

SPS SCHOLARSHIPS REPORT – 2025/26 AWARDS

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Scholarships overview

In 2025/26, there were 6 awards available in total, shown below in brackets [] per scholarship .

The scholarships covered in the two-tiered assessment process by the School's (Stage One) Postgraduate Advisors and (Stage Two) Panel were:

- [School of Social and Political Science PhD Scholarship](#) (2 Years for current student or 3 Years for future student, FTE) – [1] for current, [1] for future.
- [College of AHSS Research Awards Scholarship](#) (3 Years for future student, FTE) – [1] (*Name changed to School of Social and Political Science PhD Scholarship – noted as SPS/(CRA)*)
- [Alice Brown PhD Scholarship](#) (4 or 5 years for current student or 6 Years for future student, PTE) – [1]
- [Chrystal Macmillan Studentship](#) (3 Years for future student, FTE) [1]
- [Edinburgh Doctoral College Scholarship](#) (3.5 Years for future student, FTE) [1]

The [Macqueen Scholarship](#) is assessed and awarded separately by the Social Work Subject Area to future PhD students.

All scholarships were advertised on the School's [website](#), the University's central scholarship pages, and via external platforms and social media channels. The closing dates was 3rd February 2025 for

all scholarships. Applications were submitted via the University's EUCLID Scholarship Portal which was open for applications in November 2024. In order to be considered for any of the above scholarships, an applicant must have submitted an application to each one. They cannot be offered an award for a scholarship they have not applied for.

