

Diamond Doctoral Studentship Programme 2022

– Call for Proposals

14th July 2021

Diamond are now welcoming proposals for a limited number of Studentships to start from October 2022. A full description of the Studentship scheme, Guidance for Supervisors and a copy of Diamond’s standard Studentship Agreement are available on Diamond’s website and the deadline for proposals is 22nd September 2021, at 5pm (BST). If you require assistance in completing the proposal form or if you have any questions related to it, please contact Diamond’s [Student Engagement Manager](#).

Important Dates:

Wednesday 14 th July 2021	Diamond call for proposals – OPEN
Wednesday 22 nd September 2021	Diamond call for proposals – CLOSED 5pm (BST)
Mid-October 2021	Longlist review panel meeting
November 2021	Review panel interviews with Diamond supervisors
Early December 2021	Supervisors notified of outcome

Diamond Studentships

Diamond collaborates with Research Organisations to co-supervise and part-fund a cohort of PhD Studentships each year. While not a degree awarding institution, Diamond is committed to ensuring that Diamond’s Students receive the best training and support available through its Doctoral Studentship Programme.

Studentship proposals can be from within any area of Diamond and must evidence scientific or technical excellence and the value of the project to the development of Diamond. This may include technical, software or sample environment development.

We particularly welcome joint applications to Diamond and ISIS and expect to fund a number of joint Diamond/ISIS Studentships for those joint applications which meet the application criteria.

How many Studentships are available?

Diamond is expecting to jointly fund approximately 12 Studentships (with a 50% contribution) and up to 2 joint Diamond/ISIS Studentships (with a 25% contribution).

Eligibility Criteria

All proposals must have a Diamond supervisor and a collaborating Research Organisation supervisor. Both supervisors will play a full and equal role in the Studentship project and supervision, including the selection and interviewing of potential candidates.

Diamond expects every Student to spend at least 50% of their time based at Diamond during the Studentship. The Studentship should be structured to allow for this, and the proposal must demonstrate how the Students will divide their time between Diamond and the collaborating Research Organisation(s).

Written confirmation from the Research Organisation(s) legal and finance team must be received to support the proposal. Any proposals submitted without this will not be considered by the longlist Review Panel.

In the event that the Research Organisation(s) would like to propose any amendments to Diamond's standard Studentship Agreement, they must contact [Diamond's Legal Team](#) in writing with their proposed changes in advance of the submission of the proposal. The Research Organisation(s) finance team must confirm that 50% funding for the Studentship is approved and that they will match the enhanced stipend for the Student, the contributions to travel and the contributions to conference attendance. Written confirmation can be either an e-mail or a letter uploaded and attached to the proposal submission, but it must come from the Contracts and/or Financial team who will be managing that aspect of the Studentship.

[Download a copy of our Supporting Requirements Document here](#), which outlines the necessary criteria.

What will Diamond provide?

Diamond will contribute a fixed amount of funding for each Studentship. This contribution will typically amount to 50% of the total cost of the Studentship and will be limited to the headings set out below. Diamond's contribution may be less than 50% where the university fees are high. For a multi-party agreement, the Diamond contribution will be adjusted to reflect the additional contributions.

The contribution will ordinarily be made to the higher education institution that will be awarding the degree to the Student annually in advance under the following headings:

Stipend

Diamond will part-fund the Student stipend, contributing a fixed amount each year, with Research Organisation(s) matching or exceeding this figure. Diamond Studentships provide an enhanced stipend to encourage high quality candidates to apply, and also in recognition of the rural location of the facility. The enhancement is £2,000 per year and is contributed by both Diamond and the collaborating Research Organisation(s).

Tuition Fees

Diamond will part-fund Student fees, contributing a fixed amount each year and with Research Organisation(s) contributing the balance of the Student fees or, if the fees are less than the fixed amount, Diamond will contribute an amount equal to the amount of the fees, if any.

