

Testimonials from Recipients of the Doctoral School Research Awards 2024/25

I am so grateful to receive this award from the Doctoral School to assist with this year's fieldwork to Trinidad. This grant will allow me to cover the cost of a field assistant for additional days in the field. Last year's field work showed me the importance of involving a field assistant, for gaining greater knowledge of the local area, flora and fauna and learning more about the oil industry which creates the pollution I study. This will allow for much more robust data collection. Thank you very much for considering me for this award! **H. McGovern – PhD Biological Sciences**

The Doctoral School Research Award enabled me to travel to Singapore for a critical conference, offering an invaluable opportunity to expand my academic network and engage with experts in tropical forest conservation and restoration. As my research spans multiple disciplines, attending the workshops will deepen my understanding of nature-based carbon credits and their intersection with climate justice and intergenerational equity. This knowledge will provide essential insights for my non-fiction thesis, enhancing its depth and relevance.

A. Hsu – PhD English & Creative Writing

Receiving the Doctoral School Research Award gave me a boost of motivation to continue working on my thesis project and maximize the results I will present at the Conference I can attend in late summer thanks to this award. It gives me the feeling that I am on the right track to obtaining the doctoral title. With all the ups and downs of scientific research, it is great to receive this validation. **M. Emma – PhD Physics**

I am Yuting Zhao, currently I'm doing Ph.D at the music department, I'm delighted and very grateful to the Doctoral School for providing me with a research award to support my travel to Ireland to attend the 28th CHIME conference. As a Ph.D student in musicology, this conference is a major international conference which will provide multiple opportunities for me to learn about industry practices, contemporary academic theory and intercultural experiences of Chinese music/ sound on the digital media. 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**

It is a great honour to receive this award, which covers a significant portion of my fieldwork expenses to Taiwan. As a self-funded student, this assistance alleviates the financial burden of airfare and accommodation. This timely help is a welcome rainfall during a critical phase of my research on Indigenous women and their roles in sustaining global musical cultures. Additionally, this recognition represents invaluable acknowledgment and encouragement from the RHUL academic community, supporting my research that fosters cross-cultural understanding in the UK and internationally while enhancing the sustainability and transmission of these traditions in a rapidly changing world.

C. Hung – PhD Music

I am grateful to the Doctoral School for funding to present my research at this year's INSOL International Early Career Researcher Academics Workshop and to participate in the Academic Colloquium and the maiden Writing Workshop in Barcelona. This funding relieves me of the burden of privately funding this very important career development opportunity. It allows me to instead focus on developing my research and creating vital networking opportunities for after my PhD. I expect that the feedback from the two workshops will contribute very positively to shaping the final form of my PhD research. Thank you!

K. Ghartev – PhD Law

Receiving this Doctoral School Research Award is an incredible honour. This support allows me to work with world-leading researchers and provides me with opportunities to deepen my understanding of geometric group theory, as well as strengthen my academic network. The grant is invaluable in advancing my research, fostering professional connections, and allowing me to contribute meaningfully to the field. I am deeply grateful for this opportunity and excited about the impact it will have on my future work. **S. Yatsyna – PhD Mathematics**

Receiving the Doctoral School Research Award is both an honor and recognition of my academic journey and research contribution. This award will help me expand my research horizons, access essential resources, and build scholarly connections in my field. This support comes at a critical time in my research process and demonstrates Doctoral School's commitment to supporting students in achieving their goals. I'm grateful for this recognition that will significantly help advance my research project and contribute to my growth both academically and professionally. **C. Bulut - Management**

This award enables me to attend the Transformative Consumer Research Conference 2025. Being able to collaborate there in person with my colleagues is critical to the success of our project to understand what a just transition to a green economy means for resource deprived communities. The research findings and messages we develop will inform my own doctoral research on participatory approaches to the study of poverty. I'm also excited to experience and learn from the innovative dialogical method that the conference employs. Overall, the award make possible an important opportunity for my professional development, for which I am very grateful. **T. Croft – PhD Philosophy**