Application and progression figures

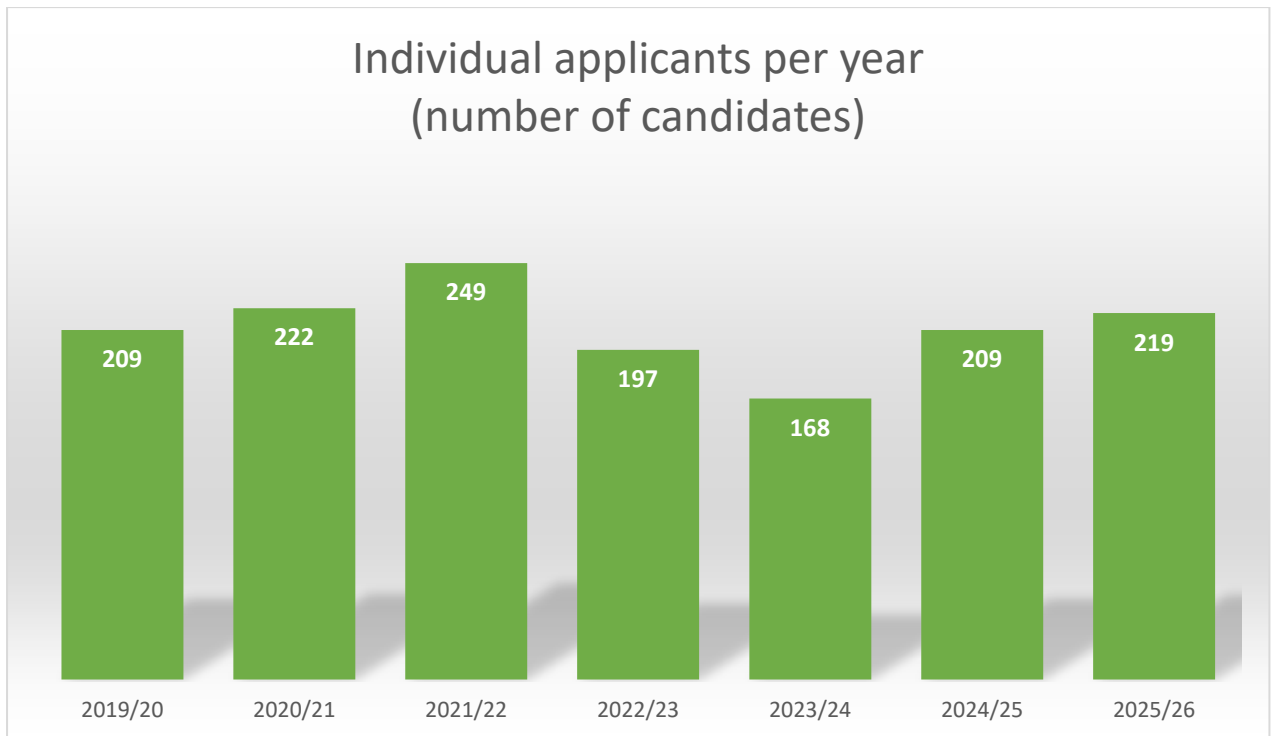
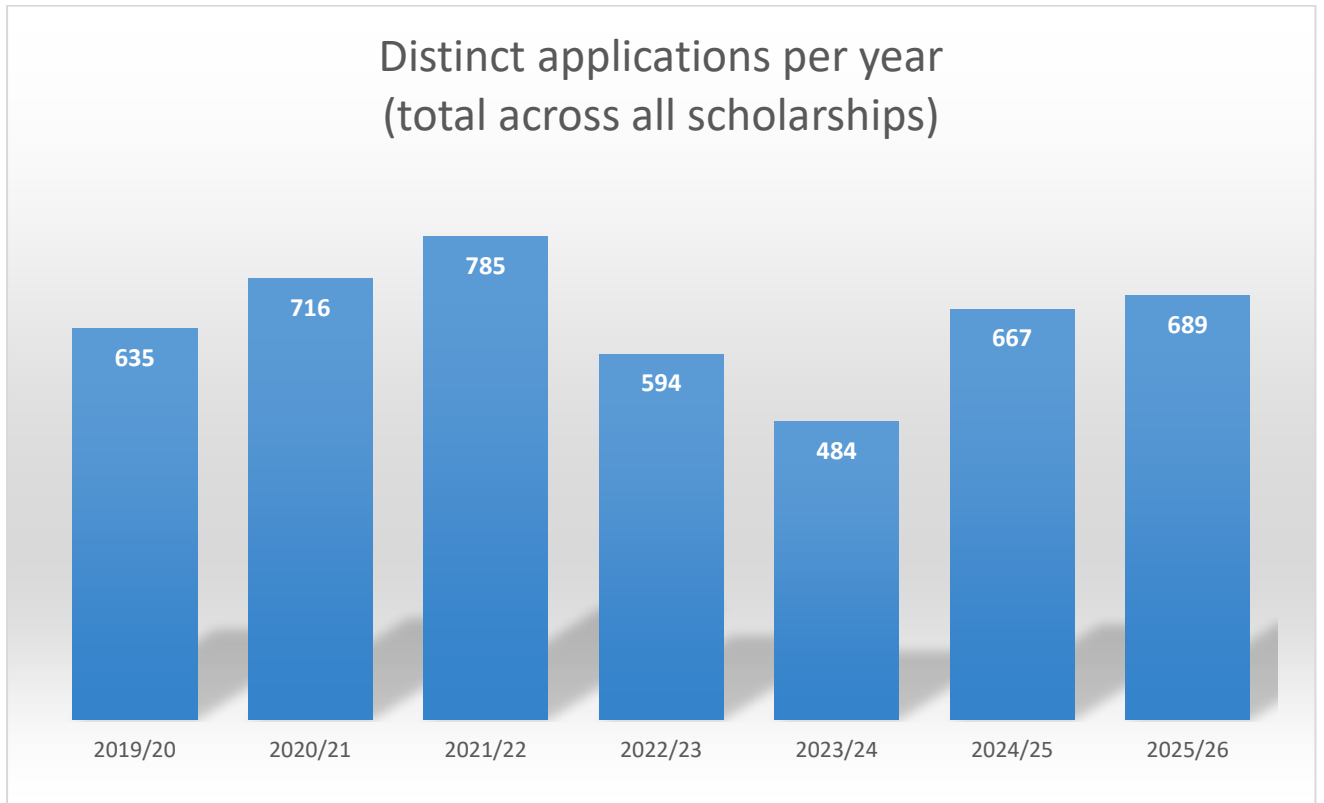
In this cycle, a total of 689 distinct applications were submitted by 219 eligible individual applicants applying for multiple awards. Following PG Admissions stage, the number of offer-holders passed to Postgraduate Advisors for Stage One assessment reduced to 496 applications from 160 individual applicants. Stage Two comprised of 128 applications from 47 individual applicants.

