Sample form, not for offline completion.

Visit https://crocus-dla.grantplatform.com to apply.

Crocus DLA Cohort 01 Project Applications 2025

Thank you so much for your interest in the CROCUS Doctoral Learning Alliance (DLA) Call for Projects.

We truly appreciate the time and effort you are putting into preparing your project proposals. We know you have many other commitments, and your willingness to support our doctoral candidates in this way means a lot to us.

Your ideas and projects play an important role in shaping a strong and meaningful learning experience for our candidates. They will help students build their skills, grow their knowledge, and make a real difference in their fields and in the wider community.

We are excited to read your proposals and to see the range of projects you bring forward. Your support is key to building a strong and vibrant learning alliance that benefits everyone involved.

Thank you again for your commitment and for sharing your expertise with us. We look forward to working with you in the coming months.

Please create your own reference number for your application.

> (text field)

How did you hear about Crocus PhD studentships?

- [ ] FindAPhd
- [ ] Crocus Website
- [ ] BlueSky
- [ ] Crocus Supervisor
- [ ] Current University
- [ ] My Jobs Online (MJO)
- [ ] LinkedIn
- [ ] Word Of Mouth
- [ ] Target Connect
- [ ] Other

Check as many are applicable

This is your opportunity to explain why you are interested in pursuing a PhD with CROCUS and to highlight the skills and experiences that make you a strong candidate for doctoral research.

The information you provide will be reviewed by project supervisors to determine interview invitations and by the CROCUS Selection Board to assess candidates for studentship offers.

CROCUS is committed to reducing unconscious bias in the selection process. Recognizing that traditional selection criteria—such as university affiliation, publications, or research placements can disadvantage students from underrepresented backgrounds, CROCUS aims to reduce unconscious bias by anonymizing parts of your application.

Supervisors will base interview decisions on the following:

1. Your degree title
2. Your statement of interest in undertaking a PhD with CROCUS,
3. Your personal statement outlining skills and experiences relevant to a PhD, and
4. Your project-specific statement of interest.

Please note that we do not require a CV or resume. Therefore, include all relevant information in your statements to ensure a comprehensive application.

We also encourage you to share any circumstances that may have influenced your academic journey, such as (but not limited to) caregiving responsibilities, disabilities, or financial challenges.

While word limits are provided for each section, you are not required to use the full allowance. Prioritize clear and concise responses to present your application effectively.

Why do you want to do a PhD in an environmental science within the Crocus DLA?   500 words

Use this space to tell us about your research interests and what you enjoy about carrying out research. You may also consider the career opportunities and transferable skills a PhD would provide you with. You have the opportunity to state your interest in specific projects on the "Project" tabs

What skills and experience do you have that would make you a good PhD researcher in an environmental science?   500 words

Use this space to tell us what broader skills and experience you already possess that will help you carry out a PhD. Provide specific examples rather than just listing the skills. For instance, examples of academic writing skills could be your final-year project dissertation, or your contributions to a report or publication. Examples of presentation skills could be from a student committee, a poster award, or teaching experience. You have the opportunity to highlight skills for specific projects on the "Project" tabs

Tell us about any circumstances that have affected your academic career to date   500 words

The use of colours in the project tabs bears no relation to the actual project titles. The colours are randomly assigned and are only used to identify your project for the supervisors without an apparent order (e.g. 1, 2, 3, 4)

Project Choice

	▼

CR2025_01-Understanding the risk of extreme U.S. winter weather

CR2025_02-Network approaches to rewilding Britain's ecosystems

CR2025_03-Improving precipitation forecasts using airborne and EarthCARE satellite observations

CR2025_04-Understanding the mechanisms linking the solar wind and terrestrial lightning

CR2025_05-Realising the benefits of next generation sub-km ensemble weather forecasts

CR2025_06-Cross-shelf transport processes in a changing climate

CR2025_07-Secondary metabolic gene evolution in the industrially important fungi

CR2025_08 [HOME ONLY]-AI in the Museum – quantifying over a century of change in the geographical ranges of the birds of Madagascar

CR2025_09-What is causing Southern Ocean sea ice loss?

