**Studentship Proposal Form 2020**

04/06/2019

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| **Application Type** | | | | |
| **University of Registration: …………………………………….**  **Does this proposal include an offer of 50% match-funding?** Please provide details here and include a letter of commitment from the funding partner.  **CASE funded?** YES/NO  (If YES, then a *letter of agreement* must be provided by the CASE partner and submitted with this form, and the CASE supervisor named below)  **Collaborative?** YES/NO  Will there be research and supervision involving an external partner (not CASE)? (If YES, then brief written confirmation from the partners is required, and the Collaborative supervisor named below) | | | | |
| **Primary Supervisor (see** [**note 1**](#Note1) **for eligibility criteria)** | | | | |
| **Name (incl. Dr/Prof etc)** | | **Institute** | **Email address** | |
|  | |  |  | |
| **Secondary Supervisor (see** [**note 2**](#Note2)**)** | | | | |
| **Name (incl. Dr/Prof etc)** | | **Institute, company etc** | **Include name/affiliation in advert? (Y/N)** | **Email address** |
|  | |  |  |  |
| **Other Supervisory Team Member(s) (see** [**note 2**](#Note2)**)** | | | | |
| **Name (incl. Dr/Prof etc).** | **CASE supervisor?** | **Institute, company etc** | **Include name/affiliation in advert? (Y/N)** | **Email address** |
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|  |  |  |  |  |
| **Independent Research Impact Advisor (optional) (see** [**note 2**](#Note2)**)** | | | | |
| **Name (incl. Dr/Prof etc)** | | **Institute, company etc** | **Email address** | |
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| **Project Title (**[**see appendix 2**](#Appendix2)**)** | | | |
|  | | | |
| **Project advertisement text (maximum 350 words) (**[**see appendix 2**](#Appendix2)**)** | | | |
| **As well as forming the text for the project advertisement, this summary will also be used by the sift panel in conjunction with the Supplementary Project Description (below) to assess the quality of the proposed project.** | | | |
| *Please provide a description that would be intelligible to suitable candidates and that addresses the following (you may use the same headers):*  Scientific background *(the wider context; why the project is important and timely)*  Research methodology *(what precisely will the student do? Where? How?)*  Training *(what opportunities will the student have? What skills will they gain?)*  Person specification *(what are you looking for in applicants?); you must include the desired degree subject(s) but please note that our adverts will state that the requirement is for a minimum 2:1 Bachelor degree (requirements for an MSc or first class degree will be removed).* | | | |
| **References** | | | |
| **Please list up to five relevant references (these will also be included in the advertisement). *At least two of these must be recent relevant papers authored (or co-authored) by the supervisory team.*** | | | |
| **1.** |  | | |
| **2.** |  | | |
| **3.** |  | | |
| **4.** |  | | |
| **5.** |  | | |
| **Standard text which will be appended to the advert:**  This project has been shortlisted for funding by the ARIES NERC Doctoral Training Partnership. Shortlisted applicants will be invited to interview at XXX on XX February 2020.  Funding  Successful candidates who meet UKRI’s eligibility criteria will be awarded a NERC studentship - in 2018/19 the stipend is £14,777. In most cases, UK and EU nationals who have been resident in the UK for 3 years are eligible for a full award. For non-UK EU-resident applicants NERC funding can be used to cover fees, RTSG and training costs, but not any part of the stipend. Individual institutes may, however, elect to provide a stipend from their own resources. | | | |
| **Image for advertisement MANDATORY** | | | |
| Please include a non-copyrighted image that we can publish with your advert on the ARIES website. You can paste this below, provide a hyperlink, or otherwise submit the image with your proposal. | | | |
| **Video for advertisement (optional but recommended)** | | | |
| Videos have proved highly effective for recruiting excellent candidates, and offer you the opportunity to explain more about the PhD research, its context, the research environment etc, in a direct way (and without word limits). They need only be simple (e.g. a ‘talking head’) and should last no longer than around 2 minutes. If you have produced a video, please upload it to YouTube and paste the hyperlink below (or you can send it to us for upload to our YouTube channel – contact aries.dtp@uea.ac.uk): | | | |
| **Supplementary Project Description (maximum 500 words)(see** [**note 3**](#Note3)**)** | | | |
| **Please use this section to provide *additional information* about the project, not included in the proposal advertisement above.** *The two sections together* *will be scrutinised by the Sift Panels and Strategy Board. They should collectively provide a clear description of the research background, aims and objectives; the excellence of the research and how the student will benefit from this excellence; details of the role of the student, including their scope for independent development; and project-specific training and personal development opportunities. It is recommended that you refer to the guidance notes and sift criteria when completing this section (max 500 words, not including references).* | | | |
| **Fit to ARIES themes** | | | |
| **Please indicate which ARIES theme(s) the project best fits, choosing one main theme and as many subthemes as seem appropriate**  Identifying themes assists us in allocate projects to sift panellists, candidates to interview panels, etc.; it is not use to score or prioritise projects for funding. | | | |
|  | | **Main theme (X)** | **Rank order; 1 most relevant** |
| **1. Ecology & Biodiversity** | |  |  |
| **2. Marine, Atmospheric & Climate Science** | |  |  |
| **3. Geosciences, Resources & Environmental Risk** | |  |  |
| **4. Environmental Genomics & Microbiology** | |  |  |
| **5. Agri-Environments & Water** | |  |  |

