have an intrinsic preference for one over the other.

Can my project be interdisciplinary with a subject outside the Arts and Humanities?

Yes, SWW DTP2 welcomes and encourages interdisciplinary applications that go beyond the boundaries of the Arts and Humanities and involve research in other fields of study, providing that the approach and methodologies used are primarily situated within the Arts and Humanities and the home supervisor and programme of PhD study are based in one or more of the Arts and Humanities subject areas that we cover.

What about creative/practice-based applications?

Creative output can be produced or practice undertaken as an integral part of a research process. The AHRC expects this to be accompanied by some form of documentation of the research process, as well as some form of textual analysis or explanation to support its position and to demonstrate critical reflection. Creativity and/or practice that do not involve such processes are therefore not eligible for a studentship. For research to be considered practice-led, your own practice must be an integral part of the proposed project, and the creative and/or performative aspects of the research should be made explicit. The research carried out should bring about enhancements in knowledge and understanding in the discipline, or in related disciplinary areas.

What are Collaborative Doctoral Awards?

Collaborative Doctoral Awards (CDAs) are doctoral studentship projects developed by SWW DTP2 academics working in collaboration with an organisation outside of higher education. The supervisory team is pre-determined by the SWW DTP and consists of two Consortium academics and a member of the non-HEI organisation, and applications are advertised to work with that particular team. There is plenty of flexibility for students to shape their own projects within this supervisory framework and within the broad topic advertised. CDAs provide students with an opportunity to gain first-hand experience of work outside the university environment, and thus to enhance the employment-related skills and training which a student will gain during the course of their award.

Can I apply for both the Student-led and Collaborative Doctoral Award competitions?

Yes, you may submit an application in both the Student-Led and the CDA competition, but the projects must be distinct from one another. If you submit an application in both competitions and are subsequently selected to undertake a CDA project, you will need to choose which application to proceed with – it is not permissible to have an application in both competitions once the CDA applicant selection stage has been completed.

What should I include in my SWW DTP2 Alignment Statement?

Your SWW DTP2 Alignment Statement should focus on how you will benefit from what SWW DTP2 provides and what makes you stand out in an extremely competitive field:

- justifying your choice of supervisors and making use of cross-institutional supervisory relationships
- engaging with organisations in the arts, creative economy, heritage and museums, archives, and libraries (this may include formal [SWW DTP2 partners](#), though this is not required)
- benefiting from the training and activities provided by SWW DTP2.

What criteria will be used to assess my application?

Your application will be assessed using the following criteria:

- Preparedness or promise for doctoral research
- Quality of the research project proposal
- SWW DTP2 alignment (an awareness of, and engagement with, the benefits and opportunities of the SWW DTP2 programme).

What should I put in the 'Bibliography' part of my application?

The bibliography that you are requested to provide should contain *only* references to works cited in abbreviated format in your research project proposal. It's not meant to be a means of seeing whether you have read everything in your field.

Do both my referees need to be academics?

No – one of them must be an academic, the other can be an academic, or a different type of referee.

Can I submit my application and then ask my referees to submit their references?

No, your two nominated referees must upload their references before you can submit.

How do I submit my SWW DTP2 application?

Applications for an SWW DTP2 studentship must be completed online, via the link that will be made available on the SWW DTP website when the competition opens: <https://www.sww-ahdtp.ac.uk/> (n.b. the website is currently undergoing reorganization but it will always be clear where to find the application link).

When does the application process open?

The application process opens on Monday 30 November 2020.

When will I hear the result of my application?

Results of successful applications will be communicated on Thursday 1 April 2021.