

DTA Supervisor Grant Scheme



Doctoral Training Alliance
Future Societies

Background

To encourage and incentivise further engagement with and from supervisors across the DTA Future Societies programme network the DTA Team and Programme Directors have developed a new supervisor grant scheme.

Supervisors from across the DTA network, can apply for a grant of up to £2,000, to be used towards activities linked to the thematic priorities of Future Societies, which are:

- i) resource sustainability,
- ii) citizen equality,
- iii) societal challenges.

Activities should benefit and add value to the wider UA doctoral community of supervisors and doctoral researchers, through expansion of skill set and/or supervisory practice.

Activities can take a range of forms, including, but not restricted to:

- traditional conferences,
- high-end skills workshops,
- network launches,
- interdisciplinary reading groups,
- impact activities,
- workshops that address a problem/challenge.

The DTA encourages cross-institutional applications and those that directly involve doctoral researchers as part of the proposal development phase.

Eligibility

Supervisors based in any one of the DTA Future Societies universities¹ are eligible to apply for this fund, however, applications must include or be supported by a member of staff who is or has been a supervisor for a DTA Future Societies doctoral researcher.

Application process

Complete a **DTA Supervisor Fund application form** and submit to dta@unialliance.ac.uk by **31 October 2025**.

The application form will ask you to outline the proposed activity, including:

- format,
- audience,
- capacity,
- time of year,
- how it promotes and/or develops good supervisory practice and/or doctoral training,

¹ For 2025-26: Anglia Ruskin University, Birmingham City University, University of Brighton, Coventry University, University of Derby, University of Greenwich, University of Hertfordshire, University of South Wales and Teesside University

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- how it fits within the thematic priorities of Future Societies,
- costs required to run the event,
- what support would be required from the DTA Team

The funds will be awarded as an external grant, and applicants should follow their university processes for external funding and related activity when developing the application.

Selection process

Following an initial eligibility assessment, checking applicant status and thematic alignment (see above), eligible applications will be reviewed by a cross-institutional panel, including academic staff and PGR representatives, who will assess applications against the following criteria:

Impact & Benefit

- **Community Benefit** – the extent to which the proposed activity demonstrates clear benefits for the wider UA doctoral community, including supervisors and doctoral researchers.
- **Skill & Practice Development** – the extent to which the proposal outlines how the activity will expand skill sets or enhance supervisory practices.
- **Inclusivity & Engagement** – the extent to which the proposed activity involves doctoral researchers in both planning and execution.

Activity Scope & Feasibility

- **Defined Objectives** – the extent to which the proposal outlines specific goals and expected outcomes of the activity.
- **Budget Justification** – the extent to which the proposal has a clear and realistic breakdown of how the funds (up to £2,000) will be used, ensuring cost-effectiveness, been provided.
- **Timeline & Feasibility** – the extent to which the proposal has a clear timeline, demonstrating feasibility within the grant period, been provided.

Funding available

A total of £5,000 to support activities taking place during 2025-26 (to be completed by 31 July 2026) will be available.

Each application can apply for a maximum of £2,000.

Eligible costs include:

- Venue hire
- Catering
- Printing costs
- Training resources
- External speaker/facilitator fee
- One off subscription cost to an online platform
- PGR reimbursement

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The number of awards funded will depend on a range of factors, including number of applications received, number of applications assessed as eligible and meeting the panel's selection criteria, and estimated amount requested by each applicant.

Key dates for 2025-26

- Scheme launch webinar: **25 September 2025 - 12.30-13.15**
- Funding call opens: **1 October 2025**
- Application deadline: **31 October 2025**
- Review of submissions to be completed by: **7 November 2025**
- Notification of outcomes by: **10 November 2025**
- Activity to be completed by: **31 July 2026**

Depending on the outcomes of this call a further round will be launched later in the year for activities to take place during 2025-26. Details to be confirmed in December 2025.