SGSSS Funding Arrangements

This document summarises the primary financial arrangements for the SGSSS-DTP and our partner higher education institutions (HEIs). It covers studentships, postdoctoral fellowships, running costs and our payment timeline. If you have any questions about element of this document, please contact the SGSSS Head of Strategy and Operations at team@sgsss.ac.uk.

Studentships and Postdoctoral Fellowships

As agreed at the SGSSS Supervisory Board, all SGSSS studentships are co-funded by the HEI, typically to the value of 33.0%. (This supersedes a previous co-funding agreement outlined in the 2017 Partnership Agreement; the new arrangement has been in place since 2019). Full details of these arrangements are outlined below by competition type, detailing the percentage splits for the cost of studentships and postdoctoral fellowships between SGSSS, HEIs and Collaborative Partners (where applicable).

Following the award of ESRC funding for the next phase of the SGSSS Doctoral Training Partnership, different funding amounts and different Terms & Conditions are applicable to different cohorts of students. In the document below, “DTP 1” refers to any cohort of students that started their studentship award from October 2017 to October 2023 inclusive. “DTP 2” refers to any cohort of students that started their studentship award from October 2024 to October 2028 inclusive.

Studentship Costs

Each academic year an ESRC-funded studentship is made up of four primary costs, as listed below:

- Fees
- Standard maintenance grant (stipend)
- Research Training Support Grant (RTSG) [1]
- Overseas fieldwork support (OFW) [2]

To view the current ESRC rates for the above listed costs, please see the ESRC website here.

In addition to the above listed costs there is one further cost per studentship called cohort development. This is paid during the first academic year of a studentship and is £4,000 for DTP 1 students and £3,330 for DTP 2 students.

Open Competition Studentship Funding Arrangement

1. SGSSS: 67.0%; HEI: 33.0%

Please Note:

- From the 2019/20 intake, the above is the standard co-funding arrangement for all Open Competition studentships.

[1] DTP 1 students are entitled to a notional RTSG allowance of up to £750 per academic year; for DTP 2 students this is £940. RTSG can be used flexibly across the complete funded period. HEIs only contribute their co-funding percentage for the actual amount claimed per student, rather than the co-funding percentage of the full allowance.

[2] OFW is typically only available to students who referred to this within their original proposal and have successfully submitted an application approved by the SGSSS Directorate and HEI Admin Lead. HEIs contribute their co-funding percentage for the actual amount claimed per student.

- Studentships awarded through the Open Competition can be collaborative also; therefore, the split will depend on the relevant collaborative partner (see **Open Collaborative Competition Studentship Funding Arrangement** section below for details).

Steers Competition Studentship Funding Arrangement

1. SGSSS: 67.0%; HEI: 33.0%

Please Note:

- From the 2019/20 intake, the above is the standard co-funding arrangement for all Steer Competition studentships.
- Studentships awarded through the Steers Competition can be collaborative also; therefore, the split will depend on the relevant collaborative partner (see **Open Collaborative Competition Studentship Funding Arrangement** section below for details).

Open Collaborative Competition Studentship Funding Arrangement

1. <u>Private Sector with < 10 Employees:</u>
   SGSSS: 65.0%; HEI: 25.0%; Collaborative Partner: 10.0%

2. <u>Private Sector with < 50 employees:</u>
   SGSSS: 50.0%; HEI: 25.0%; Collaborative Partner: 25.0%

3. <u>Private Sector with < 250 employees:</u>
   SGSSS: 50.0%; HEI: 17.0%; Collaborative Partner: 33.0%

4. <u>Private Sector with > 250 employees:</u>
   SGSSS: 50.0%; HEI: 0.0%; Collaborative Partner: 50.0%

5. <u>Public Sector:</u>
   SGSSS: 50.0%; HEI: 17.0%; Collaborative Partner: 33.0%

6. <u>Charity/Third Sector:</u>
   SGSSS: 65.0%; HEI: 25.0%; Collaborative Partner: 10.0%

7. <u>In-kind contribution</u>
   SGSSS: 67.0%; HEI: 33.0%; Collaborative Partner: 0.0%

Please Note:

- It is the responsibility of the HEI to agree the funding arrangements with the collaborative partner and to arrange for the funding to be paid to the HEI directly – SGSSS will only ever pay an HEI the SGSSS percentage of cost(s) for a studentship.
- We can only consider applications with an in-kind contribution from the collaborative partner in exceptional circumstances. In these cases, we would require information about the cash value equivalent of in-kind support, so the supervisor will need to make it clear in the application what type of in-kind support is being provided and how this can be quantified.

