**ARIES-SeNSS DTPs   
Call for Joint ESRC-NERC Studentship Proposals   
for Entry in 2019**

Primary Supervisors should complete this form and **submit to their designated Institutional Sift Panel**. Sift Panels will select projects up to a target number set by the ARIES Strategy Board, and submit these to the Board for consideration.

For those who are familiar with EnvEast DTP project proposals, please note that there are **significant differences in requirements** for proposals to ARIES.

**Deadline for submission to cross-DTP Sift Panel: 12:00 12th September 2018**

**Email address for submission of completed form to cross-DTP Sift:** [aries.dtp@uea.ac.uk](mailto:aries.dtp@uea.ac.uk)

**Please submit this form to the email address above AND complete the short online form at** <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=lYdfxj26UUOKBwhl5djwkNjNGfSlMOVFha_zZgV6WfpUOUxKNEVQNUVMSVRXOU01VlBBUDZMT1RTOS4u>

The latter will populate an Excel scoring template for the sift panel

**Project and candidate selection criteria**

The Sift Panels will consider the following criteria in making their selection:

1. Proposals must **fall within the NERC remit**. Projects should also fit within at least one of the **five ARIES Research Themes** (see [*bit.ly/aries\_res*](http://bit.ly/aries_res)). The project must *also* fall within one or more of the **13** **SeNSS Pathways** ([*senss-dtp.ac.uk/#about-senss*](http://senss-dtp.ac.uk/#about-senss)).
2. The following criteria, which are equally weighted, are used to score the project:
3. **Quality of the Scientific Experience**

* Proposals should demonstrate that the student will be engaged on a **rewarding and relevant** research project that will provide them with a first class research experience
* The proposal should have clearly articulated aims, objectives and focus
* The research methodology should be appropriate and well defined
* The proposal should demonstrate scientific rigour in its approach
* The project should clearly enable the student to demonstrate a level of independence and originality, to test ideas and hypotheses, and to make a contribution to learning that would be potentially worthy of publication

1. **Suitability and Feasibility**

* The project should be well-suited to a PhD. It will have clear aims that provide opportunities for intellectual challenge whilst having a reasonable element of “security” in that due progress can be made within the time constraints, and by a student who may be undertaking research for the first time
* The project is feasible within the given resource limitations (including financial constraints)
* The project is achievable within the given time frame
* Risks to the completion of the project are identified, and robust contingency plans described that would allow the student to successfully conclude a programme of doctoral level research in the event of delays to, or failure of, the original work plan
* A high-quality research environment exists that will support the student on all levels (e.g. intellectually and practically)

1. **Training**

* Proposals should demonstrate a high level of commitment to excellence in provision of appropriate and necessary research training by the Supervisory team and their research groupings
* Training should lead to the development of advanced research skills, and not necessarily only within the narrower focus of the project (i.e. they should also be multidisciplinary), as well as developing more generic/transferable skills
* Good prospects for employability are identifiable
* Key social science research methods are identified where required

C. The advertisement should be compelling and intelligible to potential applicants, and meet all requirements given in the form below. The proposal may otherwise be rejected, or returned for amendment before the internal deadline date above.

**Final selection**

Final selection of projects recommended by the cross-DTP Sift Panel will be made by the ARIES Strategy Board. The Board will limit the number of projects advertised to a maximum of three. Further strategic criteria will be applied by the Strategy Board at the student selection stage, as outlined below. The decision of the ARIES Strategy Board is final.

**Co-funding and funding priorities**

1. Funding will be ring-fenced to fund one Joint ARIES-SeNSS Studentship
2. CASE projects[[1]](#footnote-1) are welcome (a letter of support is required detailing the support to be provided by the CASE partner)
3. Collaborative projects[[2]](#footnote-2) are welcome (brief written confirmation from the partners of collaborative arrangements is required)

We also encourage projects that address one or more of our **Priority Research topics** (see[*bit.ly/aries\_res*](http://www.enveast.ac.uk/aries/res)). The Priority Research topics will be updated annually by the ARIES Theme Leaders (see [*bit.ly/aries\_res*](http://www.enveast.ac.uk/aries/res)).

