

E4 DTP - Professional Development Scheme (PDS) - FAQs

When can I apply to the PDS?

The PDS can be applied for from the beginning of your 4th year of study, as soon as you can prove that you have submitted 2 first-author papers which were written during your PhD, and no later than 2 months before the end of your stipend.

What if I have only one paper submitted by the end of my funding?

The PDS gives 2 extra months of stipend for 2 papers submitted. There is no provision for providing 1 month of extra stipend for 1 paper.

What if my funding end date already matches my submission deadline?

What if the PDS stipend extension takes me beyond my current submission deadline?

In this case, the PDS will extend your funding beyond your current deadline and we will need to request an extension of your submission deadline to College to match this new funding end date. Deadline extensions can only be processed near the submission deadline (about 3-4 months before).

Can a paper on my Master research be considered for a PDS application?

Only if your paper was written during your PhD studies and if it is related to things done during your PhD studies (so not if your Master was on a completely different topic). The PDS scheme is to compensate time spent on writing a paper during your PhD studies in support of your PhD studies. One aim of this scheme is to encourage you to write papers and include them in your final thesis as chapters. This scheme is not intended to support you while spending time to write papers which are not related to your PhD thesis or topic (and which could also potentially be out with of the NERC research remit).

Do I need to be the first author on the paper?

Yes. There can be co-authors.

How do I prove that I will submit a paper in the next 2 months?

For administrative reasons, we need to receive your PDS application at least 2 months before your stipend ends so that we can extend your stipend in time. Hence, in some cases, we will accept papers that you are planning to submit within the next 2 months, but you will need to submit your final draft with the application for verification. We will mainly trust that you are on track to submit the paper and may also double-check how close you are from submission with your supervisors.

Do papers need to be submitted to a peer-reviewed journal?

Yes

Any other questions, please get in touch with the E4 DTP team at e4dtp.support@ed.ac.uk