

Internship Policy: ARIES-funded Students



07/10/2020

The DTP recognises the considerable value that internships and placements may have for the professional development and experiential training of PGRs.

We recognise two conceptually different arrangements; **placements** which are integrated in to the PGR's thesis work, and **internships** that provide an experience that may be entirely outside of the PGR's area of research, or entirely outside of academia.

Placements

Placements are generally associated with CASE Awards; over a third of ARIES-funded PGRs hold such awards. CASE Awardees spend at least 3 months over the course of their period of study on placement with their CASE sponsor. Such placements form an integral part of their doctoral studies, and contribute to their thesis. In these instances the placements take place within the bounds of the period of study (normally 3.5 years) and the PGRs are not eligible to interrupt or extend their studies.

Internships

Internships are usually not foreseen or planned for at the start of the thesis, and require the PGR to suspend their thesis studies while engaged on the internship and seek a formal concession from their University of Registration (and host organisation where different) to interrupt their PhD studies. ***All Regulations, Terms and Conditions for concessionary interruption of study from the appropriate Institution must be followed, and as these can vary, advice should be sought locally.*** For the avoidance of doubt, interruption of study is associated with termination of stipend and fee payments for the duration of the interruption, and a commensurate period of extension is applied to the PhD studies.

Timing of Internship

Internships must begin before the end date of the funded period of study. We generally advise considering a placement in the second or third year of the period of study. An interruption in the last 6 months of study can be deleterious to thesis writing and may be disallowed by local or funding regulations.

Eligibility

All ARIES-funded PGRs are eligible to request DTP approval to carry out an internship under the above terms, so long as they have also secured the permission of their Supervisory Team, their University of Registration (if an interruption of study is required) and, where applicable, their host organisation.

The opportunity is open to those registered part-time for their degrees, but it is not recommended that applicants transfer to part-time study in order to carry out an internship.

If you are a visa holder then you may need to check any implications for taking a paid internship, suspending your studies, or extending your period of study, on your visa status.

NERC Policy Internships

NERC Policy Internships are paid opportunities for PGRs to work for three months in one of a selected group of highly influential policy organisations. Several DTP PGRs have taken advantage of these in the past, and found them to be extremely rewarding. They are awarded on a competitive basis and further information can be found on the [NERC website](#). Funding for these internships is from the DTP grant, and as such we are able to offer only limited opportunities. For the duration of the internships PGRs will continue to receive their stipendiary payments, and are able to claim up to £2,400 living expenses.

The DTP will approve up to 2 NERC Policy Internships per year, and applications for DTP funding will be opened at the same time as the NERC Policy Internship competition.

Other Internships

Whilst ARIES is not able to commit to funding internships for all students, we do encourage students to consider opportunities for internships funded by other means. Your host organisation (or University of registration, if different) may be able to help in identifying, negotiating and securing internships via their career services databases, human resources, or careers fairs. The majority of [ARIES Collaborative Partners](#) have asserted their willingness to host internships. You might also seek guidance from your Independent Research Impact Adviser.

Where an internship sponsor agrees to pay an internship salary then this arrangement must be negotiated between the PGR and the sponsor and the DTP takes no part in these arrangements, other than to insist that the hourly rate paid is no less than the Real Living Wage.

Where internships of this nature are undertaken, please inform the ARIES office of your plans.