
White Rose Studentship Networks 2014/2015

Information for Academic Applicants

Closing Date: Friday 22nd November 2013

Aim

White Rose Studentship Networks promote collaboration across the Universities of Leeds, Sheffield and York. We invite applications in the BBSRCs strategic theme of **World Class Underpinning Bioscience**.

Background

The White Rose studentships initiative was set up in 1997 to encourage collaboration between the Universities of Leeds, Sheffield and York. Since 2005 the studentships have been awarded as networks to promote collaboration across the three institutions.

The White Rose University Consortium is supporting the Universities of Leeds, Sheffield and York collaborative DTP in mechanistic biology and its strategic application through the allocation of a number of networks. Each year a network is being aligned to a BBSRC strategic theme covered by the DTP. This year it will be allocated to the theme of **World Class Underpinning Bioscience**.

Scheme

- The scheme supports research networks each of which will be allocated three PhD studentships. The students will be working within a related area, and therefore will benefit from being part of an integrated community working upon a larger initiative.
- Each studentship is bilateral and should involve two supervisors – the principal supervisor at the lead institution and the co-supervisor at the partner institution. Each university should act as lead on one studentship, and partner on another.
- Each Studentship Network should therefore consist of six academics and three PhD students.
- Proposed networks where the principal supervisor on one studentship acts as co-supervisor for a second student will not be accepted.
- Multi-disciplinary proposals are encouraged.
- One academic (either principal or co-supervisor) will be required to act as a network leader.
- Studentships are for four years and will provide full tuition fees at UK/EU student rates, an annual maintenance grant and a contribution towards research and travel expenses to students embarking on full-time PhD programmes.

- The White Rose University Consortium runs the competition to select the Studentship Networks. The administration of the studentships, including financial payment to students will be provided by the individual Universities.

The strategic theme

World Class Underpinning Bioscience.

This call sits within the remit of the White Rose Universities Consortium BBSRC DTP 'Mechanistic biology and its strategic application'. Mechanistic biology encompasses the study of basic life-governing processes at all levels of organisation, from the atomic scale to the whole organism. Applicants should explain how their research project will deliver mechanistic insights into processes important to world class underpinning bioscience, and how they will embrace New Ways of Working through incorporating a strong interdisciplinary aspect to the research. We strongly encourage applications that include supervisors from different disciplines and/or will utilise new tools and technologies.

Examples could include (but are not limited to)

A combination of approaches to investigate protein function in the whole organism, combined with cellular and in vitro work, exploiting novel structural and biophysical approaches.

A team of biophysicists, biologists and chemists to develop new tools and technologies e.g. for imaging, or for therapeutic interventions.

Additional Information:

- The PVCs for Research have delegated the authority to the three lead academics from the DTP bid to define this strategic theme and subsequently select the Studentship Network to be funded.
- Applications must be made using White Rose Student Network Application forms
- Please note that although these studentships are associated with BBSRC DTP bid they are funded by the Universities of Leeds, Sheffield and York, and not by the BBSRC.

Timetable

Action	Date
<p>Call launched:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Call advertised on the White Rose University Consortium web-site (http://www.whiterose.ac.uk). Universities to promote internally. 	September 11th 2013
<p>Call closes: Proposals should be submitted directly to Nadia Gopichandran (n.gopichandran@whiterose.ac.uk) at White Rose by e-mail.</p> <p>In addition, a paper copy with signatures must be received by White Rose by Friday 22nd November 2013. Any proposal submitted without the appropriate signatures will not be considered. Please send the paper copy to:</p> <p><i>Dr Nadia Gopichandran Project Development Manager White Rose University Consortium Enterprise and Innovation Office Charles Thackrah Building 101 Clarendon Road University of Leeds Leeds LS2 9LJ</i></p>	Friday 22rd November 2013 Proposals received after this will not be considered.
BBSRC DTP Management Board to select one Studentship Network	December 2013
Network announced and studentship recruitment begins.	December 2013 onwards

Application Procedure

Applicants must complete the “White Rose Studentships 2014/15– Proposal Form”. It is the responsibility of the network leader to collate the studentship information and submit the proposal to White Rose by the deadline. A proposal requires the following:

- A completed description of the overall Studentship Network (to be completed by the Network leader).
- A description of each studentship within the Network (to be completed by the principal supervisor for each studentship and to include approval from their Head of School/Department). Therefore, there will be three studentship descriptions for each Network.

Please note that individual applications that are not part of a network will not be considered.

Assessment Procedure

The BBSRC DTP Management Board will select the successful Studentship Network.

The proposals will be assessed using the following criteria:

- The added value of the collaboration (in what way does the network provide an opportunity for collaboration which would not otherwise exist).
- The strategic relevance of the network to White Rose universities.
- The extent and nature of interaction with other networks and stakeholders.
- The sustainability of the network and its potential for long term collaboration.
- The novelty, timeliness and clarity of the studentships overall.
- Do the proposed supervisory teams have satisfactory track records? Please note that applications from new supervisors are welcomed, but applicants must demonstrate that there is suitable experience within the supervisory team.
- Are resources and facilities adequate?
- Is the timely completion of the projects likely?

Studentship Network Details

Each Network is expected to meet as a group at least three times a year. A short report on network activities will be required each year. The academic lead for the network will be responsible for producing the report, and a form will be provided for this purpose. Failure to complete annual reports may result in future network funding being withheld. The reports will be used to inform the development of the studentship scheme, and to assist White Rose in developing new activities within the Consortium. A White Rose Project Development Manager will be assigned to each Studentship Network. The Network may occasionally be asked for informal updates, e.g. for publicity purposes, or to attend PVC Research meetings.

Each studentship is tenable for four years from Session 2013/14 (start September/October 2013) and will provide Home/EU tuition fees, a maintenance grant paid at standard Research Council rates for the first year of study (renewable for subsequent years of study

subject to satisfactory academic progress) together with a Project Support Grant of £20,000 for the lifetime of the award (it is expected that £700 of this will be allocated to the co-supervisor's institution to contribute towards the co-supervision costs). The Project Support Grant is to be used at the discretion of the supervisors to support the inter-institutional collaboration. It is expected that the student appointed to the project will liaise with both supervisors at least 6 times a year. Applicants for these studentships will be expected to hold a UK Upper Second Class Honours degree or equivalent.

Students appointed to the individual projects will be bound by the regulations of the lead institution, at which they will be registered. However, partner institutions should also extend the use of computing and library facilities as well as laboratory/research facilities by arrangement. Students would not normally be eligible to apply for accommodation at the partner institution.

If international students are appointed to the project then the following individual University regulations will apply:

- Leeds: If an international candidate is offered a White Rose Studentship, the School would have to pay the difference between the international fee rate and the UK/EU fee rate.
- Sheffield: If an international candidate is offered a White Rose Studentship, the candidate will be required to pay the difference between the international fee rate and the UK/EU fee rate.
- York: If an international candidate is offered a White Rose Studentship, the candidate will be required to pay the difference between the international fee rate and the UK/EU fee rate.

Contact Details

Please feel free to contact the White Rose University Consortium.

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