



A Guide to the Length of our Awards (2024)

While the SGSSS will discuss the best fit award for each student at the Development Needs Analysis, this section provides some guidance to help students and supervisors anticipate which award will work for them. There are two types of award typically available: +3.5; 1+3.5, but fractional awards are also possible (see Table 1).

Figure 1: The SGSSS PhD Training Journey



Table 1: Guide to the SGSSS awards 2024

Award	Student Descriptor
Standard +3.5 years (42 months)	Students who already have a masters relevant to their PhD study, or are research experienced* such that their skills and training fulfil the ESRC's Postgraduate Training Guidelines in full, will be considered ready to begin their PhD. At award, the Development Needs Analysis may reveal a small gap that can be filled with a training event – this will not change the length of award.
1+3.5 years (54 months)	Students who do not have a recent masters, or have a masters that is not in a field aligned to their PhD will likely be awarded a 1+3.5 award, completing the most relevant masters at their home institution. An additional year of funding is provided to cover this training.
Common fractional awards	
0.5+3.5 (48 months)	6 months on top of standard PhD funding. Students who already have a masters relevant to their PhD study, or are research experienced* such that their skills and training partially fulfil the ESRC's Postgraduate Training Guidelines. However, they miss aspects of core, conceptual or general training (e.g. need to take 2 or more courses in social science research design, qualitative or quantitative analysis)
0.25+3.5 (45 months)	3 months on top of standard PhD funding. Students who already have a masters relevant to their PhD study, or are research experienced* such that their skills and training partially fulfil the ESRC's Postgraduate Training Guidelines. However, they miss aspects of core, conceptual or general training (e.g. need to take 1 course in social science research design, qualitative or quantitative analysis)
Notes:	*for example, held a research assistant position or published academic journals and can demonstrate their learning fulfils the requirements of the ESRC's Postgraduate Training Guidelines (2015/22) Students who have already completed some of their PhD study could be offered a

	shorter award such as a +2.5 All awards are available on a part time basis.
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