

SPS SCHOLARSHIPS REPORT – 2026/27 AWARDS

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Scholarships overview

In 2026/27, the scholarship covered in the two-tiered assessment process by the School's (Stage One) Postgraduate Advisors and (Stage Two) Panel was:

- [Edinburgh Doctoral College Scholarship](#) (EDCS) (3.5 Years for future student, FTE) [1]

Other School scholarships available in previous years were not available for award in this cycle.

The EDCS was advertised on the School's [website](#), the University's central scholarship pages, and via external platforms and social media channels. The closing dates was 2nd February 2026. Applications were submitted via the University's EUCLID Scholarship Portal which was open for applications in November 2025. In order to be considered for this scholarship, an applicant must have submitted an application via the portal. They cannot be offered an award for a scholarship they have not applied for.

Application and progression figures

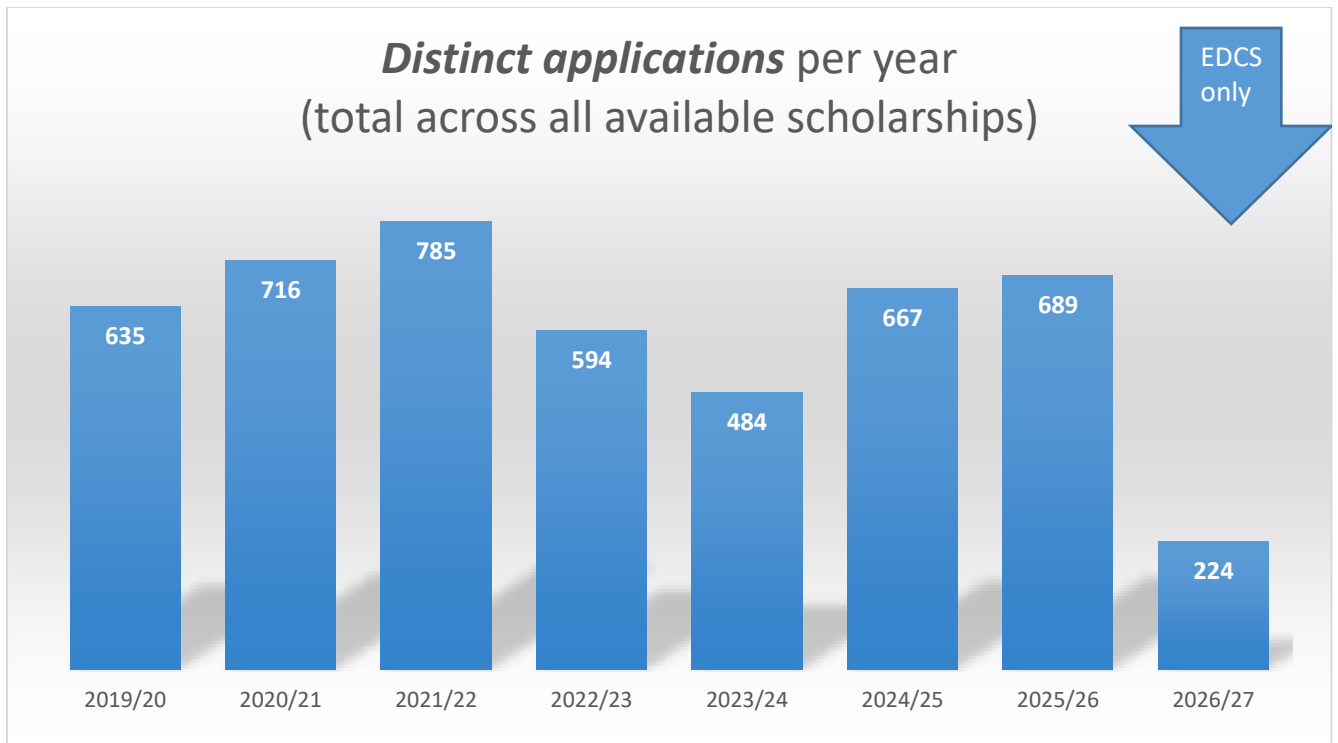
In this cycle, a total of 224 distinct applications were submitted by 220 eligible individual applicants applying for the Edinburgh Doctoral College Scholarship. Four applicants applied for multiple PhD programmes. Following PG Admissions stage, the number of offer-holders passed to Postgraduate Advisors for Stage One assessment reduced to 130 applications from 127 individual applicants. Stage Two comprised of 10 applications from 10 individual applicants.