**ARIES-SeNSS studentships**

Studentships include tuition fees and a stipend at standard NERC rates for 3.5 years, and an amount towards research costs (RTSGs - see below). The Research Councils’ academic and residential eligibility requirements will apply for this scheme [*https://www.ukri.org/files/legacy/news/training-grants-january-2018-pdf/*](https://www.ukri.org/files/legacy/news/training-grants-january-2018-pdf/).

**Candidates from numerical disciplines**

ARIES wishes to encourage applications from students with high level numerical skills, but no degree-level exposure to environmental sciences. We therefore operate a scheme whereby 3 months of additional stipend are awarded to qualifying applicants. These PGRs take advanced-level courses in their chosen branch of environmental sciences in the first 3–6 months of study.

For a project to be eligible for this, Supervisors must indicate in their project advertisement that applicants with numerate degrees would be acceptable (e.g. Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, and Engineering). Supervisors will be asked to indicate candidates who they believe are eligible for this funding at the nomination stage.

The scheme is based on similar principles to those of the NERC REP scheme ([*https://nerc.ukri.org/funding/available/postgrad/advanced/experience/*](https://nerc.ukri.org/funding/available/postgrad/advanced/experience/)).

**Internships**

It is mandatory for all ARIES PGRs to carry out an internship of between 1 and 3 months during their studentship. This may be undertaken in one or more time blocks. The total time spent on placement will be added as an additionally-funded period at the end of the 3.5 year period of study. Internships provide an opportunity for PGRs to widen their horizons beyond that of their immediate thesis work. PGRs must take steps to arrange this placement themselves, with assistance from their supervisory team and independent advisor.