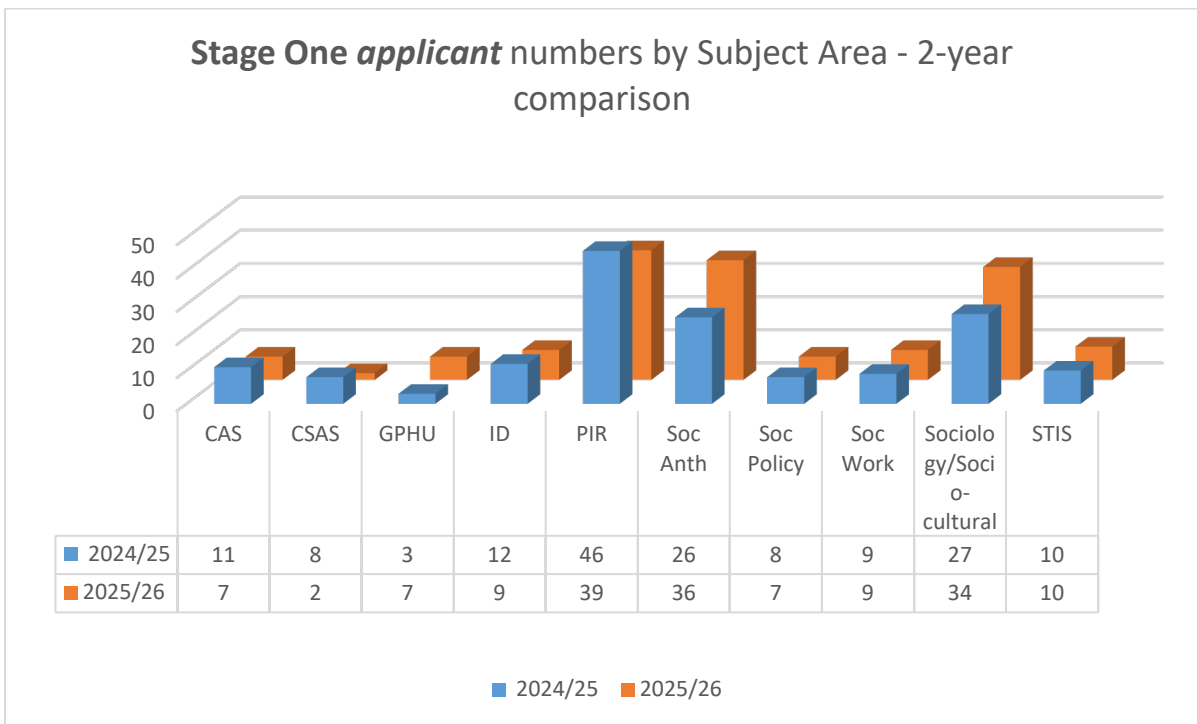
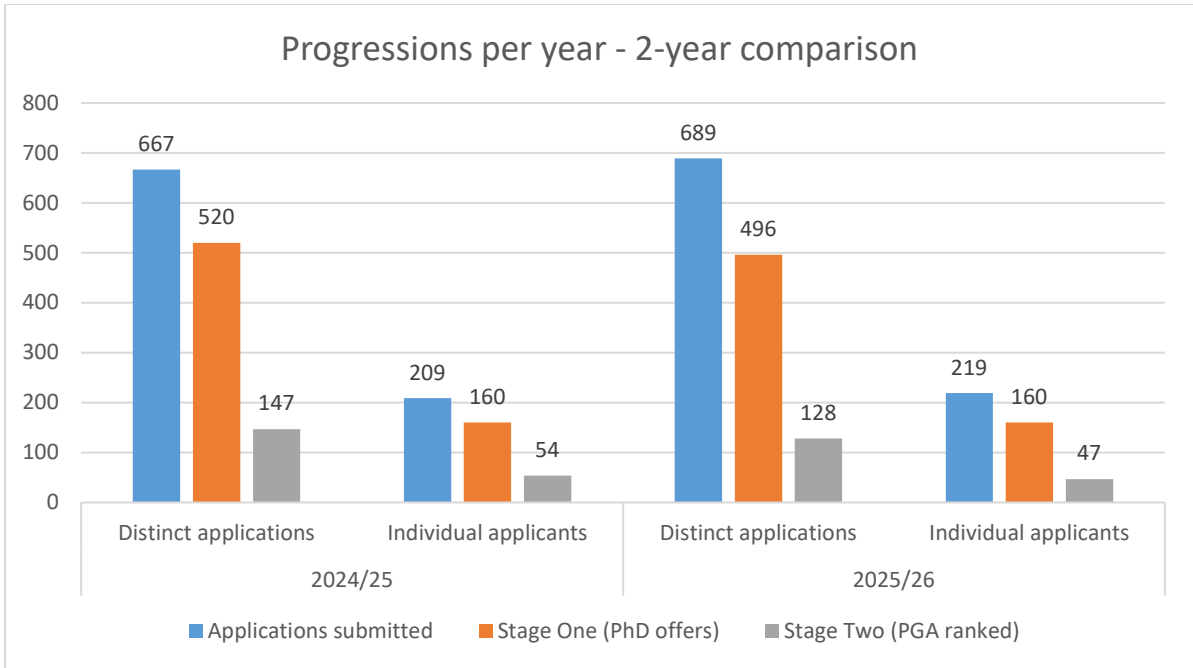
As per last year's recruitment cycle, the following measures were in place to attempt better management of applicant expectations in relation to the likelihood of receiving an award.