As per previous years' recruitment cycles, 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

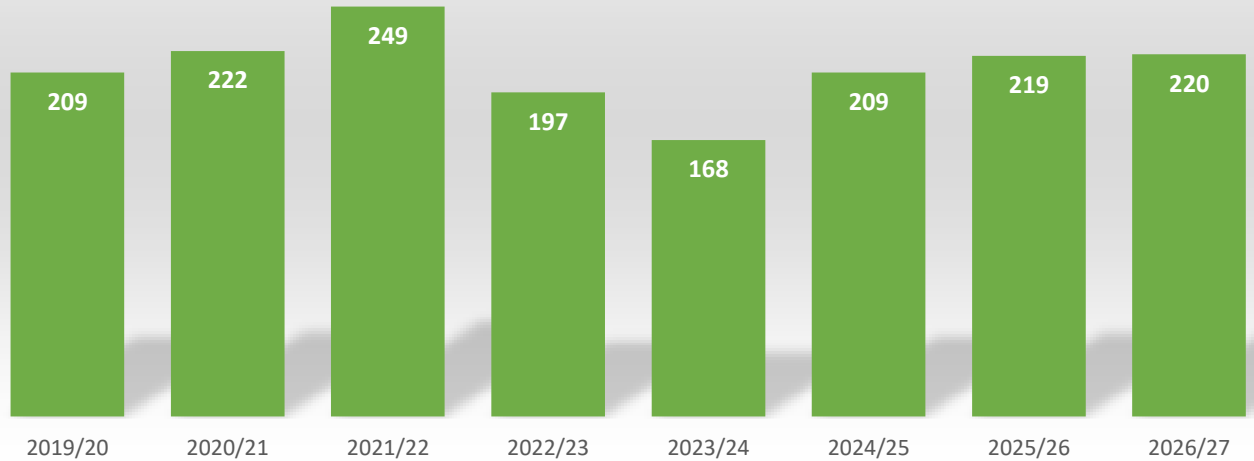
Applicant numbers continued to be high this year with 220 individuals applying for the Edinburgh Doctoral College Scholarship. Most scholarship applicants apply for this award each year. Applicant and application numbers in comparison to previous years, where multiple scholarships were available, are shown below.

Comparison figures to previous cycles are shown below.

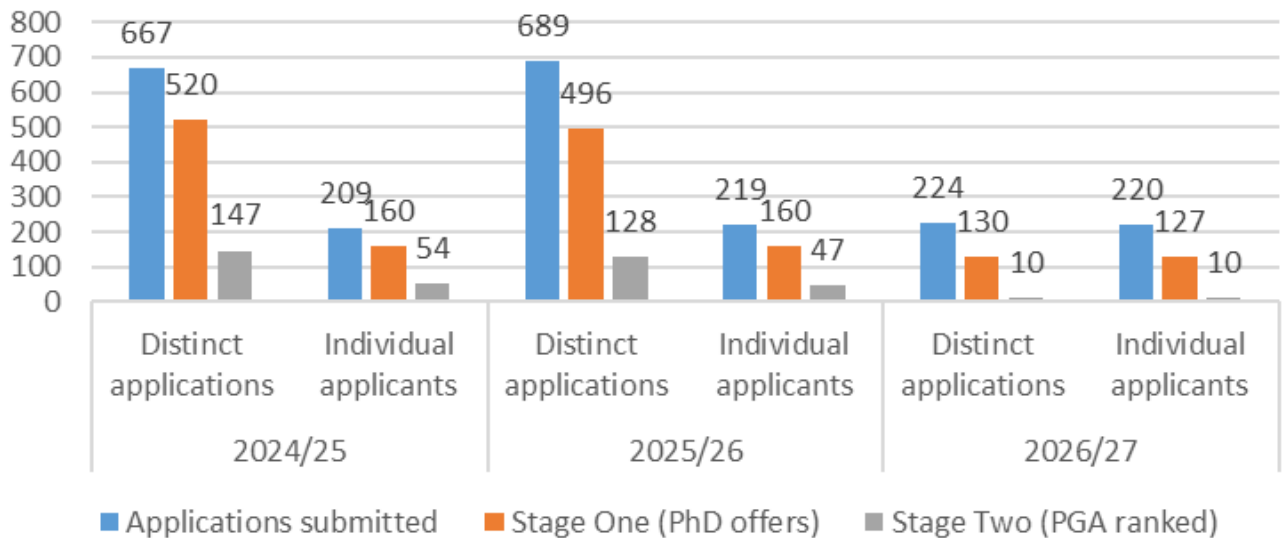


Individual applicants per year
(total across all available scholarships)