**ARIES-SeNSS DTP   
Studentship Proposal Form  
2019 Entry**

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| **Application Type** | | | |
| **University of Registration: …………………………………….**  **Agreed Co-funding** (not applicable to ARIES-SeNSS Studentships)  None  Host partner  External partner  **CASE funded?** YES/NO  (If YES, then a *letter of agreement in principle* must be provided by the CASE partner and submitted with this form, and the CASE supervisor named below)  **Collaborative?** YES/NO  Will there be research and supervision involving an external partner? (If YES, then brief written confirmation from the partners is required, and the Collaborative supervisor named below)  **Inter-DTP proposal?**  With BBSRC NRP DTP  With ESRC SeNSS DTP | | | |
| **Primary (ARIES) Supervisor (see** [**note 1**](#Note1)**(a) for eligibility criteria)** | | | |
| **Name (incl. Dr/Prof etc)** | **Institute** | **Email address** | |
|  |  |  | |
| **Secondary (SeNSS) Supervisor (see** [**note 1(b))**](#Note1b) | | | |
| **Name (incl. Dr/Prof etc)** | **Institute, company etc** | **Include name/affiliation in advert? (Y/N)** | **Email address** |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Co-Supervisors** *(please note, ARIES requires PGRs to have access to at least two supervisors at the HEI where they are primarily based)* | | | |
| **Name (incl. Dr/Prof etc)** | **Institute, company etc** | **Include name/affiliation in advert? (Y/N)** | **Email address** |
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| **Other Supervisory Team Member(s) (see** [**note 2**](#Note2)**)** | | | |
| **Name (incl. Dr/Prof etc).** Indicate CASE/Collaborative supervisor(s) with a \* | **Institute, company etc** | **Include name/affiliation in advert? (Y/N)** | **Email address** |
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| **Multidisciplinary nature of the supervisory team** | | | |
| *NERC require Supervisory teams to demonstrate ‘multidisciplinarity’ through interests of one or more team members in areas outside the immediate discipline of the student’s thesis work. Please briefly describe here how that applies to the team assembled here. (Not required for ARIES-SeNSS Studentships)*  (Max 200 words.) | | | |
| **Independent Research Impact Advisor (optional) (see** [**note 2**](#Note2)**)** | | | |
| **Name (incl. Dr/Prof etc)** | **Institute, company etc** | **Email address** | |
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| **Project Title (**[**see appendix 2**](#Appendix2)**)** | | | | |
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| **Project advertisement text (maximum 350 words) (**[**see appendix 2**](#Appendix2)**)** | | | | |
| **As well as forming the text for the project advertisement, this summary will also be used by the sift panel in conjunction with the Supplementary Project Description (below) to assess the quality of the proposed project.** | | | | |
| *Please provide a description that would be intelligible to suitable candidates and that addresses the following (you may use the same headers):*  Scientific background *(the wider context; why the project is important and timely)*  Research methodology *(what precisely will the student do? Where? How?)*  Training *(what opportunities will the student have? What skills will they gain?)*  Person specification *(what are you looking for in applicants?); you must include the desired degree subject(s) but please note that our adverts will state that the requirement is for a minimum 2:1 Bachelor degree (requirements for an MSc or first class degree will be removed).* | | | | |
| **References** | | | | |
| **Please list up to five relevant references (these will also be included in the advertisement). *At least two of these must be recent relevant papers authored (or co-authored) by the supervisory team.*** | | | | |
| **1.** |  | | | |
| **2.** |  | | | |
| **3.** |  | | | |
| **4.** |  | | | |
| **5.** |  | | | |
| **Standard text which will be appended to the advert:**  This project has been shortlisted for funding by the ARIES NERC Doctoral Training Partnership. Shortlisted applicants will be invited to interview at XXX on XX February 2019.  Funding  Successful candidates who meet UKRI’s eligibility criteria will be awarded a NERC studentship - in 2018/19 the stipend is £14,777. In most cases, UK and EU nationals who have been resident in the UK for 3 years are eligible for a full award. For non-UK EU-resident applicants NERC funding can be used to cover fees, RTSG and training costs, but not any part of the stipend. Individual institutes may, however, elect to provide a stipend from their own resources. | | | | |
| **Image for advertisement** | | | | |
| Please include a non-copyrighted image that we can publish with your advert on the ARIES website. You can paste this below, provide a hyperlink, or otherwise submit the image with your proposal. | | | | |
| **Video for advertisement (optional but recommended)** | | | | |
| Videos have proved highly effective for recruiting excellent candidates, and offer you the opportunity to explain more about the PhD research, its context, the research environment etc, in a direct way (and without word limits). They need only be simple (e.g. a ‘talking head’) and should last no longer than around 2 minutes. If you have produced a video, please upload it to YouTube and paste the hyperlink below (or you can send it to us for upload to our YouTube channel – contact aries.dtp@uea.ac.uk): | | | | |
| **Supplementary Project Description (maximum 500 words)(see** [**note 3**](#Note3)**)** | | | | |
| **Please use this section to provide *additional information* about the project, not included in the proposal advertisement above.** *The two sections together* *will be scrutinised by the Sift Panel and Strategy Board. They should collectively provide a clear description of the research background, aims and objectives; the excellence of the research and how the student will benefit from this excellence; details of the role of the student, including their scope for independent development; and project-specific training and personal development opportunities. It is recommended that you refer to the guidance notes and sift criteria when completing this section (max 500 words, not including references).* | | | | |
| **Fit to ARIES themes** | | | | |
| **Please indicate which ARIES theme(s) the project best fits, choosing one main theme and as many subthemes as seem appropriate**  Identifying themes assists us in allocate projects to sift panellists, candidates to interview panels, etc.; it is not use to score or prioritise projects for funding. | | | | |
|  | | **Main theme (X)** | **Rank order; 1 most relevant** | |
| **1. Ecology & Biodiversity** | |  |  | |
| **2. Marine, Atmospheric & Climate Science** | |  |  | |
| **3. Geosciences, Resources & Environmental Risk** | |  |  | |
| **4. Environmental Genomics & Microbiology** | |  |  | |
| **5. Agri-Environments & Water** | |  |  | |
| **SeNSS Pathway** | | | | |
| Please type in the box below the appropriate SeNSS Pathway (see[*senss-dtp.ac.uk/#about-senss*](http://senss-dtp.ac.uk/#about-senss)**)** | | Please confirm that the Secondary (SeNSS) Supervisor is a member of staff and is located at one of the institutes associated with the stated SeNSS Pathway **Y/N** | | |
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| **ARIES priority topics** | | | | |
| The ARIES Advisory Board and Theme Leaders have identified a number of priority topics; ARIES will ring-fence a number of studentships addressing these each year. Please indicate with an X any priority topic(s) your project addresses The topics are described at bit.ly/aries\_res; please note that only the **topics** should be identified, not the ‘exemplar projects’ also shown there, which were only listed for the purpose of the bid.  Note: ARIES welcomes ‘blue skies’ research, and projects need not address any of the topics below. | | | | |
| **1. Biodiversity and Life Support** | | | |  |
| **2. Integrating Environmental DNA (eDNA) Applications into Policy and Practice** | | | |  |
| **3. Adapting to Climate Change** | | | |  |
| **4. Air Quality and Climatically Important Pollutants** | | | |  |
| **5. Cascading and Coupled Environmental Hazards** | | | |  |
| **6. 21st Century Soils** | | | |  |
| **7. Solutions for Pollution from Microplastics** | | | |  |
| **8. The Changing Polar Cryosphere and its Impacts** | | | |  |