Travel

Diamond will contribute a fixed amount each year towards travel and accommodation costs incurred by the Student in carrying out the Studentship. The Research Organisation(s) are expected to match this funding. To the extent that additional contributions towards travel and/or accommodation costs are incurred, these must be contributed by the Research Organisation(s) and not by the Student.

Conference Attendance

Diamond will contribute a fixed amount each year towards conference attendance costs incurred by the Student in carrying out the Studentship. The Research Organisation(s) are expected to match this funding. To the extent that the costs of conference attendance exceed this fixed amount, these costs must be contributed by the Research Organisation(s) and not by the Student.

Consumables

Diamond will provide reasonable and essential consumables required for a Studentship to the extent that such consumables need to be used at Diamond.

However, Diamond will not contribute funding directly to Research Organisations for college fees, equipment, consumables or bench fees.

How long is the Studentship for?

Studentships will start in autumn 2022 unless agreed in advance between Diamond and the Research Organisation(s). Studentships will typically be for a period of 4 years, or sometimes 3.5 or 3 years depending on the particular circumstances of the Studentship.

Any Studentship posts not filled by 1st September 2022 will be withdrawn.

How to apply?

A completed online [2022 Diamond Doctoral Studentship Programme Proposal Form](#) should be submitted by 5pm (BST) on Wednesday 22nd September 2021. Written confirmation from the Research Organisation(s) Contracts and Finance teams must be uploaded to the online form before submission.

Any proposal forms submitted with missing information will not be submitted to the longlist review panel.

When should applications be made?

The deadline for applications for this call is Wednesday 22nd September 2021 at 5pm (BST).

Proposal selection criteria

The following criteria will be used for assessment:

- Scientific or technical excellence of the project
- The value of the project to the development of Diamond
- The quality of the plan for Student training and development
- Suitability/capacity of the supervisor(s) to deliver the project
- Collaboration
- Student is spending 50% of Studentship at Diamond
- Written confirmation from the Research Organisation(s) Contracts and Finance team to support the proposal.

Selection process

Proposals will be selected as part of a two-stage process. In mid-October, all Studentship proposals will be evaluated at the longlist Review Panel meeting, taking into consideration the scientific merit, and strategic relevance of each proposal. Supervisors will be notified of the longlist Review Panel outcome shortly after the meeting.

In late-October and early-November, Diamond supervisors whose proposals are successfully shortlisted will be invited for a 15-minute interview with the Review Panel. Diamond supervisors will

be invited for interview with collaborating supervisors only being invited under exceptional circumstances when requested by Directors. Focus will be how much ownership the Diamond Supervisor has of the project.

Depending on the quality of proposals and the availability of funding, the Review Panel will either approve or reject proposals following the Review Panel interviews.

Joint Diamond/ISIS Proposals

Joint Diamond/ISIS proposals are welcomed. Proposals that seek both Diamond and ISIS supervisors in addition to a supervisor from the Research Organisation(s) will be reviewed as part of the Diamond Review Panels composed of Diamond and ISIS staff. Successful Diamond and ISIS supervisors will then be invited for interview by a Review Panel, again composed of Diamond and ISIS staff and Studentships awarded on the basis of these interviews (please note, typically only Diamond and ISIS supervisors will be interviewed). Interviews will focus on the selection criteria detailed above, evidence that the science case requires both X-ray and neutron aspects for the project, the training provision for the PhD Student and the role of the Diamond and ISIS supervisors to the PhD project.

Proposals seeking joint Diamond and ISIS supervisors should be submitted via the Diamond Doctoral Studentship Programme Proposal Form **only**. The request for joint Diamond and ISIS supervision must be indicated on the proposal form and in the supporting [Diamond-ISIS science case](#).

Depending on the quality of the proposals, Diamond expects to fund up to 2 joint Diamond/ISIS Studentships, with accepted joint Diamond/ISIS Studentships funded 1/4:1/4:1/2 Diamond:ISIS:Research Organisation (1/3:1/3:1/3 funding ratio is also possible).