**Studentship Proposal Form 2023**

06/05/2022



Following submission of the ‘ARIES Institutional Sift proposal form’, Institutional Sift Panels will select projects up to a target number set by the ARIES Strategy Board. Primary Supervisors who have been successful in the institutional sift should complete the online form for submission, along with average scores awarded by the Sift Panel, to the Strategy Board for consideration.

**Please note that due to limitations of Microsoft forms, you will not be able to edit your submission once it is sent. It is recommended therefore that you keep a copy of your submission, so that if you are asked to revise it you will be able to more easily re-submit.**

**This form is provided 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** ([see appendix 2](#Appendix2)) |  | | |
| **Does this proposal include a confirmed offer of 50% match-funding?** Please include details of commitment from partner |  | | |
| **CASE partner details** (where appropriate). Please note a letter of support will be required including confirmation that a minimum of £1,000 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) (see** [**note 2**](#Note2)**)**  Please give name, affiliation and email address |  | | |

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| **Project advertisement text (maximum 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 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** | | | |
| ***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 UEA on 17th/18th 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. | | | |
| **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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| **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 140 characters.) |
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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 or the data set not be fit for purpose. (Maximum 200 words.) |
|  |
| 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 (for example with, but not limited to, reference to protected characteristics)? (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 statement](https://www.aries-dtp.ac.uk/about-us/equality-diversity-widening-participation-and-inclusion-policy/). 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)\* |  |
| (iii) contribute to a stakeholder sandpit event (e.g. as a group discussion leader) |  |
| (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: | |

**Please choose no more than 10 keywords**

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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 |

**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 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 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:

* 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.