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| **Pathways to Impact Statement** |
| ARIES needs to demonstrate to NERC the potential economic and societal benefits from its investments. Impact activities are therefore required that anticipate and deliver the needs of the ultimate users of DTP research in business, policy, the third-sector, the wider public and others. Supervisor should present an initial plan for how the student will maximise the impact of their research, and how they might disseminate this to key stakeholders. The PGR will subsequently take over the task of developing and realizing this plan, in consultation with their Advisor. In doing so, they will develop a key career-relevant multidisciplinary skill. The statement should describe who will benefit, and how, and on what time scale. The sift panel will consider the adequacy of the statement, and may ask for improvements.  (Maximum 500 words.) |
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| **Collaborative and/or multidisciplinary aspects of the project** |
| **You may, if you wish, give additional details here of any collaborative and multidisciplinary elements of the project (**e.g. opportunities for the student to spend a significant period working at another institution).  (Maximum 200 words.) |
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| **Required social science research methods training** |
| Identify below any key social science research methods and subject-specific training needed for the student to meet the ESRC core training requirements (see [*esrc.ukri.org/files/skills-and-careers/studentships/postgraduate-training-and-development-guidelines-2015/*](https://esrc.ukri.org/files/skills-and-careers/studentships/postgraduate-training-and-development-guidelines-2015/)) |
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| **Project contingency plan** |
| Is the project based on data that are yet to be collected?  **Yes  No**  If yes, please describe the contingency plan should the collection fail or the data set not be fit for purpose. (Maximum 200 words.) |
|  |
| **Data management plan** |
| Describe how data from the research will be stored and archived securely, as well as made available open access in full or in part. Please note arrangements made with UKRI databases to hold such data.  (Maximum 100 words.) |
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| **Primary Supervisor checklist** | | | |
| 1. An assessment will be made via the Initial Training Needs Assessment of the student’s specific training needs. Exemption from ARIES mandatory training may be granted where SeNSS training takes precedence. 2. The default is that ARIES-SeNSS students will attend mandatory ARIES cohort training events, including Induction (2nd week of October Y1), Winter School (3rd week of December of Y1), Summer Schools (last week of June Y1, 2, 3), and the joint student symposium (2 days in April, Y2 and 3) (dates subject to minor changes), except where permitted due to exceptional circumstances. 3. The student will submit their Training Needs Assessment, DTP activity report, and UKRI ResearchFish submission on an annual basis or as otherwise required. 4. The Primary and Secondary Supervisors assert that they meet all of the eligibility criteria given in Appendix 1: Note 1. 5. The Primary Supervisor will attend the ARIES supervisor instruction session (in person or online) within three months of their student registering. 6. The Primary (ARIES) Supervisor, and Secondary (SeNSS) Supervisor have undertaken equality-diversity and unconscious bias training in the last two years, and will comply with relevant sections of the ARIES Equality and Diversity statement (see [*bit.ly/aries\_ops*](http://bit.ly/aries_ops)). 7. The Primary Supervisor agrees to offer **at least two** of the following over the course of the studentship (please mark at least one): | | | |
| (i) a training activity of their own to a wider group of DTP students (e.g. of a lab, field or computer modelling technique)\* | | |  |
| (ii) provide input to an existing DTP training activity (typically a 2-4 hour session delivering transferable skills training)\* | | |  |
| (iii) contribute to a stakeholder sandpit event (e.g. as a group discussion leader) | | |  |
| (iv) be part of a studentship interview panel (typically involves 1-2 days in February interviewing PhD candidates) | | |  |
| (v) be part of an institutional sift panel (typically 1 day actual or virtual meeting in August/September) | | |  |
| (vi) assist in independent inspection of Training Needs Analysis (TNA) forms submitted by students (virtual task in either November or June) | | |  |
| (vii) act as an independent research impact adviser to another student (minimum one ‘appraisal’-style meeting per year, plus ‘sounding board’ for independent advice) | | |  |
| \*Give brief details of any training you would like to deliver/be involved with: | | | |
| **I acknowledge the conditions for funding highlighted above** | | | |
| Primary (ARIES) supervisor signature (this can be an e-signature): |  | Date: | |
| Secondary (SeNSS) supervisor signature (this can be an e-signature): |  | Date: | |