- publishing application versus award numbers on our scholarships webpages
- mandatory naming of Principal Supervisor on their PhD programme application, and agreement in principle before their scholarship application
- encouragement to take the online self-assessment tool to determine likelihood of being shortlisted, available on our scholarship website
- stronger dialogue from supervisors and PGAs to prospective applicants on chance of success
- PGAs and supervisors being selective in which applicants they are willing to support for scholarship applications

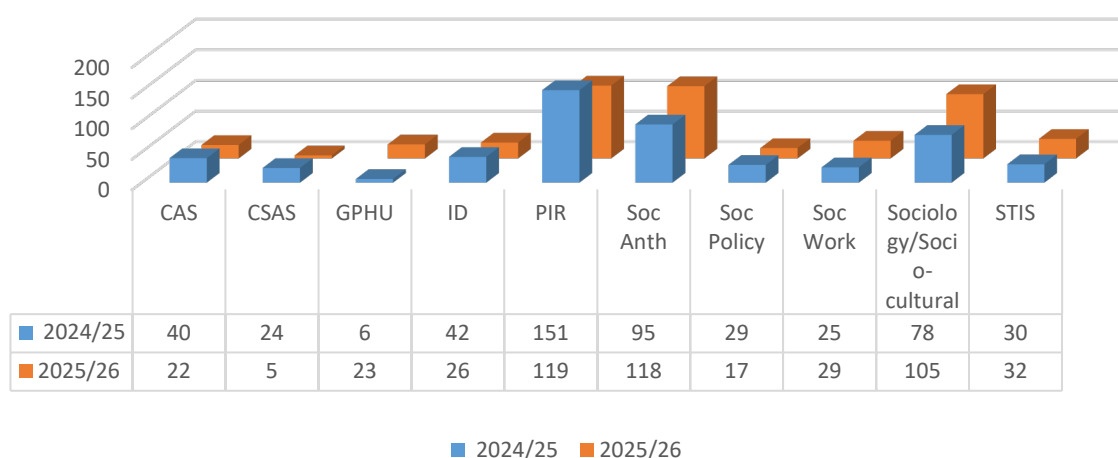
Following a marked drop in applications in 2022/23 and 2023/24 cycles after implementation of the above, there was a significant increase in applications in 2023/24 and 2024/25. Reasons for the increase are not clear.

Comparison figures to previous cycles are shown below.





Stage One *application* numbers by Subject Area - 2-year comparison



Current 1st Year full-time equivalent PhD students were eligible to apply for the School of SPS Award (2 Years FTE) and the Alice Brown PhD Scholarship (4-5 Years PTE). 19 eligible individual students applied – there were 18 applications for the SPS Award and 2 for Alice Brown.

The full statistical breakdown for all awards in 2025/26 can be found in the [Appendix](#). Note that one scholarship has been cascaded to a reserve candidate and it is possible that future cascading may occur.

Assessment process and timeline

- **Monday 3rd February 2025:** deadline for all SPS-managed scholarship applications
- **Friday 4th April:** Postgraduate Advisors have completed ranks and support statements for top ranked candidates being put forward to Stage Two
- **Wednesday 16th April:** Unsuccessful candidates not progressing to Stage Two are notified via the scholarship portal
- **Tuesday 6th May 2-4pm:** Stage Two panel meet to compile the overall school ranking
- **Wednesday 7th May** – Interview invites & awards for non-interview scholarships are sent
- **Wednesday 14th May 1-4pm:** Stage Two panel interviews - Alice Brown Scholarship (ABS)
- **Thursday 15th May 1-4pm:** Stage Two panel interviews - Edinburgh Doctoral College Scholarship (EDCS)
- **Friday 16th May** - awards for interview scholarships sent (ABS & EDCS)
- **By Friday 23rd May** – all Stage Two candidates advised of outcome (award, reserve, unsuccessful)

Yearly PhD scholarship award comparisons

Current students - SPS 1st Year PhD FTE			
SPS (separate pool)	Applicants	Awards offered	Subject area
2018/19	28	3	STIS / CAS / Soc Anth
2019/20	31	1	Sociology
2020/21	19	1	Int Dev
2021/22	16	1	Social Policy
2022/23	23	1	Politics
2023/24	17	1	South Asian Studies
2024/25	14	1	Sociology
2025/26	18	1	South Asian Studies
ABS (combined pool with future students)	Applicants	Awards offered	Subject area
2018/19	No data	0	
2019/20	4 (/21 total)	1	Soc Anth
2020/21	3 (/9 total)	2	Politics / STIS
2021/22	1 (/17 total)	0	
2022/23	4(/10 total)	1	Soc Anth
2023/24	4(/11 total)	1	Social Policy
2024/25	4(/13 total)	3	Social Work (declined for SGSSS) / Politics / Soc Anth
2025/26	2(/14 total)	0	

