



The Graduate School

BU PhD Studentship Competition 2017: Policy

We are delighted to announce the launch of the **2017 BU PhD Studentship Competition** for projects starting in September 2017.

For 2017, 50% of the total BU PhD Studentship funding will be allocated equally between the four Faculties (e.g. up to 3 Fully Funded Studentships OR 6 Matched Funded Studentships for each Faculty) and 50% of the Studentship funding will be offered by the Graduate School (e.g. 6 Fully Funded Studentships plus 12 Matched Funded Studentships). Applications for Studentships can be considered EITHER by the Graduate School OR the Faculty (NOT both) which needs to be clearly indicated on the application form. This policy applies to Studentships both from the Graduate School and the Faculties. The process of the Studentship competition for all Studentship awards will be administered by the Graduate School.

Studentship Guidance

- 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.
- Studentships are offered on a full-time basis only.
- For Graduate School Studentships applicants are strongly encouraged to discuss the development of potential applications with the Deputy Dean for Research & Professional Practice or equivalent (DDRPP) within their Faculty.
- For Studentships allocated by the Graduate School, priority may be given to applications that involve supervisors from two or more Faculties.
- Studentships cannot be used to support BU staff to complete doctoral programmes.
- Normal PhD Studentship Terms and Conditions will apply.

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 via email to phdstudentshipcompetition@bournemouth.ac.uk **no later than 9am on Monday 9 January 2017**. Late applications will not be considered.

Proposals will then be circulated to either the Graduate School or Faculty judging panels for decision making. The Studentships will be awarded to supervisory teams on the basis of a competitive process led by Professor John Fletcher (PVC R&I) or Faculty DDRPPs and managed by the Graduate School. Applications submitted for Graduate School Studentships will be reviewed and assessed with awards made by a cross University Panel consisting of PVC R&I, the Head of the Graduate School and Faculty DDRPPs. Faculty Studentships will be reviewed and assessed by separate panels in each Faculty consisting of the DDRPPs, Senior Academic Representatives (normally Professors) within the Faculty and the Head of the Graduate School (or nominee).

Matched Funded Studentship Projects

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:

Funding Type	Year	Amount
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.

- Matched funding may be provided by:
 - Industry/business partners
 - Government and non-government organisations
 - Other academic institutions
 - NHS
 - Research Councils
 - or other external bodies

Confirmation from the matched funder is required at the time of Studentship application. Research contracts between the Matched Funder and BU will be drawn up for successful projects after the Studentship competition process and managed by the Research and Knowledge Exchange Office.

Supervisor Eligibility Criteria

The **first supervisor** should take responsibility for the application and ensure that the application meets the supervisory 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”, and be research active.

All applications for Graduate School Studentships must be endorsed by the DDRPP in the lead Faculty. Inquiries regarding Faculty Studentships and the approval process should be directed to the DDRPP in the Faculty.

Candidate Recruitment

Once awarded all Studentships will be advertised and will be subject to a centralised 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 and FindAPhD.com. Supervisors have an important role in ensuring that their project is advertised on all relevant subject/sector specific bulletin boards or through appropriate discipline networks.

Supervisors will be given a 3 month period from project advertisement in which to recruit a suitable candidate. Funding from projects failing to recruit a suitable candidate will be returned to the Graduate School or Faculty Studentship fund for reallocation. 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. The interview panel should refer to the interview checklist and person specification available from the Graduate School. Interviews should last normally 30 minutes and if possible all candidates should be given a tour of BU and Faculty facilities by a current PGR.

PVC R&I approval of each successfully nominated 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 PVC R&I approval, formal offer letters will be issued to the successful candidate by the Graduate School.



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Candidate Eligibility Criteria

The Studentships are open to UK, EU and International students. Candidates for a PhD Studentship should demonstrate outstanding qualities and be motivated to complete a PhD in 3 years. For fully funded studentship candidates must demonstrate outstanding academic potential with preferably a 1st class honours degree and/or a Master's degree with distinction or equivalent Grade Point Average. An IELTS (Academic) score of 6.5 minimum (with a minimum 5.5 in each component) 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 online 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.

Please note:

- Current BU Doctoral students are not eligible to apply for a Studentship
- Current MRes/MPhil students can apply, subject to satisfactory completion of their Research Degree prior to being able to take up the award

Unsuccessful Applications

Unsuccessful applicants, not shortlisted for interview, will be informed of the outcome at the earliest opportunity. Those shortlisted for interview will be provided with formative feedback, if unsuccessful. Appeals should be made to the PVC R&I via the Graduate School.

Timetable

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

Date	Action
1 Nov 2016	Launch PhD Studentships Internal Competition – <i>development of proposals</i>
9 Jan 2017	Closing date for submission of proposals
23 Jan - 10 Feb 2017	Panel meetings
Before 28 Feb 2017	Feedback to supervisors and preparation of adverts
March – June 2017	Launch PhD Studentships External Competition – <i>recruitment of candidates</i>
September 2017	Successful Candidates start

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:

PhD Studentship Competition 2017 – Process