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| Research **costs and resources** |
| **Please describe on the next page all research-specific costs involved in this studentship.**  *Funding for research is strictly limited by the NERC and ESRC funding made available to the DTP. Research projects proposed here must, therefore, be of a* ***suitable nature to be feasible within a limited research budget****.*  *Due to the differing RTSG available through the ESRC DTP, the notional maximum budget for research costs is £5,300 over 3.5 years. However, the SeNSS also has available separate funds to support overseas fieldwork, and ARIES will consider requests for higher costs where required.*  *In all cases the actual costs must be given in detail and fully justified below. Students can request additional financial support for conference attendance and critical training, where this training is not available through the ARIES and SeNSS DTPs, after the studentship has begun.*  *It is expected that Supervisors will have well-founded laboratory resources available where required, and equipment costs will not normally be considered. Requested costs should be strictly for the benefit of the student, and not to support the research interests of any other individual.*  *We do not normally pay overseas travel for supervisors unless there is a compelling need to do so for essential training or safety reasons, and we do not pay for overseas supervisors to travel to the UK. We will pay the salary costs of essential field assistants, but not the salary costs of any other individuals.*  *PGRs must have access to their own dedicated computer resources for the duration of their period of registration (i.e. until completion; normally 4 years after they begin). If a computer is not available at the host institute this may be funded out of the research costs requested here.*  *Research costs should include adequate provision for PGRs supervised at more than one institute to travel to supervisory meetings at other locations (supervisors may be likewise reimbursed) as well as mandatory institutional events (e.g. institutional induction events).*  *It is generally expected that internship hosts will pay the travel and subsistence costs of PGRs during their placements.*  *Requested costs will be scrutinized by the sift panel and by the Strategy Board and* ***may be reduced*** *and, where a project appears* ***excessively expensive it may be rejected****.*  *Where this is a CASE Award, please do not show the CASE minimum payment of £1,000 pa to the research funds under “External funding below”. These monies will be made available to the student to be spent at the discretion of the supervisory team, to the further benefit of the student’s research and training, i.e. it does not need to defray any of the essential minimum costs requested below.* |

