**ARIES-SeNSS DTPs   
Studentship Proposal Form  
October 2021 Entry**

15/06/2020

Primary Supervisors should **ONLY** **submit via the online form**, which goes live on 1 July 2020 (please refer to the accompanying document guidance).

We use an online Microsoft Form; please note that you will not be able to edit your submission once sent. We therefore recommend **keeping a copy in the template below**, so that you can plan/revise as necessary, and file with your records.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Application Type** | | | |
| **University of Registration** |  | | |
| **School/Dept of Registration** |  | | |
| **Hosting non-HEI** (where appropriate) |  | | |
| **Primary Supervisor details**  (see [note 1](#Note1) for eligibility criteria) | Title, Name | |  |
| Institute Affiliation | |  |
| School/Dept Affiliation | |  |
| Email address | |  |
| Weblink | |  |
| **Project Title** ([see Appendix 2](#Appendix2)) |  | | |
| **Does this proposal include a confirmed offer of 50% match-funding?** A letter of commitment will be required from the partner |  | | |
| **CASE partner details** (where appropriate). A letter of support is required including confirmation of a minimum £1,000 pa contribution to research costs and hosting a student placement of at least 3 months duration. | Name and address |  | |
| Title, Name of supervisor |  | |
| Email address |  | |
| **Collaborative partner details** (where appropriate) This means a non-HEI project partner who has not committed 50% or CASE funding, but who is providing supervision and possibly other resources. | Name and address |  | |
| Details of commitment |  | |
| **Secondary Supervisor details** (see [note 2](#Note2)) | Title, Name |  | |
| Affiliation, including school/dept if at an HEI |  | |
| Email address |  | |
| Can we include this supervisor in the project advertisement? |  | |
| **Supervisor 3 details** (see [note 2](#Note2)) | Title, Name |  | |
| Affiliation, including school/dept if at an HEI |  | |
| Email address |  | |
| Can we include this supervisor in the project advertisement? |  | |
| **Supervisor 4 details** (where appropriate)(see [note 2](#Note2)) | Title, Name |  | |
| Affiliation, including school/dept if at an HEI |  | |
| Email address |  | |
| Can we include this supervisor in the project advertisement? |  | |
| **Other supervisory team members** (see [note 2](#Note2))  *Please give details, including affiliations and email addresses.* |  | | |
| **Independent Research Impact Advisor (IRIA)** if known([note 2](#Note2)**)**  *Please give name, affiliation and email address* |  | | |

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| **Project Advertisement (max 350 words)** ([see Appendix 2](#Appendix2)) | | | |
| *Please provide a description addressing the following (text will be capped at 350 words):*  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, including desired degree subject(s). Please note we state the UKRI minimum requirements of a 2:1 Bachelor degree; you may not mandate that applicants possess an MSc or first class degree.).*  *Please include reference to the joint and inter-DTP nature of the research* | | | |
|  | | | |
| **References or Relevant Research Outputs (max 5)** | | | |
| *At least two of these must be outputs authored or co-authored by both the* ***Primary and Secondary Supervisor*** *in the* ***topic area of the project.*** | | | |
| **1.** |  | | |
| **2.** |  | | |
| **3.** |  | | |
| **4.** |  | | |
| **5.** | (maximum) | | |
| **Standard text which will be appended to the advertisement:**  This project has been shortlisted for funding by the ARIES NERC Doctoral Training Partnership. Shortlisted applicants will be invited to interview at UEA during February 2021.  **Funding**  Successful candidates who meet UKRI’s eligibility criteria will be awarded a NERC studentship - in 2020/21 the stipend is £15,285. In most cases, UK nationals who have been resident in the UK for 3 years are eligible for a full award.  (Relevant standard text will be added for ARIES-SENSS Joint Studentship Proposals.) | | | |
| **Supplementary Project Description** (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 will be scrutinised together* *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 provided separately when completing this section*  *This section should also explain how the project builds on the strengths of both DTPs and Research Councils, and detail the cross-DTP collaboration involved. (max 500 words, not including references).* | | | |
|  | | | |
| **Expertise of the Supervisor and Supervisory Team in the Project Area** (see [note 1](#Note1)) | | | |
| *Explain how the expertise of the Primary Supervisor will result in an excellent research environment for the student in the* ***specific area of the project****, and how the Supervisory team complement this. Due allowance will be made for Primary Supervisors who are new investigators. Please include information about how the Supervisory Team reflects the interdisciplinary nature of the research and builds new, or strengthened, interdisciplinary collaboration. This text may be made available to candidates**(max 200 words).* | | | |
|  | | | |
| **SeNSS Pathway** | | | |
| Please type in the box below the appropriate SeNSS Pathway (see[*senss-dtp.ac.uk/#about-senss*](http://senss-dtp.ac.uk/#about-senss)**)** | | Please confirm that the Secondary (SeNSS) Supervisor is a member of staff and is located at one of the institutes associated with the stated SeNSS Pathway **Y/N** | |
|  | |
| **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 allocating projects to sift panels, etc. It is not used to score or prioritise projects for funding.* | | | |
|  | | **Main theme (X)** | **Subsidiary theme(s) (X)** |
| **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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| **Required social science research methods training** |
| Identify below any key social science research methods and subject-specific training needed for the student to meet the ESRC core training requirements (see [*esrc.ukri.org/files/skills-and-careers/studentships/postgraduate-training-and-development-guidelines-2015/*](https://esrc.ukri.org/files/skills-and-careers/studentships/postgraduate-training-and-development-guidelines-2015/)) |
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| **Twitter Advertisement** |
| *ARIES will tweet all successful projects as part of the recruitment drive from the institutional account @ARIES\_DTP. Please provide suitable text specific to your project, including any relevant twitter handles (e.g. yours, your collaborators, other organisations) that might encourage re-tweeting and wider dissemination of the advert (Max 140 characters.)* |
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| **Project Contingency Plan** |
| Is the project based on data yet to be collected?  **Yes  No**  *If yes, please describe the contingency plan should the collection fail or the dataset not be fit for purpose. (Max 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.*  *(Max 100 words.)* |
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| **Primary Supervisor Checklist** | |
| 1. An assessment will be made via the Initial Training Needs Assessment of the student’s specific training needs. Exemption from ARIES mandatory training may be granted where SeNSS training takes precedence. 2. The default is that the student will attend all mandatory ARIES 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)  - Joint Student Symposium (2 days in April, Y2 and 3, dates subject to minor changes)   1. The student will submit their Training Needs Assessment, DTP activity report, and UKRI ResearchFish submission on an annual basis or as otherwise required. 2. The Primary Supervisor asserts that they meet all of the eligibility criteria given in Appendix 1: Note 1. 3. The Primary Supervisor will attend the ARIES supervisor instruction session (in person or online) within three months of their student registering. 4. 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 statement](https://www.aries-dtp.ac.uk/about-us/equality-diversity-widening-participation-and-inclusion-policy/). 5. The Primary Supervisor agrees to offer **at least two** of the following over the course of the studentship (please mark as many as you can): | |
| (i) input to DTP training activities such as Summer Schools or Advanced Courses (e.g. participating in a typical 2 h transferable skills session), or offer a training event your own (e.g. own lab/field/modelling training)\* |  |
| (ii) be part of a studentship Interview Panel (typically involves 1-2 days in February interviewing PhD candidates) |  |
| (iii) assist in independent inspection of Training Needs Analysis (TNA) forms submitted by students (virtual task in either November or June) |  |
| (iv) act as an independent adviser to another student (e.g. occasional physical or virtual meeting, or ‘sounding board’ for independent advice) |  |
| (v) another suggestion | |
| \*Give brief details of any training you would like to deliver/be involved with: | |

