

BBSRC Industrial CASE Partnership Studentships 2016/17

Call Document

KTN is delighted to announce a call for up to 10 BBSRC Industrial CASE Partnership PhD Studentships for academic year 2016/17.

Introduction

CASE (Co-operative Awards in Science and Engineering) studentships involve post-graduate students studying for a PhD through research with both an academic institution and a commercial company. The student is predominantly based with the academic institution, but the research project is relevant to the needs of the industrial partner. The industrial partner is expected to provide joint supervision of the student, a financial contribution to the project and relevant industrial placement(s) during the four years of the project.

These studentships will be awarded by KTN through a competitive process to projects of relevance to the BBSRC's Strategic Priorities relating to the Animal, Food, Industrial Bioscience or Plant & Crops Sectors,

Number of Awards	up to ten
Call opens	22 nd of June
Deadline for applications	21st of August
Notification of successful applications	30 th of October
Student start date	Academic year 2016/2017

Application forms can found online on [_connect https://connect.innovateuk.org/web/biosciencesktn/case-funding-calls](https://connect.innovateuk.org/web/biosciencesktn/case-funding-calls). Please indicate in the subject header which sector is most relevant to your proposal i.e. Animals, Food, Industrial Bioscience or Plants & Crops.

**For more information or to discuss potential projects, please contact us:
Email: biocompetitions@ktn-uk.org Tel: 0131 2252478 / 07702713805**

The Academic Partner:

- Must be a UK University, a BBSRC sponsored Research Institute or another body eligible to receive BBSRC funds.

- Must achieve the required standard of 70% of students submitting their PhD thesis each year (BBSRC will make no exceptions).
- Will, in collaboration with the industrial partner, provide skills training to the student in line with BBSRC requirements as detailed at:
<http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/web/FILES/Guidelines/ibase-info-pack.pdf>
<http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/documents/studentship-handbook-pdf/>
- Will provide information as required by BBSRC in order for the administrative process to be completed.

The Industrial Partner:

- Must be a company registered for business and trading in the UK with a UK research or manufacturing base. Sole traders and partnerships are not eligible. Levy bodies and foreign-owned companies without UK research facilities will be considered on a case-by-case basis and the BBSRC will be the final arbiter on eligibility.
- Will provide an industrial placement for the student of between 3-18 months during the studentship. **This placement will form an integral part of the project to be undertaken by the student.**
- Will provide up to three weeks wider business training for the student in e.g. project management, business strategy or the management of people or financial issues, which will not be part of the above placement.
- Will support all expenses associated with the work carried out by the student while on placement, including additional expenses (such as travel and accommodation) incurred by the student as a direct result of attendance at the premises of a company. This includes the cost of flights in the case of placements overseas. Make a financial contribution to the project costs of the academic partner (as agreed with the academic partner) of at least **£1,400 per year**.
- Will make a payment direct to the student as a supplement to the stipend awarded by BBSRC of more than **£2,500 per year**.
- Will make a **single payment of £1,500** to KTN to cover the costs of providing the student with up to 8 days specialist business related training over a four-year period.
- Will provide a joint supervisor for the student who is jointly responsible for overseeing the student's research activity.
- Will provide information as required by BBSRC in order for the administrative process to be completed.

The Student:

- Must be settled in the UK, for details see
<http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/documents/studentship-eligibility-pdf/>
- Must have a first or upper second class UK Honours Science degree, or equivalent.
- Must be prepared to travel as necessary in order to undertake the industrial placement.
- Will be expected to present their work at relevant KTN workshops and conferences.
- Will be expected to complete and submit 6 monthly progress reports to KTN

- Must acknowledge BBSRC and KTN sponsorship in published work.

BBSRC:

- Will provide fees to the Academic Partner of £5,000 per year (plus other eligible fees).
- Pay a stipend to the student of £14,057 per year (£16,057 for students attending an establishment in London, or £21,390 for students with a recognised veterinary degree qualification attending any establishment in the United Kingdom) plus relevant disabled students allowances, and other enhancements, as detailed at the following: <http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/skills/training/> and <http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/documents/studentship-handbook-pdf/>

Note that these fees may increase by the time these studentships commence in academic year 2016/17.

- BBSRC funds will be provided through the academic partner's BBSRC Doctoral Training Account.

The Project:

- Must involve original research that makes a substantial contribution to knowledge in the field of one of the BBSRC's Strategic Priorities relating to the Animal, Food, Industrial Bioscience or Plant & Crops Sectors, outlined in the table below:

Animal Bioscience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Animal health & welfare ii) Animal breeding iii) Disease resistance iv) Biotechnologies (reproductive, cell and animal feed)
Food	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Diet and health interactions ii) Functional foods and nutraceuticals iii) Process and formulation technologies iv) Food safety, authenticity and traceability
Industrial Bioscience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Biofuels ii) High-value biochemicals and biomaterials iii) Biocatalysis iv) Biorefining
Plants and Crops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Increasing crop yield and quality ii) Addressing food security and climate change iii) Non-food applications iv) Pest and disease resistance and crop protection

- Must also fall within the remit of the BBSRC. More details about BBSRC remit can be found at <http://www.bbsrc.ac.uk/funding/grants/remit.aspx>. If you are unsure whether your project fits within the remit please contact biocompetitions@ktn-uk.org with a brief

outline of your project at least **2 weeks** before the deadline and we will be more than happy to check for you.

- Is expected to be of relevance to industry to attract interest from industrial partners.