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| **Project contingency plan** |
| Is the project based on data that are yet to be collected?  **Yes  No**  If yes, please describe the contingency plan should the collection fail (e.g. equipment failure, fieldwork untenable due to unforeseen logistical, visa or financial constraints, etc) or the data set not be fit for purpose. (Maximum 200 words.) |
|  |
| **Data management plan** |
| Describe how data from the research will be stored and archived securely, as well as made available open access in full or in part. Please note arrangements made with UKRI databases to hold such data.  (Maximum 100 words.) |
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| **Primary Supervisor checklist** | | | |
| 1. The student will attend all mandatory cohort training events, including Induction (2nd week of October Y1), Winter School (3rd week of December of Y1), Summer Schools (last week of June Y1, 2, 3), and the joint student symposium (2 days in April, Y2 and 3) (dates subject to minor changes), except where permitted due to exceptional circumstances. 2. The student will submit their Training Needs Assessment, DTP activity report, and UKRI ResearchFish submission on an annual basis or as otherwise required. 3. The Primary Supervisor asserts that they meet all of the eligibility criteria given in Appendix 1: Note 1. 4. The Primary Supervisor will attend the ARIES supervisor instruction session (in person or online) within three months of their student registering. 5. The Primary Supervisor has undertaken equality-diversity and unconscious bias training in the last two years, and will comply with relevant sections of the [ARIES Equality and Diversity](https://www.aries-dtp.ac.uk/about-us/equality-diversity-widening-participation-and-inclusion-policy/) statement. 6. The Primary Supervisor agrees to offer **at least two** of the following over the course of the studentship (please mark at least one): | | | |
| (i) a training activity of their own to a wider group of DTP students (e.g. of a lab, field or computer modelling technique)\* | | |  |
| (ii) provide input to an existing DTP training activity (typically a 2-4 hour session delivering transferable skills training)\* | | |  |
| (iv) be part of a studentship interview panel (typically involves 1-2 days in February interviewing PhD candidates) | | |  |
| (v) be part of an institutional sift panel (typically 1 day actual or virtual meeting in August/September) | | |  |
| (vi) assist in independent inspection of Training Needs Analysis (TNA) forms submitted by students (virtual task in either November or June) | | |  |
| (vii) act as an independent research impact adviser to another student (minimum one ‘appraisal’-style meeting per year, plus ‘sounding board’ for independent advice) | | |  |
| \*Give brief details of any training you would like to deliver/be involved with: | | | |
| **I acknowledge the conditions for funding highlighted above** | | | |
| Primary supervisor signature (this can be an e-signature): |  | Date: | |

**Please now also complete and submit the ARIES DTP Studentship Research Costs Form.**

**KEYWORDS FOR ADVERTISING**

**It is vital that keywords are provided to enable on line searching.** This can be critical to successful recruitment of students to your project. It is important to provide as many applicable key words as possible, to maximise exposure of your project. The keywords below are the only ones accepted by FindaPhD.com.

