

Testimonials from recipients of the Doctoral School Research Awards 2023/24

Receiving the Doctoral School Research Award means I will not have to cover the costs of my two-week research trip to the archives of the Office Français de Protection des Réfugiés et Apatrides in the suburbs of Paris out of my own pocket. This is particularly meaningful to me as I only receive a partial stipend from the college so, while the trip has provided findings that will make up a substantial part of my thesis, it would have been difficult to afford during a cost of living crisis without this funding. **A. Bennett – PhD Politics & International Relations**

Receiving the Doctoral School's Research Award towards the end of my third year means that I can conduct the last rounds of fieldwork interviews between London, Brussels and Rome, before the writing-up period. At such a crucial stage of my PhD, I am grateful to the Doctoral School for continuing to support, and believe in, my research. Fieldwork and interviews have been the most stimulating part of my PhD experience, and I am thrilled to have the opportunity to enrich my project with timely and novel data collected in conversations with diplomats, security practitioners, and experts from civil society. **L. Frigo – PhD International Relations**

Receiving this awards means there is much less financial stress and limitations with my project; there is a great weight off my shoulders now that I have help to cover any unexpected expenses bound to come up during my project as well as to support the necessary travel for my MSc research around London and Surrey **A. Zaman – MSc by Research – Biological Sciences**

As a self-funded student this award is hugely important to me as it helps facilitate research that I would otherwise not have been able to undertake which is vital to my PhD. However, the award is more than that it is a sign that the university as a whole believes in my research and wants to support me with this endeavour. Furthermore, the award is an important addition to my academic CV which will play a vital role in helping me pursue my wider career aims in academia. **R. O'Reilly – PhD History**

I am grateful to receive this award from the Doctoral School. The financial support it provides will be allowing me to attend a leading conference in my field. This conference is a renowned platform for researchers to share cutting edge advancements, network with peers, and gain valuable insights. Additionally, these funds will enable me to complete crucial training courses that will further enhance my skillset and prepare me for success in my doctoral research. Without this award these invaluable opportunity for professional development wouldn't be possible. This award will significantly contribute to my academic journey, and I am truly thankful for the Doctoral School's recognition. **M. Khan – PhD Electronic Engineering**

Thanks to the award I can pay for a trip to a conference where I can present my results and talk to experts in my field. The conference also presents a great opportunity for me to learn about new developments in my area. I am grateful that the award makes attending the conference possible. **P. Turek – PhD Mathematics**

I am absolutely thrilled to have received this research award. The financial help it provides will allow me to spend more time on my research, and less time worrying about money, which has been a real source of stress. More importantly though, being awarded this grant has given me confidence and faith in the legitimacy of my research project. Like everyone, there are times when I have doubted my belief in my abilities as a researcher, so to have the value of my work recognized and confirmed by the panel feels incredible, and I am extremely grateful for it. **H. Miles-Jewell – PhD English**

I am sincerely thankful for receiving this award, particularly in this challenging phase of my research. Despite facing obstacles in gaining access to companies, I devoted significant time and resources to extensive networking. This undertaking not only required a substantial time commitment but also resulted in significant expenses. Furthermore, receiving this award allowed me to attend my inaugural European conference, where I enhanced my confidence and expanded my professional network. Engaging in academia has taught me invaluable lessons about presentation skills, networking, and acquiring knowledge. **S. Huang – PhD Management**

I am grateful to receive the award from the Doctoral School. The fund will allow me to attend summer school and an international conference for research on promoting adolescent solidarity and well-being. This will provide me with an opportunity to present my research and get feedback from experts in the field which will help plan my final study with adolescents. The training provided in the summer school will help me learn advanced research methods and analysis techniques, which is crucial at this stage of my Ph.D. **Z. Khan - PhD Psychology**

I am very grateful for the funding awarded to me by the Doctoral School. This Award enables me to attend the eXtended Reality (XR) and Artificial Intelligence (AI) International Summer School in Italy. Attending the XR & AI Summer School will not only further my knowledge of XR (the topic of my PhD) and how it can be augmented with AI, it will also allow me to network for future employers and collaborators, which is important as I am nearing the end of my PhD. **I. Verhulst – PhD Psychology**

Receiving the awards from the doctoral school represents an unparalleled honor and pivotal support in my journey to explore the frontier of digital humans and immersive experiences. It empowers me to present my PhD research at ECIS 2024, a vital step toward contributing to our understanding and application of digital human technology. This recognition not only validates the significance of my research but also encourages me to further develop my career on an international platform. I am profoundly grateful for this opportunity to advance within the global information systems community and further the impact of digital human experiences. **Y. Li – PhD Management**

Receiving the 2024 RHUL Doctoral School Research Award is a tremendous honour and privilege. This support allows me to delve into essential archival and field research, enriching my project's impact and unlocking its real-world potential. I'm extremely grateful for this opportunity, eager to contribute to academic progress by exploring significant cultural heritage sites connected with the PhD project. This funding will allow me to develop my thesis, instilling confidence in its viability and ability to celebrate marginalised communities through my research. **N. Watson – PhD English**

I am delighted and very grateful to the Doctoral School for providing me with a research award to support my travel to Spain to attend the Lodumusicology conference. As a Ph.D student in musicology, this conference is my first major international conference which will provide multiple opportunities for me to learn about industry practices, contemporary academic theory and intercultural experiences of game music/ sound design. Obviously, the research award from the Doctoral College provided me with a wide range of support, enabling me to delve deeper into my studies to my field of research. **Y. Zhao – PhD Music**