I am incredibly grateful to receive the Doctoral School Research Award, which will enable me to attend International Conference on Neutron Scattering 2025 and present my research on quantum magnetism. This opportunity is invaluable for advancing my PhD, refining my work for publication, and connecting with leading experts in neutron scattering. Engaging with the international research community will not only enhance my academic development but also support my aspirations for a postdoctoral career in condensed matter physics. It will also provide a unique opportunity to seek guidance from experts on overcoming the experimental limitations in my project. I sincerely appreciate this support, which brings me one step closer to contributing meaningfully to the field. **T. Poulis – PhD Physics**

"As you walk, the way appears," as the Nigerian entrepreneur Tunde Onakoya wisely put it, and this has been my experience throughout this PhD journey. When I began my PhD, I had no idea about potential funding sources. My progress in the program has been gradual, but steady, and this research award from doctoral school has given me the much-needed inspiration and encouragement to push further. I am filled with immense gratitude as I accept this award, which has given me the capability to continue gathering data, with better assurance of a quality theses at the end of the program.

J. Aqbakoba – PhD Management

I am delighted to have received a Doctoral School Research Award this year, which has provided funding towards a trip to present at the International Vladimir Nabokov Conference, held at Cornell University. As a self-funded PGR, finances are often a struggle, and balancing work with academic study is not easy. This generous award has alleviated some of that strain, and I am hugely grateful to the Doctoral School for their financial support.

H. Miles Jewell – PhD English

I am absolutely thrilled my application for the Doctoral School Research Awards has been accepted. This will allow me to attend the Society for Experimental Biology's annual conference this July in Antwerp. I will be presenting for the outreach and education section. My talk will be on my journey within doctoral education as a student with Dyslexia and Autism. In addition, I will also be presenting a scientific poster on my PhD work in plant developmental biology. I would like to say a tremendous thank you to the doctoral school for proving me with this funding.

D. Perry – PhD Biological Sciences

Approaching the end of my PhD, this award is a great financial help for my valuable research visit to a professor in Stuttgart with whom I intend to apply for a research fellowship and collaborate in the near future. While one could argue that project ideas can be discussed online, in-person meetings are irreplaceable opportunities to form precise research problems together with the lines of attacks. Receiving the award has made several aspects of the overwhelming last few months of my PhD less stressful and I am very grateful for being selected to receive the award.

P. Turek - PhD Mathematics

The research award is extremely important to me. It provide me support to focus entirely on my research and share my findings with a broader academic community, without the stress of covering publication fees and travel expenses for presenting my work.

M. Saeed – PhD Electronic Engineering

The receipt of this Doctoral School Award comes at a crucial time in my PGR journey. As I am now in my writing up year, my mind is firmly on the future impact of my research. This award will allow me to present my work in international forums, which is incredibly exciting and a first for me and my work. Having been accepted into both conferences, in Chicago and Venice respectively, I simply would not have been able to attend if it wasn't for this award and the continued generosity and genuine support of the doctoral school. Thank you. **K. Falconer – PhD Theatre**

I am incredibly grateful to have the opportunity to travel to Brussels this spring where I will be spending several days at their National Archives. The inclusion of material selected from this vast archival resource will undoubtedly add a new and original dimension to my PhD thesis. Moreover, because historians have, in the past, tended to limit their archival research to the material available in Britain and those documents written in English, my research will provide a more complete picture of colonial Africa in the early twentieth century. I would like to thank the sponsors of these travel awards for their generosity and dedication to supporting original research. **D. Saunders – PhD History**

Receiving this research award is pivotal for my doctoral journey, empowering me to present my work at the 2025 icSmartGrid Conference in Glasgow. This opportunity will connect me with leading experts, allowing me to gather valuable feedback on my methodologies and enhance the impact of my research on sustainable energy management. The award supports my dedication to the UN Sustainable Development Goals, promoting innovative, data-driven approaches to optimize renewable energy utilization. Ultimately, this recognition will help me contribute to building resilient, low-carbon energy systems and advance the transition toward a sustainable energy future. **A. Adib – PhD Electronic Engineering**