**Please choose as many keywords as is reasonably possible, up to a maximum of 10. Some keywords appear under more than one heading, but should only be counted once (e.g. choosing Atmospheric Physics under ‘Physical Sciences’ is the same thing as choosing it under ‘Earth Sciences’)**

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| **Biological & Medical Sciences**  Agricultural Sciences  Biochemistry  Bioinformatics  Biomedical Engineering  Biophysics  Biotechnology  Botany / Plant Science  Cancer / Oncology  Cell Biology / Development  Dentistry  Ecology & Conservation  Endocrinology  Evolution  Food Science / Nutrition  Genetics  Immunology  Marine Biology  Medical / Biomedical Physics  Medical / Clinical Science  Microbiology  Molecular Biology  Neuroscience / Neurology  Obstetrics, Gynaecology &  Reproduction  Parasitology  Pathology  Pharmacology / Toxicology  Physiology & Sports Science  Psychology & Psychiatry  Public Health & Epidemiology  Structural Biology  Veterinary Medicine  Virology  Zoology / Animal Science | **Chemical Sciences**  Agricultural Chemistry  Analytical Chemistry  Biochemistry  Chemical Engineering  Chemical Toxicology  Computational Chemistry  Electrochemistry  Environmental Chemistry  Food Chemistry  Geochemistry  Inorganic Chemistry  Macromolecular Chemistry  Materials Science  Organic Chemistry  Pharmaceutical Chemistry  Physical Chemistry  Synthetic Chemistry | **Maths & Computing**  Applied Mathematics  Bioinformatics  Computational Chemistry  Computer Science & IT  Data Analysis  Information Science  Mathematics  Operational Research  Software Engineering  Statistics |
| **Physical Sciences**  Applied Physics  Astrophysics  Atmospheric Physics  Atomic Physics  Biophysics  Condensed Matter Physics  Fluid Dynamics  Geophysics  Low-temperature Physics  Materials Science  Medical / Biomedical Physics  Metrology  Nuclear Physics  Optical Physics  Particle Physics  Plasma Physics  Radiation  Semiconductors  Theoretical Physics |
| **Earth Sciences**  Agronomy & Soil Sciences  Atmospheric Physics  Climatology & Climate Sciences  Ecology & Conservation  Ecotoxicology & Pollution  Environmental Chemistry  Environmental Science  Geochemistry  Geography  Geology  Geophysics  Meteorology  Oceanography | **Engineering**  Acoustics  Aeronautical Engineering  Biomedical Engineering  Chemical Engineering  Civil & Structural Engineering  Electrical & Electronic  Energy  Materials Science  Mechanical Engineering  Nanotechnology  Nuclear Engineering  Semiconductors  Software Engineering  Telecommunications | **Social Science & Health**  American Studies  Anthropology  Architecture & the Built  Environment  Asian Studies  Development Studies  Economics  Education  European Studies  Gender & Sexuality  Geography  Health Sciences  History  Middle East & African Studies  Modern Languages & Linguistics  Nursing, Midwifery & Allied  Health Professions  Philosophy  Political Science &  International Studies  Psychology  Public Health & Epidemiology  Social Work, Social Policy &  Administration  Sociology  Sports, Recreation & Leisure  Studies  Town & Country Planning |

**Appendix 1: Guidance notes**

**Note 1 – Primary Supervisor eligibility**

The eligibility criteria for Primary Supervisors are that they:

* are employed by, and usually based at, an ARIES hosting partner institute or department
* have a track record of research aligned to the NERC remit as evidenced by submission of research grant applications in the last 5 years to UK Research Councils, European Commission and Research Council, other UK or overseas government agencies, or similar bodies (charities, industry, etc.), in these relevant areas (unless they are new investigators - see below)
* have a peer-reviewed publication record of research in the NERC remit in international journals that would be deemed “internationally excellent” or “world leading” according to current REF criteria
* would normally be eligible to be a PhD Primary Supervisor according to their institute’s criteria for institutionally-funded studentships
* have undertaken approved professional development training in relation to their supervisory role within the last 3 years
* have a 100% record of formal progress reporting for at least the previous 12 months for all of their PGR students
* are in compliance with NERC and DTP requirements.