Awards and Reserves – final outcome (one cascade as of 8th August 2025)

Programme	Future or Current SPS PhD Student	CMS	SPS & SPS/(CRA)	ABS	EDCS
PhD South Asian Studies - 3 Years	Current		Award accepted - 2 Yrs		
PhD Politics - 3 Years	Current		1st Reserve - 2 Yrs		
PhD Sociology - 3 Years	Current		2nd Reserve - 2 Yrs		
PhD Politics - 3 Years	Current		3rd Reserve - 2 Yrs		
PhD Social Anthropology - 3 Years	Future		Awarded SGSAH/SGSSS		
PhD African Studies - 3 Years	Future		Award declined - 3 Yrs		
PhD Sociology - 3 Years	Future	1st Reserve	Award accepted - 3 Yrs		1st Reserve
PhD Social Anthropology - 3 Years	Future	Award accepted	Replica award (skip reserve)		2nd Reserve
PhD Social Policy - 3 Years	Future		Award accepted - 3 Yrs		4th Reserve
PhD Sociology - 3 Years	Future		3rd Reserve - 3 Yrs		3rd Reserve
PhD Science and Technology Studies - 3 Years	Future	Awarded higher (EDCS)	Awarded higher (EDCS)		Award accepted
PhD Sociology - 3 Years	Future		5th Reserve - 3 Yrs		
PhD Social Anthropology - 3 Years	Future		Awarded SGSAH/SGSSS		
PhD Social Work - 3 Years	Future	3rd Reserve	6th Reserve - 3 Yrs		
PhD Science and Technology Studies - 3 Years	Future		7th Reserve - 3 Yrs		
PhD Social Anthropology - 3 Years	Future		Awarded SGSAH/SGSSS		
PhD Politics - 3 Years	Future		8th Reserve - 3 Yrs		
PhD Politics - 3 Years	Future		9th Reserve - 3 Yrs		
PhD African Studies - 3 Years	Future		10th Reserve - 3 Yrs		
PhD Social Policy - 3 Years	Future		11th Reserve - 3 Yrs		
PhD Politics - 3 Years	Future		12th Reserve - 3 Yrs		
PhD Global Health Policy - 3 Years	Future		13th Reserve - 3 Yrs		
PhD African Studies - 3 Years	Future		14th Reserve - 3 Yrs		
PhD Social Policy - 6 Years	Future			Award accepted	
PhD Sociology - 3 Years	Future				
PhD Politics - 3 Years	Future				

Key: Replica award (skip reserve) = identical package to the one awarded so this award not offered

Appendix

Scholarships statistics 2025/26

Applications by Subject Area

Scholarship name	(All)
Row Labels	Count of UUN
PhD African Studies - 3 Years	27
PhD Global Health Policy - 3 Years	35
PhD International Development - 3 Years	47
PhD Politics - 3 Years	175
PhD Politics - 6 Years	5
PhD Science and Technology Studies - 3 Years	33
PhD Science and Technology Studies - 6 Years	3
PhD Social and Political Science - 3 Years	3
PhD Social Anthropology - 3 Years	136
PhD Social Anthropology - 6 Years	3
PhD Social Policy - 3 Years	32
PhD Social Policy - 6 Years	1
PhD Social Work - 3 Years	25
PhD Social Work - 6 Years	5
PhD Socio-Cultural Studies - 3 Years	4
PhD Socio-Cultural Studies - 6 Years	4
PhD Sociology - 3 Years	135
PhD South Asian Studies - 3 Years	16
Grand Total	689

Applicants by Subject Area

Scholarship name	(All)
Row Labels	Count of UUN
PhD African Studies - 3 Years	9
PhD Global Health Policy - 3 Years	11
PhD International Development - 3 Years	16
PhD Politics - 3 Years	58
PhD Science and Technology Studies - 3 Years	11
PhD Science and Technology Studies - 6 Years	1
PhD Social Anthropology - 3 Years	43
PhD Social Anthropology - 6 Years	1
PhD Social Policy - 3 Years	11
PhD Social Policy - 6 Years	1
PhD Social Work - 3 Years	9
PhD Social Work - 6 Years	1
PhD Socio-Cultural Studies - 6 Years	1
PhD Sociology - 3 Years	42
PhD South Asian Studies - 3 Years	4
Grand Total	219

Applications by scholarship

Programme	(All)
Row Labels	Count of UUN
Alice Brown PhD Scholarships	14
College of Arts, Humanities and Social Science Research Award - Social and Political Science	175
Edinburgh Doctoral College Scholarship - School of Social and Political Science	183
School of Social and Political Science PhD Scholarship	192
The Chrystal Macmillan PhD Scholarship	125
Grand Total	689