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| |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | |  | **Requested from ARIES (£)** | **Covered by external funding (£)** | | **Consumables (to include safety clothing, lab chemicals, printing/photocopying etc)** |  |  | |  |  |  | |  |  |  | |  |  |  | | **Equipment and facilities; Analysis costs (in house or externally?)** |  |  | |  |  |  | |  |  |  | |  |  |  | | **Travel (research cruise(s); survival courses and associated costs such as insurance, travel clinics, vaccinations, visas, etc.; also UK travel, e.g. where a student needs to spend significant time at a partner’s lab)** |  |  | |  |  |  | |  |  |  | |  |  |  | | **TOTAL** (please ensure this includes applicable taxes) |  |  |   **Justification of costs** (these must be sufficiently detailed and broken down for the Sift Panel to judge the level of need and project feasibility (e.g. a single value for ‘Lab consumables or ‘Overseas travel’ will be rejected)**:**  Give details of any **external funding** noted above, including the source of this funding and whether the funds are already secured or are pending approval. |

**KEYWORDS FOR ADVERTISING**

**It is vital that keywords are provided to enable on line searching.** This can be critical to successful recruitment of students to your project. It is important to provide as many applicable key words as possible, to maximise exposure of your project. The keywords below are the only ones accepted by FindaPhD.com.

**Please choose as many keywords as is reasonably possible, up to a maximum of 10. Some keywords appear under more than one heading, but should only be counted once (e.g. choosing Atmospheric Physics under ‘Physical Sciences’ is the same thing as choosing it under ‘Earth Sciences’)**

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| **Biological & Medical Sciences**  Agricultural Sciences  Biochemistry  Bioinformatics  Biomedical Engineering  Biophysics  Biotechnology  Botany / Plant Science  Cancer / Oncology  Cell Biology / Development  Dentistry  Ecology & Conservation  Endocrinology  Evolution  Food Science / Nutrition  Genetics  Immunology  Marine Biology  Medical / Biomedical Physics  Medical / Clinical Science  Microbiology  Molecular Biology  Neuroscience / Neurology  Obstetrics, Gynaecology &  Reproduction  Parasitology  Pathology  Pharmacology / Toxicology  Physiology & Sports Science  Psychology & Psychiatry  Public Health & Epidemiology  Structural Biology  Veterinary Medicine  Virology  Zoology / Animal Science | **Chemical Sciences**  Agricultural Chemistry  Analytical Chemistry  Biochemistry  Chemical Engineering  Chemical Toxicology  Computational Chemistry  Electrochemistry  Environmental Chemistry  Food Chemistry  Geochemistry  Inorganic Chemistry  Macromolecular Chemistry  Materials Science  Organic Chemistry  Pharmaceutical Chemistry  Physical Chemistry  Synthetic Chemistry | **Maths & Computing**  Applied Mathematics  Bioinformatics  Computational Chemistry  Computer Science & IT  Data Analysis  Information Science  Mathematics  Operational Research  Software Engineering  Statistics |
| **Physical Sciences**  Applied Physics  Astrophysics  Atmospheric Physics  Atomic Physics  Biophysics  Condensed Matter Physics  Fluid Dynamics  Geophysics  Low-temperature Physics  Materials Science  Medical / Biomedical Physics  Metrology  Nuclear Physics  Optical Physics  Particle Physics  Plasma Physics  Radiation  Semiconductors  Theoretical Physics |
| **Earth Sciences**  Agronomy & Soil Sciences  Atmospheric Physics  Climatology & Climate Sciences  Ecology & Conservation  Ecotoxicology & Pollution  Environmental Chemistry  Environmental Science  Geochemistry  Geography  Geology  Geophysics  Meteorology  Oceanography | **Engineering**  Acoustics  Aeronautical Engineering  Biomedical Engineering  Chemical Engineering  Civil & Structural Engineering  Electrical & Electronic  Energy  Materials Science  Mechanical Engineering  Nanotechnology  Nuclear Engineering  Semiconductors  Software Engineering  Telecommunications | **Social Science & Health**  American Studies  Anthropology  Architecture & the Built  Environment  Asian Studies  Development Studies  Economics  Education  European Studies  Gender & Sexuality  Geography  Health Sciences  History  Middle East & African Studies  Modern Languages & Linguistics  Nursing, Midwifery & Allied  Health Professions  Philosophy  Political Science &  International Studies  Psychology  Public Health & Epidemiology  Social Work, Social Policy &  Administration  Sociology  Sports, Recreation & Leisure  Studies  Town & Country Planning |

