

SEEDA EPSRC INDUSTRIAL CASE STUDENTSHIPS 2007

The Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) is the UK Government's leading funding agency for research and training in engineering and the physical sciences. Each year a number of Industrial Co-operative Awards in Science and Engineering (CASE) studentships are allocated to facilitate 3-year research projects run in conjunction with an academic institution and a business. EPSRC allocates Industrial CASE to companies to enable them to take the lead in defining and setting up research projects with the Research Organisation of their choice.

Four (4) studentships have been allocated for the South East region in 2007. **The closing date for applications is 12:00 on the 31st May 2007.**

Application Procedure

Colin Baldwin, Knowledge Transfer Manager at SEEDA will be handling applications. Any interest in participating in the scheme should be directed to Colin who will forward on the application forms. These should be completed jointly by the industrial and university partners and submitted to SEEDA by the industrial partner.

EPSRC Central Pool

In order to simplify the applications process, SEEDA is negotiating with EPSRC that applications that are submitted for SEEDA Industrial CASE awards will automatically be submitted on to EPSRC for consideration in the Central Pool. The application forms therefore consist of the EPSRC Central Pool form and an additional SEEDA specific form.

The SEEDA form has been designed as a supplement to provide opportunities for you to elaborate on key details to be brought to the attention of the final judging panel. It is important that the EPSRC Central Pool form provides a complete application of your project to enable it to be forwarded on to the EPSRC central pool.

Please complete the forms in ink or electronically by computer. **All application forms must be signed.** Email submissions of scanned signed forms to colinbaldwin@seeda.co.uk (with hard copy to follow) will be accepted.

Please complete the forms in ink or electronically by computer – and ensure that the EPSRC form is signed. SEEDA will also be happy to take on board any comments from your experiences with the application forms / process.

Applications will be judged upon on a number of criteria, including:

- The benefits of the project to the student and their personal development;
- The partnership demonstrating a benefit to the South East through either the Company or the University Institution based within the region;
- The partnership being able to demonstrate that suitable and acceptable resources are in place to aid the completion of the project;
- The potential benefits of the project to science and the benefits to the business economy of that particular sector;
- How the project will advance any existing technology.

Eligibility

The company, not the University, is expected to take the lead in defining and setting up the research project. When considering companies for eligibility under this scheme, we shall be looking for the following:

- under 250 employees within the company or group;
- turnover of less than £34.3 million and a balance sheet total of not more than £29.5 million
- within the South East region;
- a research & development facility / department;
- a research based (not developmental) project;
- a company prepared to jointly supervise the student with the academic institution;
- falling within EPSRC research areas (see list below);
- research at PhD level that will take 3 years.

Keywords associated with the EPSRC's remit are given below and we would expect the research proposal to address one of the following:

- Chemistry
- Engineering for infrastructure and the environment
- Engineering for manufacturing
- General engineering
- Information Technology and Computer Sciences
- Materials
- Mathematics
- Physics

Intellectual Property Rights will default to the student (not company, or university) until a collaboration agreement is in place.

EPSRC funding

As a measure of their interest and involvement, the company must make a mandatory financial contribution in cash to the Research Organisation, towards the cost of the project and support of the student. This contribution must be at least 1/3rd of the funding provided by EPSRC. For awards decided this year (2007/08), EPSRC is paying £62,288 for a 3.5 year studentship, and expects the company to contribute at least £20,766 in cash over the period of the studentship. The company is also expected to cover all expenses (e.g. travel and accommodation costs) incurred by the student as a result of periods spent at the company. The student should not be out of pocket as a result of undertaking the project.

EPSRC funds will be paid to Research Organisations via Collaborative Training Awards. Background information regarding CTAs, including the terms and conditions attached to such awards, can be found on the EPSRC website at

<http://www.epsrc.ac.uk/PostgraduateTraining/CollaborativeTrainingAccounts/default.htm>

CTA Terms and Conditions specifically applicable/relevant to Industrial CASE are:

1. EPSRC expects that the funds allocated (which have been notionally split 70:30 between the "Stipends" and "Other Costs" headings) are used to support the student. Failure to do so may attract adverse comment when the CTA is evaluated.

Process for 2007 – SOUTH EAST REGION

12:00 31 st May 2007	Closing date for receipt of application forms (hard copy). These should be clearly marked for the attention of Colin Baldwin, EPSRC CASE Awards and sent to SEEDA, Cross Lanes, Guildford, Surrey GU1 1YA. N.B. All application forms must be signed. Email submissions of scanned signed forms to colinbaldwin@seeda.co.uk (with hard copy to follow) will be accepted.
15 th June 2007	Applications assessed and awards decided. A letter confirming the allocation will be sent to companies along with a sign-up form.
31 st August 2007	Companies and their chosen academic partner must complete a sign-up form with a unique Voucher number. This Voucher number is given on each of the sign-up forms sent to companies, with a letter confirming their allocation. Completed sign-up forms must be returned to EPSRC by 31st August.
September 2007	EPSRC collects and validates sign-up data.
October 2007 onwards	Funding added to CTA grants and letters sent to the company and academic supervisors and the CTA coordinator. Once funding is added to the CTA, Universities confirm/submit student data electronically via Je-S by validating the Industrial CASE voucher numbers against the CTA grant. Funding must start against 2007 vouchers by September 2008.

Specific Terms and Conditions apply and these are detailed on the website (<http://www.epsrc.ac.uk/PostgraduateTraining/IndustrialCASE/default.htm>).

If you have any further queries then please do not hesitate to contact

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