

Testimonials from recipients of the Doctoral School Research Awards 2021/22

I'm very grateful to the Doctoral School Research awards for providing me with funds to attend an international summer school that is essential for my development as a researcher, international collaborations, and my thesis. It will train me in current techniques and numerical methods at the forefront of my field and expand my skillset and knowledge significantly. It means a lot to me specifically as a student from a low income background as I would not be able to attend without financial support and I am incredibly thankful to be given the opportunity, widening the access to higher education activities.

Receiving an award from the University to support my PhD research is a great honour and feels like an endorsement of my project and skills as a researcher. The award means a lot to me as it shows me that my project is not only valued by the institution but that they also genuinely care about our projects on an individual level. As a self-funded PhD student it is even harder to secure funding but applying for this award showed me that it's worth trying, no matter at what stage of your PhD!

I want to offer my heartfelt gratitude to you and your team for granting my application. This funding enables me to undertake fieldwork in Nigeria's Middle Belt, which would not have been possible without it.

Receiving the funding from the Doctoral School Research Awards (2021-22) has made an immeasurable contribution to the success of my PhD research at Royal Holloway. Fieldwork opportunities during the earlier years of my project were blockaded by the COVID-19 pandemic, and so having the support to conduct fieldwork now, later in my project and test my theoretical models means a lot to my work, but also to my personal development as a researcher in the Earth Sciences. I thank the Doctoral School for supporting me in my research endeavours.

Being part of the 'Doctoral School Research Awards 2021-22' has been a wonderful experience for my PhD journey. My PhD takes the format publications. Attending the international labour process conference is for me to engage in debates with scholars specialising in global mobility research, present a paper based on my recent fieldwork and further develop the paper for publication in a high-quality academic journal. I will hugely benefit from the research reward as I am able to attend an in-person conference for feedback and networking opportunities with academic and fellow PhD students with shared research interests in labour mobility.

I am extremely grateful to have been given this award by the Doctoral school. The opportunity to attend the IAIFI summer school will allow me to improve both my knowledge and skills in machine-learning, which I can then apply to my current PhD work. This award will permit me to network with researchers at the forefront of machine-learning, applied to the field of experimental particle physics, with the hope of instigating intense collaboration. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Doctoral school research awards panel for their consideration and acceptance of my application, I am immensely appreciative.

Receiving this travel award is immensely valuable to me. It enables me to not only present my work this summer at both the British Combinatorial Conference and the AMS-EMS-SMF International Meeting, but has also facilitated a collaboration between myself and other researchers in my field. These opportunities will help me increase visibility for my work, extend my academic network and to expand the breadth of my ongoing body of research. Through the collaboration, I hope to answer broader and more complex questions drawing on expertise from different areas of mathematics.

Receiving funding through the Doctoral School Research Awards will enable me to fully realise my project. By visiting Rathlin Island, the setting of my ecological novel, I will be able to immerse myself within the island and its history, further grounding the sense of place and environment that is essential to the work. Without such funding, my project may lack the sense of authentic experience that can only be derived from researching a landscape yourself. I am very grateful to Royal Holloway for seeing the value in the arts, at a time when its funding seems to be drying out.

This award will enable me to do vital archival research into an artist who is little known in the UK but whose short career contributed to one of the most influential modern art movements in Europe, Arte Povera. The Pino Pascali archive holds much of the artists original photography work, objects which have been considered sketches for his sculptural pieces, and which are not widely reproduced. The ability to consult them and other unique holdings in the archive will be of huge value to my PhD research and hopefully contribute to a piece of published peer-reviewed work in the future.

It means a great deal to receive the Doctoral School Research Award. Through fieldwork conducted in Rwanda, Uganda, and the Democratic Republic of Congo I was able to capture narratives from those characterized as forgotten, disregarded, and forsaken. This academic project also plays a pivotal role in influencing evidence-based policymaking. The financial assistance provided by Royal Holloway, University of London brings visibility to victims of sexual violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

With this award, I will be attending the European Group for Organisation Studies (EGOS) Conference in July 2022 for which my paper has already been accepted. My topic is "Living with a 'rubbish husband' – work/family conflict among self-employed Chinese women". Adopting a narrative identity approach, it sheds light on how women in this study start to act agency and challenge the traditional patriarchal structure. By attending this conference, I wish to get constructive feedback and develop my paper into a journal article.