In addition:

* Supervisors may not submit a project proposal this round if they were awarded an ARIES studentship in the preceding year.
* Supervisors may only submit one project proposal per year where they are named as the Primary Supervisor, but there is no limit to the number of projects that can be submitted each year in which they are named as a co-supervisor. Primary supervisors are permitted to apply for one additional studentship to be considered for joint funding with the BBSRC NRP or ESRC SeNSS DTPs
* Where an inexperienced primary supervisor is proposed (e.g. a new investigator), a more experienced supervisor will need to be nominated to the supervisory team.

Other institutional eligibility rules may apply.

**Note 2 – Supervisory teams and advisors**

Supervisory teams must comprise a Primary Supervisor and at least two more members. For PGRs hosted by non-HEI Partners, the second supervisor must be based at and employed by the HEI of registration. All PGRs should have access to at least two supervisors at the institute in which they are primarily located. For CASE and Collaborative awards, the external partners will provide a supervisor to the team.

All ARIES PGRs will also have an Independent Research Impact Advisor appointed who is independent of the Supervisory team. Advisors maybe drawn from the ARIES partnership (see http://www.enveast.ac.uk/aries/collab/our-partners), many of whom have expressed an interest in providing Advisors, or from other collaborative partners known to the Supervisory team. Advisors need not necessarily be researchers, they may come from policy units, legal teams, or human resources. Advisors are tasked with discussing the impact of the PGR’s research, advising on securing an internship, and reflecting on the PGR’s career aspirations and professional development needs, as well as acting as a valuable independent sounding board. A formal annual meeting that they will hold with the PGR will follow the format of an appraisal. The Advisor need not be identified until the student has been offered and accepted an award to study on this project but, if they are already known, they can be named here. They should be in post before the student registers to begin their PhD.

**Note 3 – Project proposals**

Consider these questions:

* What is theproblem to be solved, and what are the objectives of the project/student?
* Why is this important, and why now?
* What will the student actually do?
* How will this lead to the student meeting their objectives?
* What training opportunities might the student have?
* If your project involves collaboration, why/how is this a strength?
* If it does not involve collaboration, then could the project/student benefit from one?
* What are the (complementary) strengths of the members of the supervisory team?
* Is there an established research group that the student will be joining?
* How will the project/student produce new data?
* What are the risks involved in the project, and how are these to be mitigated?

**Project proposals will be assessed against the criteria outlined at the beginning of this document. You should be aware that your project may be assessed by individuals who do not have specific expertise in your research area.**

**Appendix 2: Advertisements on the web**

It is worth thinking about how your audience will interact with web-based adverts. Users tend to scan web content in a rough F shape (see fig. 1), so we strongly recommend you use sub-headings with short paragraphs, and put the key information in a sentence at the beginning of each section.

Figure 1: typical eye movement pattern whilst scanning the web, ©2006 Jakob Nielsen



Potential applicants are likely to begin by scanning a list of project titles, so make yours as engaging as you can.

In the main body of the advert, if you think your project is exciting and innovative, then say that it is exciting and innovative! If your project involves travel or research cruises, or uses state-of-the-art instruments, then give the specifics (locations, etc.). Give concrete details of what the student will *do* during the studentship.

If your project involves collaboration or is a CASE project, then say so and mention any external co-supervisors, partner institutes and opportunities to work with them. Being part of a cohesive and successful research team can also sound attractive. Use hyperlinks in a directed way to link to relevant/exciting research groups, supervisor pages, media articles, etc.

You can choose up to 10 keywords linked to your project. You may wish to consider not only which keywords are linked to your project, but which keywords might describe relevant students’ academic backgrounds (thinking especially of students transferring into NERC science from other subject areas). The more keywords you choose, the more candidates are likely to see your project.

Once again, hold in mind that your audience for this section is likely to be final year undergraduates, so avoid undue jargon and write for a knowledgeable but non-specialist applicant.

The limit of 350 words is imposed because some websites impose strict word limits that include the funding text, project title, supervisor names, etc. Concision is in any case desirable for web-based adverts.

Images will be included on the ARIES website but not elsewhere as they are not allowed.

Supervisors are strongly encouraged to produce short videos in which they give further details of the project, its context, the research environment etc and share them with ARIES for embedding on the website.