

We are delighted to announce the launch of the 2015 BU PhD Studentship competition for projects, starting in September 2015, as part of the Fusion Investment Fund. There will be up to 50 studentships available across two parallel strands: (1) **Matched Funded** and (2) **Fully Funded**. All proposals should state clearly how they support BU in achieving BU2018.

## **Strand 1 – Matched Funded Studentships - up to 45 studentships available**

- The matched funder should provide 50% of the studentship 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 Faculty/Schools and/or those from early career researchers.
- Applicants are encouraged to discuss potential applications to this funding strand with their Deputy Dean for Research or equivalent within their Faculty/Schools.

## **Strand 2 – Fully-Funded Studentships – up to 5 studentships available**

- These are exceptional awards for highly original, timely and non-applied or “blue-sky” research projects where there is no potential for match funding.
- Priority may be given to projects which involve supervisors from two or more Faculty/Schools and/or those from early career researchers.
- Applicants are welcome to discuss potential applications to this funding strand with Professor John Fletcher or Professor Tiantian Zhang.

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 in each strand 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 for Graduate School intranet, should be submitted to the Graduate School Team via email to [phdstudentshipcompetition@bournemouth.ac.uk](mailto:phdstudentshipcompetition@bournemouth.ac.uk) no later than 5pm on Monday 19 January 2015.

A second round of the competition may run in February 2015 if any awards remain unallocated following the first round.

## **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/Schools. Studentship holders will be expected to have completed their doctorate within 36 months,

however, studentship candidates who do not complete within that time period 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:

<b>Stipend</b>	Year 1	£7,000
	Year 2	£7,000
	Year 3	£7,000
<b>Research Costs</b>		£3,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>£24,000</b>

In line with the Doctoral Study Fund Policy, Faculty/Schools 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.

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.

## The Matched Funder

Final approval of the project will be subject to satisfactory due diligence checks on the proposed matched funder. The University will not accept funding from certain types of organisations, a full list of which is available under the [Code of Ethical Fundraising](#).

The University will only accept funding if due diligence has been undertaken to reduce the risk of fraud, money laundering, proceeds of crime or tax avoidance. It is important to demonstrate that a matched funder does not show any conflict with the University's ethical policies or present any significant risk of adverse PR.

Applicants must complete a [Matched Funder Due Diligence Form](#) (along with their application) to show at least in broad terms where the money being given comes from and assure that the organisation is appropriate for the University to be involved or associated with.

The core elements of due diligence involve taking reasonable steps to;

- Identify the organisation, where are they based, who its directors are;
- Verify the organisation, checking company registration details;
- Know what the organisation's primary business is;
- Consider how the relationship with the University has come about; and
- Comply with the University's Anti-Bribery, Conflict of Interest, Fraud policies and the Code of Ethical Fundraising.

Full use should be made of reliable internet websites to source information, such as Companies House or equivalent.

[www.companieshouse.gov.uk](http://www.companieshouse.gov.uk)

Where proposed matched funders are based internationally, due diligence checks must take into account any relevant circumstances arising in the particular country or region of the funder's operations. Risks could arise from for example, internal conflicts, military action, and known terrorist or criminal activity in the area.

All these details assist in reassuring the University both that funds are available to support the project and where the funds come from.

The Matched Funder Due Diligence Form can be downloaded from the [Graduate School intranet](#).

**A letter of support from the matched funder should be included with your Proposal clearly indicating that funding is available.**

## 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 BU academic staff, should complete the application and must be a qualified supervisor defined as having a current "Certificate of Doctoral Supervision" and being research active. The first supervisor will also be required to provide details of PGRs they have supervised from registration through to completion.

To ensure independence, it would not normally be appropriate to appoint members of staff who are in a personal relationship as members of a supervisory team. Where this is the case, the members of staff have a duty to make an appropriate declaration, so that the appropriate Deputy Dean (Research) (DDR) is able to make an informed decision with regard to the suitability of the supervisory arrangements. Further information can be found in Code of Practice for Research Degrees (September 2014). See Section 3.2.

All applications must be endorsed by the DDR or equivalent in the lead Faculty or Academic School.

## Candidate Recruitment

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

All projects will be promoted internally on the BU Postgraduate Research web pages and externally through relevant media. Individual project details will also be advertised externally on [jobs.ac.uk](http://jobs.ac.uk) and [findaphd.com](http://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/ School. 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 the Faculty/School facilities by a current PGR. Academic Schools 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. **Please note that NO informal offers should be made at the time of interview.**

## 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. **It is important to consider that in most cases the interpretation of 'outstanding' is likely to be those candidates with a First Class (Hons) degrees and/or a distinction at Masters, with clear documented evidence of drive and commitment.**

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 Proposals

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

## Timetable

A second round of the competition may run in February 2015, if any awards remain unallocated following the first round. It should be noted that to ensure sufficient time to recruit a suitable candidate, projects funded under the second round will be recruiting candidates for January 2016 start.

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

Date	Action
6 October 2014	Launch PhD Studentships Internal Competition (Round 1)
19 January 2015	Deadline for submission of proposals to PhD Studentships Internal Competition (Round 1)
Late January 2015	Project evaluation and decision making
February – May 2015	PhD Studentships Recruitment Drive (Round 1)
February – April	<i>PhD Studentships Internal Competition (Round 2, if required)</i>
May – August	<i>PhD Studentships Recruitment Drive (Round 2 if applicable)</i>
September 2015	Successful Candidates Start (Round 1 projects)
January 2016	Successful Candidates Start (Round 2 projects)



# Phd Studentship Competition 2015 – Policy

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

# Phd Studentship Competition 2015 – Policy

## PhD Studentship Competition 2015 – Process