Scholarship name	Alice Brown PhD Scholarships
Row Labels	Count of UUN
PhD International Development - 3 Years	4
PhD Politics - 3 Years	3
PhD Politics - 6 Years	1
PhD Science and Technology Studies - 3 Years	1
PhD Social Anthropology - 3 Years	1
PhD Social Anthropology - 6 Years	1
PhD Social Policy - 6 Years	1
PhD Social Work - 6 Years	1
PhD Sociology - 3 Years	1
Grand Total	14

Scholarship name	The Chrystal Macmillan PhD Scholarship
Row Labels	Count of UUN
PhD African Studies - 3 Years	5
PhD Global Health Policy - 3 Years	7
PhD International Development - 3 Years	10
PhD Politics - 3 Years	30
PhD Politics - 6 Years	1
PhD Science and Technology Studies - 3 Years	5
PhD Social Anthropology - 3 Years	25
PhD Social Anthropology - 6 Years	1
PhD Social Policy - 3 Years	6
PhD Social Work - 3 Years	5
PhD Social Work - 6 Years	1
PhD Socio-Cultural Studies - 3 Years	1
PhD Socio-Cultural Studies - 6 Years	1
PhD Sociology - 3 Years	23
PhD South Asian Studies - 3 Years	4
Grand Total	125

Scholarship name	College of Arts, Humanities and Social Science Research Award - Social and Political Science
Row Labels	Count of UUN
PhD African Studies - 3 Years	8
PhD Global Health Policy - 3 Years	9
PhD International Development - 3 Years	10
PhD Politics - 3 Years	45
PhD Politics - 6 Years	1
PhD Science and Technology Studies - 3 Years	8
PhD Science and Technology Studies - 6 Years	1
PhD Social and Political Science - 3 Years	1
PhD Social Anthropology - 3 Years	36
PhD Social Anthropology - 6 Years	1
PhD Social Policy - 3 Years	7
PhD Social Work - 3 Years	6
PhD Social Work - 6 Years	1
PhD Socio-Cultural Studies - 3 Years	1
PhD Socio-Cultural Studies - 6 Years	1
PhD Sociology - 3 Years	35
PhD South Asian Studies - 3 Years	4
Grand Total	175

Edinburgh Doctoral College Scholarship - School of Social and Political Science	
Row Labels	Count of UUN
PhD African Studies - 3 Years	7
PhD Global Health Policy - 3 Years	9
PhD International Development - 3 Years	9
PhD Politics - 3 Years	49
PhD Politics - 6 Years	1
PhD Science and Technology Studies - 3 Years	10
PhD Science and Technology Studies - 6 Years	1
PhD Social and Political Science - 3 Years	1
PhD Social Anthropology - 3 Years	36
PhD Social Policy - 3 Years	10
PhD Social Work - 3 Years	7
PhD Social Work - 6 Years	1
PhD Socio-Cultural Studies - 3 Years	1
PhD Socio-Cultural Studies - 6 Years	1
PhD Sociology - 3 Years	37
PhD South Asian Studies - 3 Years	3
Grand Total	183

School of Social and Political Science PhD Scholarship	
Row Labels	Count of UUN
PhD African Studies - 3 Years	7
PhD Global Health Policy - 3 Years	10
PhD International Development - 3 Years	14
PhD Politics - 3 Years	48
PhD Politics - 6 Years	1
PhD Science and Technology Studies - 3 Years	9
PhD Science and Technology Studies - 6 Years	1
PhD Social and Political Science - 3 Years	1
PhD Social Anthropology - 3 Years	38
PhD Social Policy - 3 Years	9
PhD Social Work - 3 Years	7
PhD Social Work - 6 Years	1
PhD Socio-Cultural Studies - 3 Years	1
PhD Socio-Cultural Studies - 6 Years	1
PhD Sociology - 3 Years	39
PhD South Asian Studies - 3 Years	5
Grand Total	192

Scholarships statistics 2025/26 – individual applicants/candidates by Subject Area

Individual applicants by Subject Area	
<i>Note - some applicants applied for multiple programmes</i>	
<i>Note - PhD SPS applicants have been added to appropriate programme for stats per Subject Area</i>	
Row Labels	Count of UUN
PhD African Studies - 3 Years	9
PhD Global Health Policy - 3 Years	11
PhD International Development - 3 Years	16
PhD Politics - 3 Years	58
PhD Science and Technology Studies - 3 Years	11
PhD Science and Technology Studies - 6 Years	1
PhD Social Anthropology - 3 Years	43
PhD Social Anthropology - 6 Years	1
PhD Social Policy - 3 Years	11
PhD Social Policy - 6 Years	1
PhD Social Work - 3 Years	9
PhD Social Work - 6 Years	1
PhD Socio-Cultural Studies - 6 Years	1
PhD Sociology - 3 Years	42
PhD South Asian Studies - 3 Years	4
Grand Total	219

Note – there were 3 applications from 1 applicant for the generic **PhD Social and Political Science** programme –(full-time 3 Years). Application numbers per scholarship are shown below. In the tables following, these applications have been renamed as per their subject area programme (PIR) to illustrate total applications per subject area. At the time of report writing, the applicant has not transferred onto the PhD Politics programme and remains on the generic PhD programme.