**Appendix 1: Guidance notes**

**Note 1(a) – Primary Supervisor eligibility**

The eligibility criteria are that they:

* are employed by, and usually based at, an ARIES hosting partner institute or department
* have a track record of research aligned to the NERC remit as evidenced by submission of research grant applications in the last 5 years to UK Research Councils, European Commission and Research Council, other UK or overseas government agencies, or similar bodies (charities, industry, etc.), in these relevant areas (unless they are new investigators - see below)
* have a peer-reviewed publication record of research in the NERC remit in international journals that would be deemed “internationally excellent” or “world leading” according to current REF criteria
* would normally be eligible to be a PhD Primary Supervisor according to their institute’s criteria for institutionally-funded studentships
* have undertaken approved professional development training in relation to their supervisory role within the last 3 years
* have a 100% record of formal progress reporting for at least the previous 12 months for all of their PGR students
* are in compliance with NERC and DTP requirements.

In addition:

* supervisors may only submit one project proposal per year to the Joint ARIES-SeNSS Studentship scheme. This does not affect their eligibility to apply for funds from other ARIES and SeNSS studentship award schemes.
* Where an inexperienced primary supervisor is proposed (e.g. a new investigator), a more experienced supervisor will need to be nominated to the supervisory team.

Other institutional eligibility rules may apply.

**Note 1(b) – Secondary (SeNSS) Supervisor eligibility**

The eligibility criteria are that they:

* are employed by, and usually based at, a SeNSS hosting partner institute or department
* they are in a different institute, or a different department, to the Primary Supervisor (in exceptional circumstances a case may be made for a supervisor to be from a separate research centre in the same department, but it would have to be clear that the proposal represents genuine inter-DTP research and collaboration that would not have been possible under NERC or ESRC funding alone)
* have a track record of research aligned to the ESRC remit as evidenced by submission of research grant applications in the last 5 years to UK Research Councils, European Commission and Research Council, other UK or overseas government agencies, or similar bodies (charities, industry, etc.), in these relevant areas (unless they are new investigators - see below)
* have a peer-reviewed publication record of research in the ESRC remit in international journals that would be deemed “internationally excellent” or “world leading” according to current REF criteria
* would normally be eligible to be a PhD Primary Supervisor according to their institute’s criteria for institutionally-funded studentships
* have undertaken approved professional development training in relation to their supervisory role within the last 3 years (or will have done so within 3 months of the start of the studentship)
* have a 100% record of formal progress reporting for at least the previous 12 months for all of their PGR students
* are in compliance with ESRC and DTP requirements.

Other institutional eligibility rules may apply.

**Note 2 – Supervisory teams and advisors**

Supervisory teams must comprise a Primary Supervisor and at least two more members. All PGRs should have access to at least two supervisors at the institute in which they are primarily located. For CASE and Collaborative awards, the external partners will provide a supervisor to the team.

