**ARIES-SeNSS DTPs
Studentship Proposal Form
October 2023 Entry**

02/08/2022

Primary Supervisors should **ONLY** **submit via the online form**, which goes live on xx August 2022 (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.

**This Word form is provided solely to aid supervisors in keeping a copy of their submission**

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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** |  |
| **Does this proposal include a firm offer of 50% match-funding?** Please give brief details of the commitment from the match-funder, or details of match-funding you are seeking |  |
| **CASE partner details** (where appropriate). Written confirmation of this commitment from proposed funders will be required, which must include confirmation that they will meet the minimum requirements to contribute £1,000 per year (for 3.5 years) to the research costs, host the student on their premises for a minimum of 3 months during the studentship, and cover any expenses incurred by the student while working on their premises. | Name and address |  |
| Title, Name of supervisor |  |
| Email addressDetails of commitment |  |
| **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.  |  |
| **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 forthe 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). |  |
| **Project advertisement text (max 350 words)** ([see Appendix 2](#Appendix2))Note that submissions of more than 350 words will be capped at the limit. |
| *Please provide a description that would be intelligible to suitable candidates and that addresses the following (you may wish to use the same headers):*Background *(The wider context; why the project is important and timely)*Methodology *(What precisely will the student do? What questions will be answered? 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’s degree (requirements for an MSc or first class degree will be removed).* *Please also note that particularly**restrictive specifications will be relaxed (i.e. "must have experience in MATLAB" will be changed to**"prior experience of programming is desirable”). Please do not use abbreviations (e.g. ENV, MTH) and**please do not request that the applicant is a "student" (i.e. say "we seek an enthusiastic individual",**rather than "we seek an enthusiastic student")**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 members of the supervisory team 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 during February 2023.**Funding** Successful candidates who meet UKRI’s eligibility criteria will be awarded a NERC studentship covering fees, stipend (£16,062 p.a. for 2022-23) and research funding. International applicants (EU and non-EU) are eligible for fully-funded UKRI studentships.(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).* |
|  |
| **References to support the supplementary project description** |
| These will not appear in the advert |
| **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** |
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| **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)** | **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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| **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**  |
| The ARIES DTP will tweet about your project, should it be successful, as part of the advertisement process. You can help us with this task by providing a two-sentence summary of your project, and any relevant twitter handles (i.e. your own, your collaborators, any organisations involved). If you don't provide anything here we will still tweet your project, but the summary will be composed by those of us in the ARIES office and we are not experts! (Maximum 280 characters.)  |
|  |
| **Data management plan** |
| Describe briefly 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.) |
|  |
| **Project Contingency Plan** |
| Does the success of the project depend on data yet to be collected? [ ]  **Yes** [ ]  **No**If yes, please describe the contingency plan should data collection fail or the data set not be fit for purpose. (Maximum 200 words.) |
|  |
| **Equitable access to research**  |
| Are there any constraints on data collection that may limit application numbers? *This question is asking if there are any reasons people may feel unable to apply to your project due to the data collection component - for example is there a difficulty in providing access for wheelchair users?*[ ]  **Yes** [ ]  **No**If yes, how may these constraints be mitigated? *for example can data collection be carried out remotely or provided by an alternate?* |
|  |
| Does the project involve fieldwork? [ ]  **Yes** [ ]  **No**If yes, how will you ensure that any proposed fieldwork is carried out in a safe, inclusive and appropriate research environment How can you ensure that any applicant will feel safe and included, particularly with reference to protected characteristics (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civilpartnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex)? |
|  |
| **Total Research Costs budget requested for project**  |
| This should not include the £2,500 held by the DTP or any CASE contribution. Please also submit an itemised justification for the Research Costs request to OneDrive using the ARIES-SeNSS Research Costs Form (<https://www.aries-dtp.ac.uk/supervisors/call-for-proposals/>) |
| The value must be a number |

**KEYWORDS FOR ADVERTISING**

**Please choose up to a maximum of 10 keywords,** to maximise exposure of your project.The keywords below are the only ones accepted by FindaPhD.com.