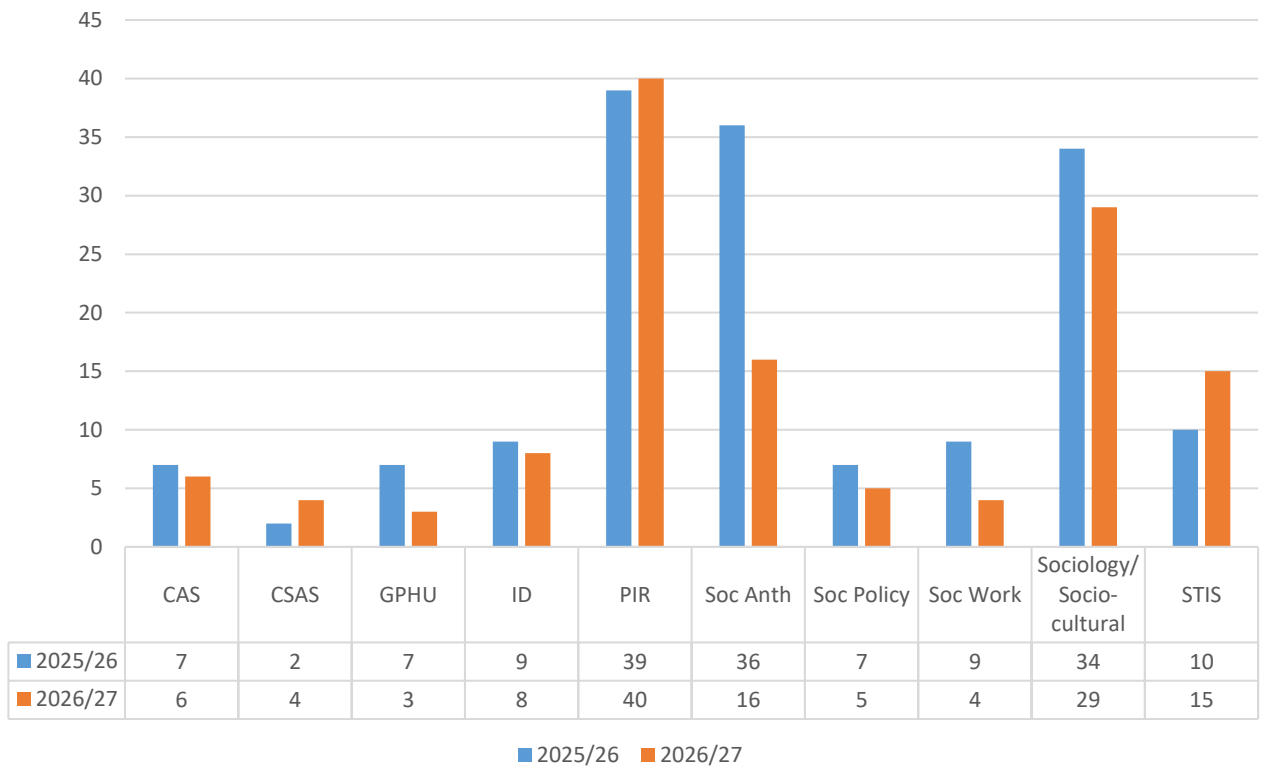
EDCS
only



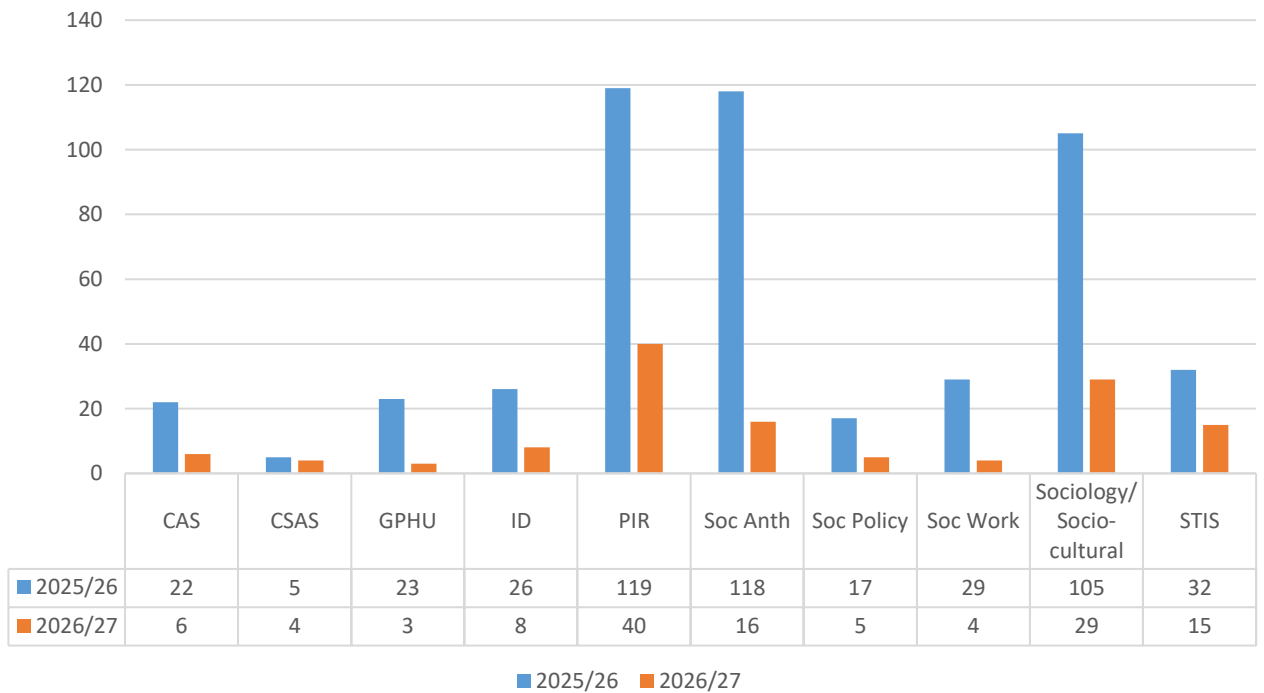
Progressions per year - 3-year comparison



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



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



The full statistical breakdown in 2026/27 can be found in the [Appendix](#). Note that while cascading to reserves has not been required at the time of writing this report, it is possible that future cascading may occur.

Assessment process and timeline

- **Monday 2nd February 2026:** deadline of EDCS applications
- **Friday 3rd April:** Postgraduate Advisors have completed all ranks and the support statement for the top ranked candidate being put forward to Stage Two
- **Thursday 30th April** – Unsuccessful candidates not progressing to Stage Two are notified via the scholarship portal
- **Tuesday 5th May 2-4pm:** Stage Two panel meet to compile the overall school ranking
- **Wednesday 6th May** – Interview invites for EDCS award are sent
- **Thursday 14th May 1-4pm:** Stage Two panel interviews - Edinburgh Doctoral College Scholarship
- **Friday 15th May** - offer and reserve notifications for EDCS sent
- **By Friday 22nd May** – all Stage Two candidates advised of outcome (award, reserve, unsuccessful)

Yearly PhD scholarship award comparisons

Current students - SPS 1st Year PhD FTE			
	Applicants	Awards offered	Subject area
SPS (separate pool)			
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
2026/27	0	0	Scholarship not available