Skills Development Scotland (SDS) Collaborative Competition Studentship Funding Arrangement

1. SGSSS: 50.0%; HEI: 17.0%; SDS: 33.0%

Please Note:

- SDS do not pay towards cohort development and as such this will be split between SGSSS and HEIs as per the standard co-funding arrangement:
  SGSSS: 67.0%; HEI: 33.0%

- Unlike all other collaborative contributions, SDS pay their contributions to SGSSS directly and as such HEIs are not required to oversee these arrangements. For all other collaborative partnerships however, it is the responsibility of the HEI to agree the funding arrangements with the collaborative partner and to arrange for the funding to be paid to the HEI directly – SGSSS will only ever pay an HEI the SDS and SGSSS percentage of cost(s) for a studentship.

Part-Time Studentships

The relevant financial arrangement will be pro-rated accordingly for part-time students. This is typically (but not always) 50.0%; the HEI must inform SGSSS if the full-time equivalent (FTE) differs.

Cross-Institutional Supervision

We will continue to support cross-institutional supervision where the arrangements are in the best interests of students. In these cases, the lead institution will be regarded as the host institution. The expectation is that the host institution will be responsible for covering the HEI contribution of the relevant funding split. The second institution will not be responsible for any proportion of the contribution. Further, the fees due will be transferred to the host institution with no expectation of a proportion of the fees going to the second institution.

Exceptions will be made where the cross-institutional supervision partnership is with one of our HEIs[3] that is not eligible for studentships. For these studentships, 33.0% of fees income will go to the second institution as part of the SGSSS reconciliation process (with the remaining 67.0% going to the host institution).

Postdoctoral Fellowship (PDF) Scheme Funding Arrangement

1. ESRC: 80.0% of fEC[4]; HEI: 20.0% of fEC

Please Note:

- ESRC make payment of their contribution to host HEIs directly, i.e. SGSSS does not receive the funding first.
- For the full ESRC Research Funding Guide, please visit the ESRC website here.

Master's Programmes

Like all PhD annual tuition fees, the fee applicable for any SGSSS students undertaking a Master's programme as part of their studentship must be charged at the standard ESRC rate. If the Master's fee is higher, the difference should be waived or covered by the Master's institution, as per the Partnership Agreement. To view the current ESRC fee rates, please see the ESRC website here.

Running Costs

As per the SGSSS Partnership agreement, each HEI shall provide an annual contribution towards SGSSS staffing and operational costs. The base amount is £7,750 (from October 2024 onwards) plus an uplift for DTP members, depending on the size of the institution. Please contact team@sgsss.ac.uk for the exact contribution for your institution.

Internship/Research in Practice Costs

DTP 1 students and non-funded students undertaking an internship are required to suspend their programme for the duration of their internship (typically three months full time). During this period, SGSSS pay a stipend

[3] For DTP 1: Abertay University, University of Highlands & Islands, Robert Gordon University, University of the West of Scotland; for DTP 2: Queen Margaret University and Robert Gordon University.
[4] Full economic costs.

commensurate with the UKRI stipend levels; internship stipends are not subject to the co-funding agreement and SGSSS will continue to reimburse HEIs for 100% of these costs. DTP 2 ESRC funded students will not need to suspend their programme and will continue to receive their stipend in the usual way, which will be subject to co-funding arrangements. Expenses incurred by students during their internship will not be subject to co-funding agreement and SGSSS will continue to reimburse HEIs for 100% of these costs.

Payment Timeline

All payments to/from SGSSS are coordinated via the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences Finance (CAHSS) Officer at the University of Edinburgh to the relevant contact person at the partner HEI (as directed by the HEI Administrative Lead). Due to the number of partners within SGSSS, we can only operate financial reconciliations at HEI level and are unable to deal with individual schools/faculties.

There are three key payment periods per year:

- January: SGSSS invoices HEIs for contributions to membership fees and Cohort Development funds.
- March: SGSSS issues reconciliation for Q1&2 stipend payments and full year fees.
- September: SGSSS issues reconciliation for Q3&4 stipend payments.

Additional Information

Useful information can be found in [Terms and conditions for training funding – UKRI] and [ESRC postgraduate funding guide – UKRI.]