



Phd Studentship Competition 2015 – Policy

We are delighted to announce Round 2 of the **2015 BU PhD Studentship competition** for projects starting in January 2016. There will be up to 15 studentships available for **Matched Funded Projects only**. All proposals should state clearly how they support BU in achieving BU2018.

Matched Funded Studentships - up to 15 studentships available

- The matched funder should provide 50% of the stipend costs, plus research costs, which is equivalent to £24,000 over three years (full details are outlined below).
- Matched funding may be provided by: Industry/business partners, Government and non-government organisations; other academic institutions; NHS; Research Councils; or other external bodies.
- Priority may be given to applications that involve supervisors from two or more Faculties and/or those from early career researchers.
- Applicants are encouraged to discuss potential applications to this funding strand with the Deputy Dean for Research & Professional Practice (DDRPP) or equivalent within their Faculty.

The studentships will be awarded to supervisory teams on the basis of a competitive process across the whole of BU led by Professor John Fletcher (PVC R & I) and managed by the Graduate School. Applications will be reviewed and assessed with awards made by a cross University Panel consisting of the academic members of UET, the Graduate School and members of the BU Professoriate.

All proposed projects should be novel with clear project delivery plans, and provide clear statements on their societal impact. In selecting proposals for funding, emphasis will be placed on the excellence of the research and quality of proposal. How the project will help BU achieve its vision and values of 2018 will be amongst the key criteria.

**Only the best projects will be funded and proceed to advert.
Full details and criteria are set out in this Policy document.
Staff are asked to check the eligibility criteria carefully before applying.**

Applications on the Studentship Proposal form, which can be downloaded from the BU Research Blog and the Graduate School staff intranet, should be submitted to the Graduate School; email: phdstudentshipcompetition@bournemouth.ac.uk **no later than 5pm on Monday 11 May 2015**. Proposals will then be circulated to the judging panel for decision making.

Details for Matched Funded Studentships Projects

Matched funded studentships are offered on a stipend and fee waive basis for 36 months only. Fees will be waived by the lead Faculty. After 36 months, studentship candidates will automatically be transferred to continuation status and will normally be liable for Continuation Status Fees.

The matched funder should normally provide a minimum of 50% of the studentship stipend plus the research costs, which is equivalent to £24k over 36 months:

| | | |
|-----------------------|--------|----------------|
| Stipend | Year 1 | £7,000 |
| | Year 2 | £7,000 |
| | Year 3 | £7,000 |
| Research Costs | | £3,000 |
| Total | | £24,000 |

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In line with the Doctoral Study Fund Policy, Faculties are responsible for ensuring each studentship candidate has access to support equivalent of up to £3K over the 36 months for use by the candidate to assist with project costs such as fieldwork, consumables and conference travel together with researcher developmental activities.

Please note:

- Studentships cannot be used to support BU staff to complete doctoral programmes
- Current BU PGR students are not eligible to apply for a Studentship
- Current MRes students can apply, subject to satisfactory completion of their Research Degree prior to being able to take up the award

Normal studentship terms and conditions will apply.

Supervisor Eligibility Criteria

The **first supervisor** should take responsibility for the application and ensure that the application meets the eligibility criteria set out below.

All proposals should have a balanced supervisory team; supervisors should not normally supervise more than 6 full-time PGR students as a first supervisor, including this project. The first supervisor, who must be a permanent member of academic BU staff, should complete the application and must be a qualified supervisor defined as having a current “certificate of supervision”, be research active.

All applications must be endorsed by the DDRPP or equivalent in lead Faculty.

Candidate Recruitment

Once awarded all Studentships will be advertised and subject to a recruitment process managed and overseen by the Graduate School.

All projects will be promoted internally on the BU Studentship web pages and advertised externally on jobs.ac.uk; findaphd.com. Supervisors should also use any relevant subject or discipline networks to promote their projects. Supervisors will be given a 4 month period in which to recruit a suitable candidate. Funding from projects failing to recruit a suitable candidate will be returned to the central studentship fund for reallocation. Potential supervisors have an important role in ensuring that it is advertised on all relevant subject/sector specific bulletin boards or equivalent.

Interviews should be held in line with BU policy - all interview panels will comprise the supervisory team and be chaired by an independent Professor or other senior staff from the host Faculty. Interviews should refer to the interview form and person specification available from the Graduate School. Interviews should last normally 30 minutes and all candidates should be given a tour of BU and Faculty facilities by a PGR. Faculties are responsible for paying interview expenses (normally second class rail travel) to candidates.

UET approval of each candidate is required via the Graduate School. In order to make this a swift and trouble free process supervisors should make it very clear on the nomination form how the selected candidate demonstrates (with evidence) that they meet the recruitment criteria and will justify the investment being made. On receipt of UET approval, formal offer letters will be issued to the successful candidate by the Graduate School.

Candidate Eligibility Criteria

The Studentships are open to UK, EU and international students. Candidates for a BU PhD studentship should demonstrate outstanding qualities and be motivated to complete a PhD in 3 years. All candidates must satisfy the University's minimum doctoral entry criteria for studentships of an honours degree at Upper Second Class (2.1) and/or an appropriate Masters degree. An IELTS (Academic) score of 6.5 minimum is essential for candidates for whom English is not their first language.

In addition to satisfying basic entry criteria, BU will look closely at the qualities, skills and background of each candidate and what they can bring to their chosen research project in order to ensure successful completion.

Applicants will be asked to submit an application form and a synopsis (1500 words) outlining their understanding of the project for which they are applying, the approach they would envisage taking and what qualities they will bring to the research community.

Unsuccessful Applications

Formative feedback on all unsuccessful applications will be provided to encourage proposal development. Appeals should be made to the PVC via the Graduate School.

Timetable

The Graduate School will manage the recruitment process along the following timetable:

| Date | Action |
|----------------------------|---|
| 11 May 2015 | Deadline for submission of proposals to PhD Studentships Internal Competition (Round 2) |
| <i>February – May 2015</i> | <i>PhD Studentships External Competition (Recruitment Round 1)</i> |
| May – September 2015 | PhD Studentships External Competition (Recruitment Round 2) |
| <i>September 2015</i> | <i>Successful Candidates Start (Round 1 projects)</i> |
| January 2016 | Successful Candidates Start (Round 2 projects) |

All of the forms and further information on the scheme is available from the BU Research Blog and the Graduate School Staff Intranet. The process map is shown below:

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PhD Studentship Competition 2015 – Process

