

PHD APPLICATION SERVICE

ELEMENT FIVE



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Funding Support Report

Applicant: Daniel Thorne [FICTIONAL]

Proposed PhD Topic: “Strategic Integration of ESG Frameworks in Multinational Enterprises”

Targeted Universities:

1. University of Cambridge
2. University of Oxford
3. University of Edinburgh
4. Copenhagen Business School
5. Erasmus University Rotterdam

Overview

Securing competitive funding for PhD study in the UK and Europe requires careful alignment of one’s research proposal with institutional priorities, funding body themes, and supervisor interests. Below is a breakdown of relevant scholarships, studentships, and support routes for each of the five universities shortlisted.

1. University of Cambridge

Scheme: Cambridge Trust Scholarships

- **Eligibility:** Open to international students; funding awarded on academic merit and financial need.
- **What it Covers:** Tuition, maintenance stipend, and travel (fully-funded).
- **Application Process:** Automatically considered when applying via the university’s online portal before funding deadlines.
- **Key Deadlines:** Early December for funding consideration.
- **Notes:** Prior contact with a supervisor strengthens the application. The proposed ESG topic aligns with the university’s sustainability and policy initiatives (e.g., Centre for Business Research).

Additional Opportunities:

- **Gates Cambridge Scholarship** – Full funding for outstanding applicants from outside the UK.
- **ESRC DTP (via CJBS)** – Must be routed via the Judge Business School’s PhD programme, with limited awards per year.

2. University of Oxford

Scheme: Clarendon Scholarships

- **Eligibility:** All graduate applicants considered automatically; open to international candidates.
- **What it Covers:** Full tuition + annual stipend (£18,000+).

- **Application Process:** No separate application; submit complete PhD application by January.
- **Notes:** The Saïd Business School's research on ESG and responsible business makes it a strong thematic match.

Other Options:

- **Skoll Centre Scholarships (Saïd Business School)** – Targeted at social entrepreneurship and sustainability-focused candidates.
- **Departmental Studentships** – Often tied to faculty research themes; early contact with faculty is advised.

3. University of Edinburgh

Scheme: Edinburgh Global Research Scholarships

- **Eligibility:** International students pursuing full-time PhDs.
- **What it Covers:** Full tuition; living costs must be self-funded or covered via another source.
- **Deadline:** Early February annually.
- **Notes:** Strong opportunity due to the Business School's focus on sustainability and circular economy models. Collaboration with the Centre for Business, Climate Change, and Sustainability (B-CCaS) is recommended.

Other Opportunities:

- **ESRC Studentships (via Scottish Doctoral Training Centre)** – UKRI-funded, supports interdisciplinary sustainability themes.
- **College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences Studentships** – Often includes tuition + stipend.

4. Copenhagen Business School (CBS)

Scheme: CBS Fully-Funded PhD Scholarships

- **Eligibility:** Open to EU and international students; highly competitive.
- **What it Covers:** Full tuition, monthly salary (as staff), pension.
- **Deadline:** Typically biannual (January and September cycles).
- **Notes:** Applicants are considered employees; expected to contribute to teaching and departmental work (up to 840 hours over 3 years). Sustainability and CSR are core research pillars at CBS.

Other Options:

- **Independent Funding via Danish Innovation Fund or VELUX Foundation** – Available for sustainability-oriented topics with Danish institutional affiliation.

5. Erasmus University Rotterdam

Scheme: Erasmus Research Institute of Management (ERIM) PhD Positions

- **Eligibility:** International applicants with a strong Master's academic background.
- **What it Covers:** Salary-based (net monthly €2,541+), research support, training budget.
- **Deadline:** December–January annually.
- **Notes:** Focus on innovation, sustainability, and corporate governance. Applicants must apply for an ERIM position, usually posted as a vacancy.

Supplementary Options:

- **Nuffic/Orange Knowledge Programme** – For non-EU international students from selected countries.
- **Rotterdam School of Management (RSM) Scholarships** – Competitive internal funding.

General Recommendations

- **Start Early:** Submit PhD applications **at least 3–4 weeks** before institutional deadlines to be considered for funding.
- **Tailor Your Proposal:** Emphasise how your ESG/sustainability focus aligns with the specific university research centres or faculty themes.
- **Contact Supervisors First:** Almost all funding is strengthened by the willingness of a professor to supervise your work.
- **Explore National Schemes:**
 - UKRI International Studentships (ESRC/EPSRC)
 - Commonwealth PhD Scholarships (for eligible nationalities)
 - DAAD (if expanding to Germany)