Being the recipient of this research award is incredibly gratifying and opens up so many doors for the impact and scale of my work. Especially as a self-funded researcher, additional resources are invaluable in helping to support the ambition of my work and to ensure it has the real-world social impact we strive for. Applying was quick and easy and the process has been super supportive. I would absolutely recommend to anybody thinking of applying. **K Falconer – PhD Theatre Studies**

Receiving this Doctoral School Research Award is a great honor. It shows that my efforts are valued, which motivates me to keep striving for excellence in my studies. I'm truly grateful for this recognition. **R. Ullah – PhD Biological Sciences**

I am thrilled to have been offered financial support from the Doctoral School Research Award. My study location in the Bahamas, though expensive, was chosen for the specialised marine research facilities provided by Cape Eleuthera Institute. The funding I have been granted from this award has made it possible for me to conduct my research at this world-class facility, ensuring I have the resources to proficiently collect high-quality data, offering the chance to significantly contribute to my field of research by providing an opportunity to highlight the importance of UV reflectance in the evolution and ecology of reef-associated fishes. [T. Elliott – MSc Biological Sciences by Research](#)

I am grateful to doctoral school for accepting my application and giving me funds for research travel. This will certainly be a game changer for me as a postgraduate student who is immersed in academia. I have not been out of my department or my lab much and staying in one place, conducting experiments is definitely worth it but not the only important thing. This travel will help me learn from other people's experience and also help me get new ideas of what others are doing in the field. It will help me build my network as well. I am on external funding and my regular monthly stipend is almost half than that of a UKRI student so I cannot afford travel on my own. But this award will help me fill that gap.
[R. Javed – PhD Biological Sciences](#)

Receiving the 2024 Doctoral School Research Award will allow me to travel to Italy to carry out core sampling at Lake Paterno, a key site for my PhD research. Taking part in these activities during the first year of PhD is an amazing opportunity as it will allow me to collect the material needed for my research now to then analyse it during the second year. Furthermore, as the project sees the collaboration between international researchers, this trip will allow me to work in a stimulating environment where I can expand my academic network and be inspired by expert scholars.
[E. Zane – PhD Classics](#)

I am thrilled to have been awarded a Doctoral School Research Award. This award will allow me to attend and share my research at the European Social Science Genetics Network conference in Rotterdam this year, which help me hugely in development as a researcher. I'm looking forward to attending and reporting back!
[R. Ferdinand – PhD Psychology](#)

I would like to express my gratitude to the selection committee of the Doctoral School Research Award 2024 for selecting my application for the award. This grant will help me successfully complete my research in Sri Lanka. Thank you. [T. Dodantenna - PhD Drama & Theatre Studies](#)

Receiving the doctoral school research award 2024 is a great matter of pride for me personally and professionally. I feel this is an extraordinary milestone in my PhD research Journey. Receiving the award will definitely contribute a lot to the field activities of my research on digital financial inclusion of women entrepreneurs in India. Being involved intersectionality research demands travelling and field engagement in different geographic terrains and social backgrounds. As a researcher, being selected for this award has infused more excitement and confidence in me. I would like to express my deep gratitude towards my supervisors for their constant encouragement and unwavering belief in my potential. I also want to thank Doctoral School and School of Business and Management and different mentors and supporters at Royal Holloway who have contributed in my research journey so far. Above all, this award instills in me a deep sense of responsibility for optimum utilisation of this fund to carry out an impactful and fruitful research. I hope this will help me to focus on making significant contributions towards academics.
[C. Neriampampil – PhD Management](#)

This travel award has come at a timely point in my PhD research by allowing me to travel to Brussels to examine recently de-classified archival documents. Having the opportunity to use Belgian sources will ensure a more comprehensive analysis of my subject matter, so I am extremely grateful for this financial support. [D. Saunders - PhD History](#)

Receiving the Doctoral School Research Award allows me to carry out fieldwork essential to the completion of my PhD. The award covers part of the costs associated with travelling to Germany, Belgium and the US in order to conduct interviews with government officials as well as representatives of NATO. Conducting these interviews constitutes an integral part of my data collection and allows me to gain crucial insights into the regulation of the use of armed drones in the context of NATO missions.
[K. Hartung – PhD Politics](#)

I am delighted to be receiving this award from the Doctoral School to assist with my fieldwork in Trinidad this year. These additional funds will enable me to carry out an extra days of research in the field though covering the cost of a driver and field assistant. This will allow for much more robust data collection and also let me further investigate any other areas of interest within the ecosystem that I may discover whilst in Trinidad. Thank you very much for considering me for this award!
[H. McGovern – PhD Biological Sciences](#)

I'm a part-time PhD student who is also employed by CABI, an international non-for-profit research organisation that improves people's lives by solving problems in agriculture and the environment. In collaboration with CABI my research to date has involved collecting more quantitative data through individual surveys together with several women and men's focus group discussions. The award funds will help me to put into practice the use of more qualitative, in-depth participatory methods. CABI has a small but growing team of social scientists and building my capacity in participatory methods will contribute towards my future and career development within CABI, through leading diversification of their methods toolbox. [K. Constantine – PhD Geography](#)