**KEYWORDS FOR ADVERTISING**

**Please choose as many keywords as is reasonably possible up to a maximum of 10,** to maximise exposure of your project.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’). The keywords below are the only ones accepted by FindaPhD.com.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **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/SENSS hosting partner institute or department
* have an **excellent track record** of research aligned to the NERC/ESRC remit, as evidenced by submission of research grant applications in the last 5 years to UK Research Councils, the European Commission and Research Council, or similar UK or overseas governmental and non-governmental research funding bodies (exceptions for new investigators - see below)
* have an excellent record of research outputs **in the topic of the project**, such as publications in international journals that would be deemed “internationally excellent” or “world leading” according to current REF criteria, or equivalent **excellent examples** of outputs
* 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

In addition:

* 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 either the BBSRC NRP or ESRC SeNSS DTPs, but not both.
* 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. Their track record will not be expected to be as extensive, but they should still demonstrate **research excellence** in the **topic of the project**.

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 (ARIES recommends three or more). 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.

For ARIES-SENSS proposals the secondary supervisor must be at a SENSS institution and within a SENSS pathway.

All ARIES PGRs will also have an Independent Research Impact Advisor (IRIA) appointed who is **independent of the Supervisory team** (see information at <https://www.aries-dtp.ac.uk/work-with-us/>). They may be named now if already known, or can be added later. They should be in post **before** the student registers to begin their studies.

**Note 3 – Project proposals**

Consider these questions in formulating your text:

* 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?
* Your project may be assessed by individuals who do **not have specific expertise** in your research area

**Appendix 2: Web Advertisements**

It is worth considering how your target-audience will interact with your web-based advertisement. Users tend to scan web content in a rough F shape (see Fig. 1), so we suggest **sub-headings with short paragraphs**, with key information put in a sentence at the beginning of each subsection.

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



Potential applicants are likely to begin by scanning **project titles**, so please make yours as engaging to the non-expert as you can, avoiding undue jargon.

In the main body, try to draw out what may be particularly **exciting and innovative** about your project; e.g. field work, use of state-of-the-art instruments or models, and **give specifics** (e.g. location, which climate model, etc.).

Give concrete details of **what the student will do** during their studentship; it helps them imagine themselves in that role.

If your project is a CASE award or a collaboration with external partners, then note who they are and what opportunities exist to work with them. Being part of a cohesive and successful research team is attractive. Use **one or two carefully selected hyperlinks** to a relevant/exciting research project, supervisor group, or media article pages.

You can choose up to **10 keywords** linked to your project. As well as those that describe your project, you may also consider keywords that describe suitable academic backgrounds of candidates. The more keywords you choose, the wider the field of potential candidates you may reach.

The 350-word limit is due to restrictions imposed be some websites that we use.

Images will be included in the adverts we place on the ARIES website. Supervisors are encouraged to produce **short videos** in which they give further details of the project, and we will place these on the ARIES pages too. Applicants tell us that they find these particularly valuable. We also require specific project-related text for the ARIES Twitter page (@ARIES\_DTP) to ensure maximum potential publicity of advertised projects.