The application should identify:

- The industrial and academic partners (including university partners for BBSRC and other eligible institutes)
- Details of the % submission rate within four years of registration of previous students
- The academic and industrial supervisors
- A brief description of the project (<2 sides A4) sufficient to identify the relevance and potential benefits of the project to the biosciences sectors specified and BBSRC. This should include descriptions of any hypotheses to be tested and should allow the identification of scope for the student to innovate. Any special facilities, information or materials to be made available to the project by the industrial partner should also be described.
- Confirmation that the resources needed for the project (e.g. consumables) are available
- Brief details of how joint supervision will be organised
- Details of the training to be provided to the student by both partners
- The expected duration and schedule of the industrial placement together with an outline of the work to be done during this time
- The annual financial contributions to be paid to the student and academic partner by the industrial partner
- The fall-back position should the project not be completed within the proposed timescale
- Any relevant details of the student if already identified
- Application can be found online (<https://connect.innovateuk.org/web/biosciencesktn/case-funding-calls>) or forms can be requested from and should be submitted to biocompetitions@ktn-uk.org. Please indicate in the subject header which sector is most relevant to your proposal i.e. Food, Industrial Bioscience, Plants & Crops or Animal Bioscience.

General Rules:

- Unless the number of applications of sufficient quality is limiting, no more than one KTN allocated BBSRC Industrial Partnership CASE Award will be made to any one organisation in any one year.
- Complete and eligible applications received by the deadline of midnight **21st of August** will be considered by a review panel consisting of key representatives from Animal Bioscience Food, Industrial Bioscience and Plants & Crops, sector groups. The decisions on which applications are selected will be final.
- Please note, only completed application forms will be put forward to the assessment committee. Any attachments or accompanying letters will be discarded. Page limits

(detailed in application) are fixed; any applications in excess of the page allocation will incur a penalty and may be discarded altogether.

- KTN reserves the right to adopt a portfolio approach across the four sectors in selecting applications for funding. Under such circumstances only applications scoring above the funding threshold will be considered, and applications selected for funding based on their within sector ranking.

Unsuccessful Applications:

- Provided there are more applications that meet the minimum standards required than the number of available awards, a short reserve list of applications will be maintained. Allocated CASE Awards will be made available to the reserve projects in order of their score rank order, should any of the selected projects not progress to full BBSRC Award.

Selection Process:

The primary evaluation criteria are:

- **Strategic and Industrial relevance** of the work
- **Quality of the science** of the proposed project
- **Quality of the training** (both scientific and industrial) to be provided

The process for selecting the studentships to be funded each year has been designed to be fair and transparent, and is carried out by a review panel selected for their expertise covering the range of technologies and business activities across the four sectors of the call.

In summary:

- Applications will be checked for basic eligibility (e.g. are the applicants eligible to receive BBSRC funds) by staff
- Proposals will be sent out to the review panel who will be asked to score each proposal. Scoring will be based on a 9-point scoring system (see appendix A)
- Members of the review panel with vested interests in any applications will not score projects in which they have an interest
- Proposals will be discussed during a teleconference and the review panel will have the opportunity to modify their scores before they are averaged and the proposals ranked according to the average score
- To be eligible for funding an application must have an average score of 7.0 or higher. The highest ranked applications will be awarded a CASE studentship according to the number of available studentships and subject to the 'one award per organisation' rule.
- KTN reserves the right to adopt a portfolio approach across the four sectors in selecting applications for funding. Under such circumstances only applications scoring above the funding threshold will be considered, and applications selected for funding based on their within sector ranking.

- Any studentships scoring above 7.0 that have not been selected are placed in order of priority and will be held in reserve in case any of the selected studentships do not progress for some reason
- Only one CASE studentship will be awarded to each organisation in any one year unless the number of quality applications is limiting

KTN is under no obligation to select any particular number of studentships.

Appendix A –KTN 9-point scoring system

The key criteria in the KTN scoring system (modified slightly from the BBSRC CASE studentship system) are:

- **Strategic and Industry relevance:** *Original research that makes a substantial contribution to knowledge in the field of bioscience, is applied to BBSRC's key strategic research priorities of: food security or industrial biotechnology,* The outcomes of the research should also have industrial relevance and potentially be of benefit to the wider biosciences communities.
- **Science:** Issues to be considered as part of the evaluation include whether the work is feasible, whether the work is forward looking and whether there is scope for innovation by the student. To be scored above 7 the project will have a clear hypothesis, will be feasible and provide an opportunity for the student to innovate.
- **Training:** The training programme should provide students with demonstrable research skills and techniques, a good understanding of the research environment and research management. It should also provide training in personal effectiveness, communication skills and networking/team working. The training (including the industrial placement) should also provide students with a good understanding of the industrial context of their work. To be scored above 7 the training provided must meet all or most these criteria and the academic partner should have a good track record of providing such training.

Summary scores for projects are presented below:

SCORE	DESCRIPTION
9	The studentship project meets all the above criteria and is also considered to be one of the top applications and should definitely be supported.
8	The studentship project meets all the criteria above and should be supported.
7	The studentship project meets all the criteria above and the committee would be happy to see the application supported.
6	The proposed project does not fulfil one of the requirements set out above and should not be supported.
5	
4	The proposed project does not fulfil two of the requirements set out above and should not be supported.
3	
2	The proposed project does not fulfil any of the requirements set out above and should not be supported.
1	
0	The project falls outside of the studentship priority areas.