

Diamond Doctoral Studentship Programme 2023

– Call for Proposals

UPDATED 9th September 2022

Diamond Light Source are now welcoming proposals for a limited number of Studentships to start from October 2023. 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 14th September 2022, 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](#).

[See our main call webpage here.](#)

Important Dates:

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| Monday 11 th July 2022 | Diamond call for proposals – OPEN |
| *UPDATED* Wednesday 21st September 2022 | Diamond call for proposals – CLOSED 5pm (BST) |
| Mid-October 2022 | Longlist review panel meeting |
| Late-October/ Early-November 2022 | Review panel interviews with Diamond supervisors |
| Early December 2022 | 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.

Joint Diamond-ISIS studentships

Diamond is keen to encourage studentships jointly with ISIS and expect to fund a number of joint Diamond-ISIS Studentships for those joint applications which meet the application criteria. Projects in collaboration with ISIS and partly supported by ISIS must be applied for via the Diamond proposal process, please see the section ‘**Joint Diamond/ISIS Proposals**’ below for further details.

How many Studentships are available?

Diamond is expecting to jointly fund approximately 11 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 Student 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

The Student stipend requirements have been updated to reflect the [UKRI announcement](#), increasing the minimum stipend amount from 1 October 2022. 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 (including any international and/or college 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 2023 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 13th September 2023 will be withdrawn.

How to apply?

A completed online [2023 Diamond Doctoral Studentship Programme Proposal Form](#) should be submitted by 5pm (BST) on Wednesday 21st September 2022. 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 has been updated to Wednesday 21st September 2022 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 by the Diamond Senior Leadership Team. 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

While the ISIS doctoral call for proposals is still closing on Wednesday 14th September all joint Diamond/ISIS proposals will be accepted until Wednesday 21st September in line with the Diamond call for proposals close date.

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](#). Joint Diamond and ISIS proposals should be via the online Diamond proposal form and the science case must comprise a **three page** project description. Joint Diamond and ISIS proposals should clearly demonstrate **why** it is a joint proposal and of the three pages, half of one page must detail the X-ray aspects of the PhD project and half of one page must detail the neutron aspects of the PhD project.

Diamond and ISIS recognise that strong partnerships between the institutions are facilitated by joint projects and therefore joint proposals will be considered favourably by the committees from Diamond and ISIS.

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).

Definitions

Diamond: Diamond Light Source Ltd, a company incorporated and registered in England and Wales, with company number 4375679 and with registered office at Diamond House, Harwell Science & Innovation Campus, Didcot, Oxfordshire, OX11 0DE, United Kingdom.

Research Organisation(s): UK higher education institutions and/or other approved organisations collaborating with Diamond on a Studentship.

Student(s): PhD or DPhil students registered at a higher education institution that have entered into a studentship agreement with Diamond for a particular Studentship.

Studentship: Doctoral student research projects co-supervised and usually co-funded by Diamond.