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| Agriculture[ ]  agricultural sciences[ ]  agricultural technology[ ]  arable farming[ ]  livestock farming[ ]  forestry & arboriculture[ ]  other | Biological Sciences[ ]  bacteriology[ ]  behavioural biology[ ]  biochemistry[ ]  biodiversity[ ]  bioinformatics[ ]  biophysics[ ]  biotechnology[ ]  cancer biology[ ]  cell biology[ ]  developmental biology[ ]  ecology[ ]  ecotoxicology[ ]  entomology[ ]  environmental biology[ ]  evolution[ ]  genetic engineering[ ]  genetics[ ]  genomics[ ]  human genetics[ ]  immunology[ ]  marine biology[ ]  microbiology[ ]  molecular biology[ ]  molecular genetics[ ]  neuroscience[ ]  parasitology[ ]  plant biology[ ]  plant cell biology[ ]  reproductive biology[ ]  structural biology[ ]  systematic biology[ ]  virology[ ]  zoology[ ]  other | Mathematics[ ]  applied mathematics[ ]  applied statistics[ ]  computational mathematics[ ]  data analysis[ ]  engineering mathematics[ ]  mathematical modelling[ ]  medical statistics[ ]  operational research[ ]  probability[ ]  pure mathematics[ ]  statistics[ ]  stochastic processes[ ]  other | Chemistry[ ]  analytical chemistry[ ]  applied chemistry[ ]  environmental chemistry[ ]  physical chemistry[ ]  other |
| Computer Science[ ]  artificial intelligence[ ]  computer architectures[ ]  computer vision[ ]  computer graphics[ ]  data science[ ]  human computer interaction[ ]  machine learning[ ]  networks[ ]  other |
| Anthropology[ ]  biological anthropology[ ]  social anthropology[ ]  other |
| Architecture, Building & Planning[ ]  architecture[ ]  built environment[ ]  landscape architecture[ ]  rural planning[ ]  surveying[ ]  urban planning[ ]  other |
| Engineering[ ]  acoustics engineering[ ]  aerospace engineering[ ]  energy technologies[ ]  environmental engineering[ ]  geotechnical engineering[ ]  marine engineering[ ]  offshore engineering[ ]  petroleum engineering[ ]  robotics[ ]  other |
| Environmental Sciences[ ]  climate science[ ]  hydrology[ ]  marine sciences[ ]  meteorology[ ]  pollution[ ]  soil science[ ]  other |
| Geography[ ]  agricultural geography[ ]  cultural geography[ ]  economic geography[ ]  environmental geography[ ]  GIS [ ]  human geography[ ]  marine geography[ ]  physical geography[ ]  remote sensing[ ]  social geography[ ]  urban geography[ ]  other |
| Physics [ ]  acoustics[ ]  astronomy[ ]  astrophysics[ ]  chemical physics[ ]  computational physics[ ]  electromagnetism[ ]  environmental physics[ ]  experimental physics[ ]  medical physics[ ]  nuclear physics[ ]  optical physics[ ]  particle physics[ ]  quantum mechanics[ ]  solid state physics[ ]  space science[ ]  theoretical physics[ ]  other | Geology [ ]  applied geology[ ]  geochemistry[ ]  geophysics[ ]  geoscience[ ]  geotechnology[ ]  hydrogeology[ ]  marine geology[ ]  palaeontology[ ]  seismology[ ]  volcanology[ ]  other |
| Food Sciences[ ]  food production | Politics & Government[ ]  development studies[ ]  government[ ]  international relations[ ]  politics[ ]  public policy[ ]  other |

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| Economics[ ]  econometrics[ ]  financial economics[ ]  macroeconomics[ ]  microeconomics[ ]  political economics[ ]  other | Business & Management[ ]  accounting[ ]  business[ ]  e business[ ]  education management[ ]  event management[ ]  hospitality[ ]  human resource management[ ]  management[ ]  marketing[ ]  project management[ ]  sport management[ ]  tourism[ ]  other | Psychology[ ]  child psychology[ ]  clinical psychology[ ]  community psychology[ ]  counselling psychology[ ]  developmental psychology[ ]  educational psychology[ ]  forensic psychology[ ]  health psychology[ ]  neuropsychology[ ]  occupational psychology[ ]  organisational psychology[ ]  psychotherapy[ ]  sport psychology[ ]  other | Politics & Government[ ]  development studies[ ]  government[ ]  international relations[ ]  politics[ ]  public policy[ ]  other |
| Sociology[ ]  criminology[ ]  disability studies[ ]  gender studies[ ]  socio economics[ ]  social work[ ]  other |
| Law[ ]  criminal law[ ]  commercial law[ ]  contract law[ ]  property law[ ]  other |
| Education[ ]  further education[ ]  higher education[ ]  nursery education[ ]  primary education[ ]  secondary education[ ]  special needs education[ ]  other |

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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 (Y1, October, three days), Winter School (Y1 November/December, three days), Summer Schools (June Y1 and Y 3, five days), and the ARIES-Cambridge joint student symposium (2 days in March/April, Y2 and 3) (dates subject to minor changes), except where permitted due to exceptional circumstances.
3. The student will submit their Training Needs Assessment, DTP activity report, and UKRI ResearchFish submission on an annual basis or as otherwise required.
4. The Primary Supervisor asserts that they meet all of the eligibility criteria given in Appendix 1: Note 1.
5. The Primary Supervisor will attend the ARIES supervisor instruction session (in person or online) within three months of their student registering.
6. 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.
7. 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)\* |  |
| (iii) be part of a studentship Interview Panel (typically involves 1-2 days in February interviewing PhD candidates) |  |
| (iv) assist in independent inspection of Training Needs Analysis (TNA) forms submitted by students (virtual task in either November or June) |  |
| (v) be part of an institutional project sift panel (typically 1 day actual or virtual meeting in August/September)  |  |
| (vi) another suggestion |
| \*Give brief details of any training you could either contribute to the entire DTP cohort, or to a specialised subset of students: |

**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.**  Advisors maybe drawn from the ARIES partnership (see <https://www.aries-dtp.ac.uk/about-us/our-partners/>), many of whom have expressed an interest in providing Advisors, or from other end users 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 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