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	
2026/27	0 (0 total)	0	Scholarship not available

Awards and Reserves – final outcome (as of 02 June 2026)

Programme	Future or Current SPS PhD Student	EDCS interview (required)	EDCS outcome
PhD Social Anthropology - 6 Years	Future	Interview	Award accepted
PhD Politics - 3 Years	Future	Interview	1st Reserve
PhD African Studies - 3 Years	Future	Interview	2nd Reserve
PhD Sociology - 3 Years	Future	Interview	3rd Reserve
PhD Science and Technology Studies - 3 Years	Future	Interview	DNA (Awarded SGSSS)
PhD South Asian Studies - 3 Years	Future	Interview	DNA (declined)
PhD International Development - 3 Years	Future		Unsuccessful
PhD Social Work - 3 Years	Future		Unsuccessful
PhD Global Health Policy - 3 Years	Future		Unsuccessful
PhD Social Policy - 3 Years	Future		Unsuccessful

Appendix: Scholarship statistics 2026/27

Applications/applicants by Subject Area 2026/27

Edinburgh Doctoral College Scholarship - School of Social and Political Science	
Scholarship name	
Row Labels	Count of UUN
PhD African Studies - 3 Years	11
PhD Global Health Policy - 3 Years	6
PhD International Development - 3 Years	26
PhD Politics - 3 Years	56
PhD Science and Technology Studies - 3 Years	15
PhD Science and Technology Studies - 6 Years	2
PhD Social Anthropology - 3 Years	39
PhD Social Anthropology - 6 Years	1
PhD Social Policy - 3 Years	8
PhD Social Work - 3 Years	8
PhD Socio-Cultural Studies - 3 Years	1
PhD Sociology - 3 Years	35
PhD South Asian Studies - 3 Years	16
Grand Total	224