CR2025_10-New insights into the timing and scale of past Mediterranean volcanism and climate change from Lake Ohrid (Macedonia/Albania).

...

Select the project that you are interested in
Selecting one choice is mandatory, while the others are optional.

Why is this project of interest to you? What skills and knowledge can you bring to it? Mention any courses, project or work experience you have taken that are particularly relevant to this project.

Although we have set a word limit, you are not expected to write close to 500 words

The use of colours in the project tabs bears no relation to the actual project titles. The colours are randomly assigned and are only used to indentify your project for the supervisors without an apparent order (e.g. 1, 2, 3, 4)

Project Choice (optional)

▾

| CR2025_01-Understanding the risk of extreme U.S. winter weather |
| CR2025_02-Network approaches to rewilding Britain's ecosystems |
| CR2025_03-Improving precipitation forecasts using airborne and EarthCARE satellite observations |
| CR2025_04-Understanding the mechanisms linking the solar wind and terrestrial lightning |
| CR2025_05-Realising the benefits of next generation sub-km ensemble |
| CR2025_06-Cross-shelf transport processes in a changing climate |
| CR2025_07-Secondary metabolic gene evolution in the industrially important fungi |
| CR2025_08 [HOME ONLY] -AI in the Museum – quantifying over a century of change in the geographical ranges of the birds of Madagascar |
| CR2025_09-What is causing Southern Ocean sea ice loss? |
| CR2025_10-New insights into the timing and scale of past Mediterranean volcanism and climate change from Lake Ohrid (Macedonia/Albania). |
| ... |

Select the project that you are interested in

Why is this project of interest to you? What skills and knowledge can you bring to it? Mention any courses,   (optional)
project or work experience you have taken that are particularly relevant to this project.

Although we have set a word limit, you are not expected to write close to 500 words

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Project Choice (optional)

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…

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Why is this project of interest to you? What skills and knowledge can you bring to it? Mention any courses,   (optional)
project or work experience you have taken that are particularly relevant to this project.

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Project Choice (optional)

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...

Select the project that you are interested in

Why is this project of interest to you? What skills and knowledge can you bring to it? Mention any courses, project or work experience you have taken that are particularly relevant to this project. (optional)

Although we have set a word limit, you are not expected to write close to 500 words

Please only list undergraduate and post-graduate level qualifications. Degree certicates and transcripts must be uploaded on the "Supporting Material" tab.

Where your final grade is not yet known, please provide a predicted grade.

If you gained your qualification at a non-UK institution, please include both the local grade and the UK equivalent. To find the UK equivalent, please check the following resources:

https://www.grb.uk.com/recruiter-research/international-degree-equivalents

Please contact us crocus-dla@reading.ac.uk if you have any questions.

Qualification

Start Date

End Date

University

Name of the awarding institution

Country

Degree Title

e.g. BSc (Hons) Physics, MSc Mathematics etc

Associate Degrees (Undergraduate, 2-Year Programs)
Bachelor's Degrees
Master's Degrees
Doctoral Degrees (Postgraduate, Advanced Study and Research)
Specialized or Professional Degrees

Grade

UK Equivalent Grade

Achieved or predicted?

| ▾ |

Achieved

Predicted

Qualification 2

Start Date (optional)

End Date (optional)

University (optional)

Name of the awarding institution

Country (optional)

Degree Title (optional)

[   ]

e.g. BSc (Hons) Physics, MSc Mathematics etc

Associate Degrees (Undergraduate, 2-Year Programs)
Bachelor's Degrees
Master's Degrees
Doctoral Degrees (Postgraduate, Advanced Study and Research)
Specialized or Professional Degrees

Grade (optional)

[   ]

UK Equivalent Grade (optional)

[   ]

Achieved or predicted? (optional)

[▾]

Achieved

Predicted

Qualification 3

Start Date (optional)

[   ]

End Date (optional)

[   ]

University (optional)

[   ]

Name of the awarding institution

Country (optional)

[   ]

Degree Title (optional)

[   ]

e.g. BSc (Hons) Physics, MSc Mathematics etc

Associate Degrees (Undergraduate, 2-Year Programs)
Bachelor's Degrees
Master's Degrees
Doctoral Degrees (Postgraduate, Advanced Study and Research)
Specialized or Professional Degrees

Grade (optional)

[   ]

UK Equivalent Grade (optional)

[   ]

Achieved or predicted? (optional)

[▼]

Achieved

Predicted

CROCUS DLA Commitment to Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI)

CROCUS DLA is committed to fostering continuous improvement in equality, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) across its cohorts and practices.