Scholarships statistics 2025/26 – award allocations by Subject Area

Total applications per scholarship

Programme	(All)
Row Labels	Count of UUN
Alice Brown PhD Scholarships	14
College of Arts, Humanities and Social Science Research Award - Social and Political Science	175
Edinburgh Doctoral College Scholarship - School of Social and Political Science	183
School of Social and Political Science PhD Scholarship	192
The Chrystal Macmillan PhD Scholarship	125
Grand Total	689

Total applications per scholarship by Subject Area

To note:

- Awardee types marked with # denotes they are the same applicant as the line above
- SGSAH/SGSSS awardees must accept those awards instead of School awards as per Terms & Conditions

CENTRE FOR AFRICAN STUDIES (CAS)

Programme	PhD African Studies - 3 Years
Row Labels	Count of UUN
College of Arts, Humanities and Social Science Research Award - Social and Political Science	8
Edinburgh Doctoral College Scholarship - School of Social and Political Science	7
School of Social and Political Science PhD Scholarship	7
The Chrystal Macmillan PhD Scholarship	5
Grand Total	27

<u>Awardee type</u>	<u>Scholarship</u>	<u>Decision</u>	<u>Notes</u>
1st Awardee	SPS – 3 Years	Award declined	Top ranked. Accepted Cambridge scholarship
10 th Reserve	SPS – 3 Years	Not awarded	Accepted by higher candidate
14 th Reserve	SPS – 3 Years	Not awarded	Accepted by higher candidate

CENTRE FOR SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES (CSAS)

Programme	PhD South Asian Studies - 3 Years
Row Labels	Count of UUN
College of Arts, Humanities and Social Science Research Award - Social and Political Science	4
Edinburgh Doctoral College Scholarship - School of Social and Political Science	3
School of Social and Political Science PhD Scholarship	5
The Chrystal Macmillan PhD Scholarship	4
Grand Total	16

<u>Awardee type</u>	<u>Scholarship</u>	<u>Decision</u>	<u>Notes</u>
1st Awardee	SPS – 2 Years	Award accepted	Accepted

GLOBAL PUBLIC HEALTH UNIT (GPHU)

Programme	PhD Global Health Policy - 3 Years
Row Labels	Count of UUN
College of Arts, Humanities and Social Science Research Award - Social and Political Science	9
Edinburgh Doctoral College Scholarship - School of Social and Political Science	9
School of Social and Political Science PhD Scholarship	10
The Chrystal Macmillan PhD Scholarship	7
Grand Total	35

<u>Awardee type</u>	<u>Scholarship</u>	<u>Decision</u>	<u>Notes</u>
13 th Reserve	SPS – 3 Years	Not awarded	Award accepted by higher candidate

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (ID)

Programme	PhD International Development - 3 Years
Row Labels	Count of UUN
Alice Brown PhD Scholarships	4
College of Arts, Humanities and Social Science Research Award - Social and Political Science	10
Edinburgh Doctoral College Scholarship - School of Social and Political Science	9
School of Social and Political Science PhD Scholarship	14
The Chrystal Macmillan PhD Scholarship	10
Grand Total	47

<u>Awardee type</u>	<u>Scholarship</u>	<u>Decision</u>	<u>Notes</u>
No awards or reserves			No candidates put through to Stage Two

POLITICS & INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (PIR)

Programme	(Multiple Items)
PhD Politics 3 Years & 6 Years & PhD SPS 3 Years	
Row Labels	Count of UUN
Alice Brown PhD Scholarships	4
College of Arts, Humanities and Social Science Research Award - Social and Political Science	47
Edinburgh Doctoral College Scholarship - School of Social and Political Science	51
School of Social and Political Science PhD Scholarship	50
The Chrystal Macmillan PhD Scholarship	31
Grand Total	183

