

White Rose Studentship Networks 2016/2017

Agri-tech / Agri-science

Information for Academic Applicants

Closing Date: Monday 30th November 2015

Aim

White Rose Studentship Networks promote collaboration across the Universities of Leeds, Sheffield and York. For this competition there is one Studentship Network available (to start around October 2016). The successful White Rose Studentship Network will be allocated three PhD studentships (one at each university).

- This competition is open to proposals in **Agri-tech / Agri-science**.
- We have the aspiration that funded networks will act as platforms for future funding bids. We therefore advise applicants to consider how the Studentship Network will align with opportunities from funding bodies (for example the Research Councils' priorities) and to include this information in the proposal. Applicants are strongly advised to demonstrate why their proposal is important to the White Rose universities.

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 Pro-Vice-Chancellors (Research) at the three Universities decide the strategic themes where proposals are invited (in this case Agri-tech/Agri-science).

Eligible Research Area

We have one Studentship Network to allocate in this competition and invite proposals which focus on research in **Agri-Tech / Agri-Science**.

This theme was chosen to enhance collaboration in a strategically important sector to the UK, in which the three universities have proven research strengths. The agri-tech sector is highlighted as one of the UK's industrial strategy sectors, and agri-science is one of the UK's 'eight great technologies'. The strength of the White Rose universities was highlighted by the Witty Review (2013), with each institution placed in the top 20 research organisations (by publications) for both agri-science and agri-tech. Enhancing collaboration in this subject area also allows the three universities to consolidate on their involvement in the N8 Agri-Food Resilience Programme.

If you wish to discuss the eligibility of your ideas/proposal with a member of the White Rose team then please contact Craig Walker (c.walker@whiterose.ac.uk) on 07554 114 272.

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.
- One academic (either principal or co-supervisor) will be required to act as a network leader.
- Studentships provide full tuition fees at UK/EU student rates, an annual maintenance stipend at the standard RCUK rate, and a contribution towards research and travel expenses.
- 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.

Timetable

Action	Date
Call launched: <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 2015
Proposal development: If you wish to discuss your ideas/proposal with a member of the White Rose team then please contact Craig Walker in the first instance (c.walker@whiterose.ac.uk) on 07554 114 272.	Until call closes
Call closes: Proposals should be submitted directly to Craig Walker (c.walker@whiterose.ac.uk) at White Rose by e-mail.	Monday 30th November 2015 Proposals received after this will not be considered.
Confirmation that the proposal was received: You should receive an e-mail by the end of Wednesday 2nd December 2015 to confirm that your proposal has been received. If you do not receive this e-mail then please contact Craig Walker immediately (c.walker@whiterose.ac.uk) on 07554 114 272.	Wednesday 2nd December 2015
PVCs (Research) to select the successful proposals.	December 2015 (provisional)
Networks announced and studentship recruitment begins.	Early 2016

Application Procedure

Applicants must complete the “White Rose Studentship Networks 2016/17 – 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 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 White Rose Pro-Vice-Chancellors (Research) will consider the bids and select the Studentship Networks to support. The proposal 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 the 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 three years from Session 2016/17 (start September/October 2016) and will provide standard Home/EU tuition fees, a maintenance grant paid at standard Research Council rates for the first year of study (renewable for a second and third year of study subject to satisfactory academic progress) together with a Project Support Grant of £2,700 for the lifetime of the award (it is expected that £500 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 standard UK/EU fee rate.
- Sheffield: If an international candidate is offered a White Rose Studentship, the candidate/department 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.

Dr Craig Walker

c.walker@whiterose.ac.uk

Mobile: 07554 114 272