

# How to include an associated doctoral student on a DFID-ESRC project

## General requirements for all associated doctoral studentships

Under this call associated doctoral studentships are eligible for funding. However, please note that these studentships can only be included within proposals with a proposed duration of three years or more, and up to three studentships can be applied for on any single proposal.

The primary supervisor, for all associated studentships, must either be the principal or co-investigator on the project and must be based within an ESRC-accredited Doctoral Training Centre (DTC). The student(s) must also be located in an ESRC-accredited Doctoral Training Centre and be studying on an accredited pathway.

## Programme conditions for associated studentships

- Students are expected to be embedded within the DTC training environment as far as possible. However, it is recognised that ESRC-DFID funded students are likely to undertake significant periods of overseas fieldwork or be partly based overseas.
- Associated studentships are designed to add value to the research outlined in the proposal, whilst providing a clear opportunity for **a distinct and independent course of enquiry** for the student. Through being embedded with a high-quality research team, they should offer the student an opportunity to develop their substantive research skills alongside broader professional development.
- This programme does not provide support for standalone doctoral students. Any support for standalone doctoral research should be sought from alternative sources.
- Doctoral students may only be included in research proposals from established and qualified research teams, and the necessity and potential impact of any doctoral student support will be thoroughly evaluated through the programme's review mechanism.
- **Associated studentships must not replace normal research support required on the grant.**
- Doctoral students from any country may be included in proposals to the DFID-ESRC Programmes. However, **studentships can only be held in an ESRC Doctoral Training Centre and on an accredited pathway**. For details please see <http://www.esrc.ac.uk/skills-and-careers/studentships/doctoral-training-centres>

- Lead supervision must be from either the principal investigator or a co-investigator on the project and must be based within an ESRC Doctoral Training Centre. Individuals from non-DTC institutions, including non-UK institutions, may contribute to the supervision of a PhD student included on a proposal, provided they can demonstrate an appropriate research environment and infrastructure for doctoral work and **robust supervisory provision**. The student may spend a reasonable period (but not normally more than half) of their studentship at a non-DTC institution, including one outside of the UK. It is the responsibility of the DTC institution to ensure that the student is receiving appropriate standards of supervision and training during any time spent out of the DTC institution, and that the PhD thesis is submitted on time.
- Unnamed students may be included in the proposal, provided the topic and locations of students are specified, and a clear rationale and contribution of the student to the research agenda is demonstrated.
- The duration of the linked studentship programme must not normally exceed the length of the research project (ie a research project with an associated student will normally be for three years or more). However, it should be recognised that institutional and supervisory support for students is likely to continue beyond the funding period, to allow for the writing-up period, thesis submission date and final completion date. There may also be unforeseen eventualities during the course of the studentship (eg extended periods of illness, maternity leave etc.) which may mean it will extend beyond the period of the research grant. In such circumstances continued institutional commitment to and support of the doctoral student must be guaranteed.
- The terms and conditions of these studentships are specific to ESRC-DFID calls only and reflect the strategic priorities behind this initiative.

## How to cost an associated studentship into a proposal

Studentships (stipend, fees and Research Support Training Grant) are not costed under fEC arrangements.

- For this programme all associated student costs (stipend, fees and Research Support Training Grant) must be entered under 'Other Directly Incurred Costs' on the Je-S proposal and marked as 'Exception' to ensure that costs are paid at 100 per cent fEC. For this programme details of associated students and their costs **should not** be entered under the 'Project Student' section of the Je-S proposal.
- Associated students must be costed at the current standard rates for ESRC studentships. Fees will be paid at the national agreed fee level for Research Council students. For 2016/17 this figure is £4,121. **International rate fees cannot be claimed for studentships linked to DFID-ESRC Programme proposals.**

Current rates are available on the ESRC website at: [www.esrc.ac.uk/funding-and-guidance/postgraduates/prospective-students/studentship-worth/index.aspx](http://www.esrc.ac.uk/funding-and-guidance/postgraduates/prospective-students/studentship-worth/index.aspx)

- Any additional travel and subsistence expenses, including fieldwork costs and any other costs relating to the linked studentship, should be included in the Je-S proposal and fully justified in the 'Justification of Resources' attachment. These costs will be paid at the standard 80 per cent fEC (unless directly incurred by a non-UK organisation).

## **Attachments to the Je-S form required for proposals with an associated studentship**

For proposals where associated student(s) have been included the following attachments must be submitted:

- **Studentship Case for Support** (maximum two sides of A4 for each associated studentship)
- **A letter of support from the DTC director** (maximum one side of A4 for each letter of support)
- **CVs** (maximum two sides of A4) for each known doctoral student (where applicable).

The 'Studentship Case for Support' must include the following:

- Information on the proposed supervisory arrangements for associated student, including, where appropriate, arrangements for co-supervision
- Details of the proposed supervisor(s) (including academic record, area of research expertise and the number of students currently and/or previously supervised)
- The Doctoral Training Centre accredited pathway in which the student will be based
- The length of the studentship in years – including start and end dates
- A summary statement of the PhD topic to be undertaken and a justification for the length of the programme of study
- A clear statement of how this studentship is independent from, but will add value to, the principal research objectives set out in the proposal.

### **Maximum two sides of A4 for each associated studentship**

In addition, a letter of support from the DTC director must be attached to the proposal to ensure that the associated student will be embedded within the doctoral training centre.

### **Maximum one side of A4 for each letter of support**

Where the identity of the doctoral student(s) is known at the point of application, CVs should also be included.

### **Maximum two A4 sides for each CV**