All ARIES PGRs will also have an Independent Research Impact Advisor appointed who is independent of the Supervisory team. Advisors maybe drawn from the ARIES partnership (see http://www.enveast.ac.uk/aries/collab/our-partners), many of whom have expressed an interest in providing Advisors, or from other end users known to the Supervisory team. Advisors need not necessarily be researchers, they may come from policy units, legal teams, or human resources. Advisors are tasked with discussing the impact of the PGR’s research, advising on securing an internship, and reflecting on the PGR’s career aspirations and professional development needs, as well as acting as a valuable independent sounding board. A formal annual meeting that they will hold with the PGR will follow the format of an appraisal. The Advisor need not be identified until the student has been offered and accepted an award to study on this project but, if they are already known, they can be named here. They should be in post before the student registers to begin their PhD.

**Note 3 – Project proposals**

Consider these questions:

* What is theproblem to be solved, and what are the objectives of the project/student?
* Why is this important, and why now?
* What will the student actually do?
* How will this lead to the student meeting their objectives?
* What training opportunities might the student have?
* If your project involves collaboration, why/how is this a strength?
* If it does not involve collaboration, then could the project/student benefit from one?
* What are the (complementary) strengths of the members of the supervisory team?
* Is there an established research group that the student will be joining?
* How will the project/student produce new data?
* What are the risks involved in the project, and how are these to be mitigated?

**Project proposals will be assessed against the criteria outlined at the beginning of this document. You should be aware that your project may be assessed by individuals who do not have specific expertise in your research area.**

**Appendix 2: Advertisements on the web**

It is worth thinking about how your audience will interact with web-based adverts. Users tend to scan web content in a rough F shape (see fig. 1), so we strongly recommend you use sub-headings with short paragraphs, and put the key information in a sentence at the beginning of each section.

Figure 1: typical eye movement pattern whilst scanning the web, ©2006 Jakob Nielsen



Potential applicants are likely to begin by scanning a list of project titles, so make yours as engaging as you can.

In the main body of the advert, if you think your project is exciting and innovative, then say that it is exciting and innovative! If your project involves travel or research cruises, or uses state-of-the-art instruments, then give the specifics (locations, etc.). Give concrete details of what the student will *do* during the studentship.

If your project involves collaboration or is a CASE project, then say so and mention any external co-supervisors, partner institutes and opportunities to work with them. Being part of a cohesive and successful research team can also sound attractive. Use hyperlinks in a directed way to link to relevant/exciting research groups, supervisor pages, media articles, etc.

You can choose up to 10 keywords linked to your project. You may wish to consider not only which keywords are linked to your project, but which keywords might describe relevant students’ academic backgrounds (thinking especially of students transferring into NERC science from other subject areas). The more keywords you choose, the more candidates are likely to see your project.

Once again, hold in mind that your audience for this section is likely to be final year undergraduates, so avoid undue jargon and write for a knowledgeable but non-specialist applicant.

The limit of 350 words is imposed because some websites impose strict word limits that include the funding text, project title, supervisor names, etc. Concision is in any case desirable for web-based adverts.

Images will be included on the ARIES website but not elsewhere as they are not allowed.

Supervisors are strongly encouraged to produce short videos in which they give further details of the project, its context, the research environment etc and share them with ARIES for embedding on the website.

1. Any organisation that is **not** **eligible for NERC funding** may be a CASE partner, whether or not they are an ARIES partner. The student is required to spend a minimum of three months with the CASE partner at the partner’s cost. The CASE partner also pays a minimum of £1,000 per year towards the student’s research and training costs. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Some non-HEI partners are ineligible to act as CASE partners according to NERC regulations, or do not have the means to support CASE award requirements in full. We therefore recognise the concept of a “Collaborative” award, in which the partner(s) is/are involved in co-designing the project, nominating a member of their staff to join the supervisory team, and undertaking to host a placement for the PGR involved. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)