Scholarship statistics 2026/27 – individual applicants/candidates for EDCS by Subject Area

Individual applicants by Subject Area	
<i>Note - some applicants applied for multiple programmes</i>	
Row Labels	Count of UUN
PhD African Studies - 3 Years	11
PhD Global Health Policy - 3 Years	6
PhD International Development - 3 Years	26
PhD Politics - 3 Years	56
PhD Science and Technology Studies - 3 Years	15
PhD Science and Technology Studies - 6 Years	2
PhD Social Anthropology - 3 Years	39
PhD Social Anthropology - 6 Years	1
PhD Social Policy - 3 Years	8
PhD Social Work - 3 Years	8
PhD Socio-Cultural Studies - 3 Years	1
PhD Sociology - 3 Years	35
PhD South Asian Studies - 3 Years	16
Grand Total	224

Nominations for Stage Two – one per Subject Area:

Nominees per Subject Area for Stage Two	Number
PhD African Studies - 3 Years	1
PhD Social Work - 3 Years	1
PhD Global Health Policy - 3 Years	1
PhD Politics - 3 Years	1
PhD Social Anthropology - 6 Years	1
PhD South Asian Studies - 3 Years	1
PhD Science and Technology Studies - 3 Years	1
PhD International Development - 3 Years	1
PhD Social Policy - 3 Years	1
PhD Sociology - 3 Years	1

Scholarship statistics 2026/27 – award allocations by Subject Area.

Total number of applicants per subject area shown.

CENTRE FOR AFRICAN STUDIES (CAS)

Row Labels	Count of UUN
PhD African Studies - 3 Years	11

<u>Awardee type</u>	<u>Scholarship</u>	<u>Decision</u>	<u>Notes</u>
2 nd Reserve	EDCS	Interviewed / not awarded	Award accepted by higher candidate

CENTRE FOR SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES (CSAS)

Row Labels	Count of UUN
PhD South Asian Studies - 3 Years	16

<u>Awardee type</u>	<u>Scholarship</u>	<u>Decision</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Invited for interview	EDCS	Not awarded	Declined interview as change in plans

GLOBAL PUBLIC HEALTH UNIT (GPHU)

Row Labels	Count of UUN
PhD Global Health Policy - 3 Years	6

<u>Awardee type</u>	<u>Scholarship</u>	<u>Decision</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Reserve for interview	EDCS	Not awarded	Not invited for interview in 1 st round

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (ID)

Row Labels	Count of UUN
PhD International Development - 3 Years	26

<u>Awardee type</u>	<u>Scholarship</u>	<u>Decision</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Reserve for interview	EDCS	Not awarded	Not invited for interview in 1 st round

POLITICS & INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (PIR)

Row Labels	Count of UUN
PhD Politics - 3 Years	56

<u>Awardee type</u>	<u>Scholarship</u>	<u>Decision</u>	<u>Notes</u>
1 st Reserve	EDCS	Interviewed / not awarded	Award accepted by higher candidate

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION STUDIES (STIS)

Row Labels	Count of UUN
PhD Science and Technology Studies - 3 Years	15
PhD Science and Technology Studies - 6 Years	2

<u>Awardee type</u>	<u>Scholarship</u>	<u>Decision</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Invited for interview	EDCS	Not awarded	Declined interview for SGSSS scholarship

SOCIAL ANTHROPOLOGY

Row Labels	Count of UUN
PhD Social Anthropology - 3 Years	39
PhD Social Anthropology - 6 Years	1

<u>Awardee type</u>	<u>Scholarship</u>	<u>Decision</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Awarded	EDCS	Award accepted	Top ranked

SOCIAL POLICY

Row Labels	Count of UUN
PhD Social Policy - 3 Years	8

<u>Awardee type</u>	<u>Scholarship</u>	<u>Decision</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Reserve for interview	EDCS	Not awarded	Not invited for interview in 1 st round

SOCIAL WORK

Row Labels	Count of UUN
PhD Social Work - 3 Years	8

<u>Awardee type</u>	<u>Scholarship</u>	<u>Decision</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Reserve for interview	EDCS	Not awarded	Not invited for interview in 1 st round

SOCIOLOGY & SOCIO-CULTURAL STUDIES

Row Labels	Count of UUN
PhD Socio-Cultural Studies - 3 Years	1
PhD Sociology - 3 Years	35

<u>Awardee type</u>	<u>Scholarship</u>	<u>Decision</u>	<u>Notes</u>
3 rd Reserve	EDCS	Interviewed / not awarded	Award accepted by higher candidate

Toni Jenkins, SPS PGR Support Officer, 02 June 2026