I am in the final year of my PhD, and without the support of the Doctoral School Research Award I would have missed out on key training and research opportunities. The award allowed me to attend training in Scotland, where I gained experience in the application of dating techniques to environmental records, vital for the next stage in my PhD analyses. Likewise, the award has also part-funded attendance of the European Geosciences Union in Vienna, where I will co-convene a session, network, and make my first in-person conference presentation. I am very grateful for the funding support.

I am delighted to have been chosen as a recipient of the 2021-2022 Doctoral School Research Awards. Since finishing my M.A. in creative writing, I have been inspired to continue my research on culture and identity at Royal Holloway University of London. This award, which recognises the importance of cultural immersion and the advantages of field research, demonstrates the ongoing support from the University. Receiving this award has accelerated my research plans, allowing me to gain valuable insight for my PhD research and beyond.

I'm extremely grateful to the Doctoral School Research Awards providing me with funding for my PhD research. The funds will allow me to take part in a once in a lifetime opportunity and join an expedition to the Chagos Archipelago in June to investigate plastic pollution on the beaches and in the water. I will also be working with the personnel from the military base on their use of single plastic. This trip will form the basis of my fieldwork research chapter, and will also be a chance to develop new skills, including science communication and outreach.

The Doctoral School Research Award will allow me to travel to the field this summer and collect video-data for my PhD project about wild baboon communication. My project aims to understand whether baboons communicate intentionally and flexibly and, thus, whether those two traits that were once thought to be human language hallmarks are indeed more deeply rooted in the animal kingdom. This award not only means that I will be able to take the first steps to answer those questions, but it is also an important recognition of the value of a project that I have been developing for years

This award will allow me to travel to the international Metabolomics conference, to present my work and get feedback from experts in the field, before I submit my thesis. After two years of cancelled conferences and virtual events, this will also be a chance to interact with other PhD students and early career researchers working in the field. It also offers the chance to attend skills based and career workshops, to further develop my metabolomics skill set.

I am very grateful to receive a Doctoral School Research Award, which will allow me to travel to an international conference on Evolutionary Biology this summer. I am excited to share the work we have done at Royal Holloway on the ecological drivers of memory in bumblebees with others in the field. Attending this conference will also give me the opportunity to meet like-minded scientists and form potential future collaborations.

I am very grateful for the award that I have been granted. It will allow me to travel to Finland for three weeks this summer and gather data for two chapters in my PhD. I will be measuring chemical defences of trees in boreal forests to find out whether trees growing in species-rich forests have a greater resistance to insect pests than those growing in monocultures. This work will help inform decisions on what trees to plant where, and how we can use forests more effectively to tackle the climate crisis and biodiversity loss.

In the one remaining chapter of my PhD thesis still to be written, I will attempt to develop a new presentation of my concept of the 'zonality' by placing it into conversation with the network of palaeolithic cave sites situated across the Cantabria region of Northern Spain. The Doctoral School Research Award will give me the opportunity to draw upon local knowledge of the cave networks, and to conduct experimental fieldwork as a means of producing multimedia responses to the material culture at issue. My PhD project will benefit greatly from this Award, for which I am truly grateful.

For me, receiving the Doctoral School Research Award means that I can conduct my research abroad more smoothly and efficiently as the award provides generous financial support. The award also gives me further motivation to do my best during my experience abroad as it enables me to worry less about the financial aspect and focus more on the work experience. It further reflects Royal Holloway's understanding and support for students who wish to enrich their research with more opportunities!

Receiving an award was a fantastic opportunity to develop my research further. It allowed me to travel to meet academics in my field around the world, developing new networks and establishing relationships with key figures. The opportunity to jump into some hands-on experiences will undoubtedly benefit my research and give my doctoral thesis vital insights into current practices, just in time for my writing-up year! Travelling to America also gave me also the opportunity to visit universities and meet students with very different outlooks on approaches to studying music: this trip showed me new perspectives on many things I had only just begun to consider.

Receipt of the 2021-22 Doctoral School Research Award is not only a huge honour, but a vital lifeline for me. Awards like this enable researchers to pursue their work at the highest, international level and help to stave off the difficult negotiation between high-quality dissemination and financial stability. This award has helped to stabilise my finances following a crucial (but costly) trip to Barcelona to present my music and study with world-leading composers at the 2021 Mixtur Festival; it leaves me free, excitingly, to plan my next round of activity!

Thank you for the generous funding support from the Doctoral School of the Royal Holloway University of London toward my PhD data collection. I sincerely appreciate your time and consideration. Receiving this scholarship means a lot to me because it not only provides financial assistance but also gives me the encouragement to move forward.