Awardee type	Scholarship	Decision	Notes
1 st Reserve	SPS – 2 Years	Not awarded	Accepted by higher candidate
3 rd Reserve	SPS – 2 Years	Not awarded	Accepted by higher candidate
8 th Reserve	SPS – 3 Years	Not awarded	Accepted by higher candidate
9 th Reserve	SPS – 3 Years	Not awarded	Accepted by higher candidate
12th Reserve	SPS – 3 Years	Not awarded	Accepted by higher candidate

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION STUDIES (STIS)

Programme	(Multiple Items)
PhD STIS 3 Years & 6 Years	
Row Labels	Count of UUN
Alice Brown PhD Scholarships	1
College of Arts, Humanities and Social Science Research Award - Social and Political Science	9
Edinburgh Doctoral College Scholarship - School of Social and Political Science	11
School of Social and Political Science PhD Scholarship	10
The Chrystal Macmillan PhD Scholarship	5
Grand Total	36

Awardee type	Scholarship	Decision	Notes
1st Awardee	EDCS	Award accepted	Top ranked
2 nd Reserve #	CMS	Not awarded	Accepted EDCS
4 th Reserve #	SPS	Not awarded	Accepted EDCS

SOCIAL ANTHROPOLOGY

Programme	(Multiple Items)
PhD Social Anthropology 3 Years & 6 Years	
Row Labels	Count of UUN
Alice Brown PhD Scholarships	2
College of Arts, Humanities and Social Science Research Award - Social and Political Science	37
Edinburgh Doctoral College Scholarship - School of Social and Political Science	36
School of Social and Political Science PhD Scholarship	38
The Chrystal Macmillan PhD Scholarship	26
Grand Total	139

Awardee type	Scholarship	Decision	Notes
1 st Awardee	CMS	Award accepted	Top ranked
1 st Reserve #	SPS – 3 Years	Not awarded	Awarded CMS
Ranked	SPS – 3 Years	Not awarded – no longer eligible	Accepted SGSAH award
Ranked	SPS – 3 Years	Not awarded – no longer eligible	Accepted SGSSS award
Ranked	SPS – 3 Years	Not awarded – no longer eligible	Accepted SGSSS award

SOCIAL POLICY

Programme	(Multiple Items)
PhD Social Policy 3 Years & 6 Years	
Row Labels	Count of UUN
Alice Brown PhD Scholarships	1
College of Arts, Humanities and Social Science Research Award - Social and Political Science	7
Edinburgh Doctoral College Scholarship - School of Social and Political Science	10
School of Social and Political Science PhD Scholarship	9
The Chrystal Macmillan PhD Scholarship	6
Grand Total	33

Awardee type	Scholarship	Decision	Notes
1 st Awardee	ABS	Award accepted	Top ranked
2 nd Reserve	SPS – 3 Years	Awarded	Declined by higher candidate
11 th Reserve	SPS – 3 Years	Not awarded	Accepted by higher candidate

SOCIAL WORK

Programme	(Multiple Items)
PhD Social Work 3 Years & 6 Years	
Row Labels	Count of UUN
Alice Brown PhD Scholarships	1
College of Arts, Humanities and Social Science Research Award - Social and Political Science	7
Edinburgh Doctoral College Scholarship - School of Social and Political Science	8
School of Social and Political Science PhD Scholarship	8
The Chrystal Macmillan PhD Scholarship	6
Grand Total	30

Awardee type	Scholarship	Decision	Notes
3rd Reserve	CMS	Not awarded	Accepted by higher candidate
6 th Reserve #	SPS – 3 Years	Not awarded	Accepted by higher candidate

SOCIOLOGY & SOCIO-CULTURAL STUDIES

Programme	(Multiple Items)
PhD Sociology & PhD Socio-Cultural Studies 3 Years & 6 Years	
Row Labels	Count of UUN
Alice Brown PhD Scholarships	1
College of Arts, Humanities and Social Science Research Award - Social and Political Science	37
Edinburgh Doctoral College Scholarship - School of Social and Political Science	39
School of Social and Political Science PhD Scholarship	41
The Chrystal Macmillan PhD Scholarship	25
Grand Total	143

Awardee type	Scholarship	Decision	Notes
1st Awardee	SPS – 3 Years	Award accepted	Top ranked
1 st Reserve #	CMS	Not awarded	Accepted by higher candidate & awarded SPS
1 st Reserve #	EDCS	Not awarded	Accepted by higher candidate & awarded SPS
2 nd Reserve	SPS – 2 years	Not awarded	Accepted by higher candidate
3 rd Reserve	SPS – 3 Years	Not awarded	Accepted by higher candidate
3 rd Reserve #	EDCS	Not awarded	Accepted by higher candidate
5 th Reserve	SPS – 3 Years	Not awarded	Accepted by higher candidate

Toni Jenkins, SPS PGR Support Officer, 13 August 2025