We recognize that traditional selection criteria—such as a candidate's university, publication history, or research placements—can disadvantage students from underrepresented or disadvantaged backgrounds. To mitigate unconscious bias, parts of your application will be anonymized before review.
Supervisors will evaluate candidates for interview based solely on:

- Your degree title
- Your statement of interest in pursuing a CROCUS PhD.
- Your personal statement outlining skills and experiences relevant to a PhD.
- Your project-specific statement of interest.

Please note that we do not require a CV or resume. Be sure to include any information you consider important within your statements.

Monitoring Our Progress

To help us track progress in line with UKRI and Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) guidelines, we ask you to complete a brief survey. Your responses are for monitoring purposes only and will not influence your application for a CROCUS studentship.

We understand that some ethnic backgrounds, gender identities, or sexual orientations may not be fully represented in the options provided. While we aim to offer inclusive self-identification options, the terminology aligns with NERC and UKRI Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion reporting requirements. Please select the option that best aligns with your identity.

UKRI Equality, Diversity and Inclusion policy

CROCUS values and supports students from all backgrounds, regardless of age, disability, ethnicity, religion, gender identity, or sexuality.

What is your age?

24 or under
25-29
30-39
40-49
50-59
60 or over
I would prefer not to say

What is your age?

29 or under
30-39
40-49
50-59
60 or over
I would prefer not to say
Unknown

Do you have a disability?

Yes
No
I would prefer not to say

What best describes your ethnicity?

Asian or Asian British
Black, Black British, Caribbean, or African
Mixed or Multiple Ethnic Groups
White
Other Ethnic Group
I would prefer not to say

What best describes your sex?

▼
Female
Male
I use another term
I would prefer not to say

What best describes your sexual orientation?

▼
Bisexual
Gay / Lesbian
Heterosexual / straight
I use another term
I would prefer not to say

Age Group

Date of Birth

Disability Status

Do you have an impairment, health condition, or learning difference that has a substantial impact on your ability to carry out day-to-day activities and has lasted, or is expected to last, at least 12 months?

☐ No known impairment, health condition or learning difference

☐ Learning difference such as dyslexia, dyspraxia or AD(H)D

☐ Social/communication conditions such as a speech and language impairment or an autistic spectrum condition

☐ Long-term illness or health condition such as cancer, HIV, diabetes, chronic heart disease, or epilepsy

☐ Mental health condition, challenge or disorder, such as depression, schizophrenia or anxiety

☐ Physical impairment (a condition that substantially limits one or more basic physical activities such as walking, climbing stairs, lifting or carrying)

☐ D/deaf or have a hearing impairment

☐ Blind or have a visual impairment uncorrected by glasses

☐ Development condition that you have had since childhood which affects motor, cognitive, social and emotional skills, and speech and language

☐ An impairment, health condition or learning difference not listed above

☐ ...

Ethnicity (optional)

What is your ethnic group?

☐ Asian - Bangladeshi or Bangladeshi British

☐ Asian - Chinese or Chinese British

☐ Asian - Filipino

☐ Asian - Indian or Indian British

☐ Asian - Pakistani or Pakistani British

☐ Any other Asian background

☐ Black - African or African British

☐ Black - Caribbean or Caribbean British

☐ Any other Black background

☐ Mixed or multiple ethnic groups - White or White British and Asian or Asian British

☐ ...

Religious belief

What is your religion?

☐ No religion

☐ Buddhist

☐ Christian

☐ Hindu

☐ Jewish

☐ Muslim

☐ Pagan

☐ Sikh

☐ Any other (religion or belief)

☐ Prefer not to say

☐ ...

Gender Identity

Is the gender you identify with the same as your sex registered at birth?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Prefer not to say

☐ Not Available