I am incredibly grateful to receive the Doctoral School Research Awards 2024/25, which allows me to attend a conference that is invaluable for my academic growth and professional development. This opportunity will enable me to engage with leading experts, present my research, and gain new insights that will enhance my work. I sincerely appreciate the support from the Doctoral School. **Y. Zhou – PhD Computer Science**

I'm very excited to receive the Doctoral School Research Award as it means that I will be able to attend a major international conference in Earth Sciences, something I would not have been able to do without the award. As I'm nearing the end of my project, I'm looking forward to sharing my findings with a multi-disciplinary audience. Such large conferences are abuzz with exciting new research spanning all areas of the discipline so there will be plenty to take in and plenty of inspiration for future projects. **T. Glazkova – PhD Geology**

I am deeply grateful to receive the Doctoral School Research Awards which will save me from the expense of my archival research-based travel to Istanbul. Pursuing a PhD can be stressful and much of that stress is a result of financial concerns. With this support, I do not need to stress over money during my research trip and I can focus entirely on my archival research in Istanbul. Mentally, it is a great relief for me. Also, feeling the support of Royal Holloway University for my research boosts my motivation to keep up the hard work.

S. Arican – PhD History

Receiving this Doctoral School Research Award has allowed me to attend the Lunar and Planetary Science Conference 2025 in Houston, Texas (one of the primary international conferences in space science) in order to present my Master's research to experts in my field. This experience has opened up my horizons in terms of networking, public speaking skills, and has given me real insight into the day-to-day realities of scientific research as well as upcoming planetary science opportunities.

S. Coker – MSc by Research Earth Sciences

I am incredibly grateful for the generous £2,000 grant that will enable me to travel to Nepal for my research on dowry expectations. This funding allows me to conduct in-depth fieldwork, engage with diverse communities, and gather valuable firsthand insights into how dowry practices impact social and economic structures. The opportunity to interview individuals and scholars will enrich my understanding and strengthened my research. Without this support, such an immersive study would not have been possible. I sincerely appreciate the investment in my academic journey and its contribution to broader discussions on gender, tradition, and social change in Nepal. **U. Sadaf – PhD Economics**

Receiving the Doctoral Research award has allowed me the opportunity to showcase my research at a large international conference.

The contribution has meant that I can expand my network and gain invaluable experience at presenting my project on a large scale, which is a huge asset to an early career researcher. I would like to take the opportunity to thank the Doctoral School awards panel for giving me this amazing opportunity.

E. Gascoyne – PhD Biological Sciences

I am incredibly grateful to receive a research award for £2,000.00 from the Doctoral School of Royal Holloway, University of London. This award enables me to present my work on corporate neurodiversity programs at the prestigious Academy of Management Annual Meeting in Copenhagen, Denmark. Because of this generous funding, my findings will be shared with a global audience of leading scholars and advance our theoretical understanding of neurodiversity in business. I am tremendously proud to be part of a university that believes in my research to make workplaces more neuroinclusive.

W. Dornisch – PhD Business & Management

This award provides me funding for a trip to conduct archive research for a rather large chapter of my PhD thesis. The archive focuses on mycology, and a series of events that unexpectedly revives the New York Mycology Society in which several artists I study are affiliated. The specific area I am interested in is a series of networking events which remain vaguely documented by academia. Throughout my PhD I have found a passion for archival research with it becoming one of my primary sources for information. Furthermore, this will give good grounds for originality within my thesis. **A. Nash – PhD Media Arts**

It is an incredible honour to receive the Doctoral School Research Award. This opportunity provides essential support for my PhD research on wet woodlands and their role in climate change mitigation. The funding enables me to conduct critical fieldwork at Wheatfen Nature Reserve—work that is vital for understanding carbon dynamics in these unique ecosystems. Beyond advancing my research, this award strengthens my ability to inform conservation policy and promote sustainable land management. I am deeply grateful for this support and excited about the impact this research will have.

C. Ahiable – PhD Geography