**Studentship Proposal Form 2025 intake**

06/06/2024



Primary Supervisors who have been successful in the institutional sift should complete the online form for submission, along with average scores awarded by the Sift Panel, to the Strategy Board for consideration.

**This form is provided to aid supervisors in keeping a copy of their submission.**



|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Application Type** | | | |
| **University of Registration** |  | | |
| **School/Dept of Registration** |  | | |
| **Hosting non-HEI** (where appropriate) |  | | |
| **Primary Supervisor details**  (see [note 1](#_Note_1_–) for eligibility criteria, and please review the [ARIES Supervisory Charter](https://www.aries-dtp.ac.uk/supervisors/aries-supervisory-charter/)) | **Title, Name** | |  |
| **Institute Affiliation** | |  |
| **School/Dept Affiliation** | |  |
| **Email address** | |  |
| **Weblink** | |  |
| **Project Title** |  | | |
| **Collaboration**  The next section asks about collaboration in this project. See [note 2](#_Note_2_–) for details of what this may mean. | | | |
| **50% match-funder details**  where relevant | **Name and address of match-funder** |  | |
| **Title, Name of supervisor** |  | |
| **Email address** |  | |
| **Details of commitment** |  | |
| **CASE partner details**  where relevant | **Name and address of CASE partner(s)** |  | |
| **Title, Name of supervisor(s)** |  | |
| **Email address(es)** |  | |
| **Details of commitment** |  | |
| **Collaborative partner details**  where relevant | **Name and address of collaborative partner(s)** |  | |
| **Title, Name of supervisor(s)** |  | |
| **Email address(es)** |  | |
| **Details of commitment** |  | |
| **Supervisory Team**  The next section asks about the supervisory team for your project. See [Note 3](#_Note_3_–) for requirements | | | |
| **Secondary Supervisor details** | Title, Name |  | |
| Affiliation, including school/dept if at an HEI |  | |
| Email address |  | |
| Can we include this supervisor in the project advertisement? |  | |
| **Supervisor 3 details** | Title, Name |  | |
| Affiliation, including school/dept if at an HEI |  | |
| Email address |  | |
| Can we include this supervisor in the project advertisement? |  | |
| **Supervisor 4 details** (where appropriate) | Title, Name |  | |
| Affiliation, including school/dept if at an HEI |  | |
| Email address |  | |
| Can we include this supervisor in the project advertisement? |  | |
| **Other supervisory team members**  Please give details, including affiliations and email addresses. |  | | |
| **Expertise of the Supervisory Team in the Project Area**  *Explain how the expertise of the Primary Supervisor will result in an excellent research environment for the PGR in the****specific area of the project****, and how the Supervisory team complement this. Due allowance will be made for Primary Supervisors who are new investigators. This text may be made available to candidates (max 200 words).* | | | |
|  | | | |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Project advertisement text (maximum 350 words)** | |
| *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 PGR do? Where? How?)*  Training *(what opportunities will the PGR have? What skills will they gain?)*  Person specification *(What are you looking for in applicants? Please note that particularly restrictive specifications will be relaxed (i.e. "must have experience in MATLAB" will be changed to "prior experience of programming is desirable"). Please do not use abbreviations (e.g. ENV, MTH) and please do not request that the applicant is a "student" (i.e. say "we seek an enthusiastic individual", rather than "we seek an enthusiastic student")* | |
| **Suitable first degree subject(s)**  *Please note ARIES’ minimum requirement is 2:1 Bachelor’s degree or equivalent, and references to requiring a higher grade or Master’s degree will be removed.* | |
|  | |
| **References** | |
| ***At least two of these must be recent relevant papers authored (or co-authored) by the supervisory team.*** | |
| **1.** |  |
| **2.** |  |
| **3.** |  |
| **4.** |  |
| **5.** |  |
| **Supplementary Project Description (maximum 500 words)** (see [Note 4](#_Note_4_–)) | |
| **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 Panels 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 PGR will benefit from this excellence; details of the role of the PGR, 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).* | |
|  | |

|  |
| --- |
| **Social Media Advertisement** |
| *The ARIES DTP will advertise your project on their social media, should it be successful, as part of the advertisement process. You can help us with this task by providing a two-sentence summary of your project, and any relevant Twitter/X handles (i.e. your own, your collaborators, any organisations involved). If you don't provide anything here we will still tweet your project, but the summary will be composed by those of us in the ARIES office and we are not experts! (Maximum 140 characters.)* |
|  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Project contingency plan** | |
| Does the project involve fieldwork? | **Yes**  **No** |
| If yes, how will you ensure that any proposed fieldwork is carried out in a safe, inclusive and appropriate research environment (for example with, but not limited to, reference to protected characteristics)? (Maximum 200 words.) | |
|  | |
| 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.) | |
|  | |
| Are there any constraints on data collection that may limit application numbers?  *This question is asking whether an applicant reading your advertisement may feel they cannot apply due to fieldwork or lab work that may seem incompatible with their identity or disability* | **Yes**  **No** |
| If yes, how may these constraints be mitigated? (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.) | |
|  | |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **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 allocating projects to sift panellists, candidates to interview panels, etc.; it is not used 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** |  |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Primary Supervisor checklist** | |
| 1. The PGR will attend all mandatory cohort training events, including Induction, Winter School, Summer Schools, and the CADA symposium, except where permitted due to exceptional circumstances. 2. The PGR will submit their Training Needs Analysis, DTP activity report, and UKRI ResearchFish submission on an annual basis or as otherwise required. 3. The Primary Supervisor asserts that they meet all of the eligibility criteria given in Appendix 1. 4. The Primary Supervisor will sign and comply with the ARIES Supervisory Charter. 5. The Primary Supervisor has 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](https://www.aries-dtp.ac.uk/about-us/equality-diversity-widening-participation-and-inclusion-policy/). 6. The Primary Supervisor agrees to undertake the following (please indicate): | |
| (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) |  |
| \*Give brief details of any training you would like to deliver/be involved with: | |

**Please choose no more than 10 keywords**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Agriculture  agricultural sciences  agricultural technology  arable farming  livestock farming  forestry & arboriculture  other | Biological Sciences  bacteriology  behavioural biology  biochemistry  biodiversity  bioinformatics  biophysics  biotechnology  cancer biology  cell biology  developmental biology  ecology  ecotoxicology  entomology  environmental biology  evolution  genetic engineering  genetics  genomics  human genetics  immunology  marine biology  microbiology  molecular biology  molecular genetics  neuroscience  parasitology  plant biology  plant cell biology  reproductive biology  structural biology  systematic biology  virology  zoology  other | Mathematics  applied mathematics  applied statistics  computational mathematics  data analysis  engineering mathematics  mathematical modelling  medical statistics  operational research  probability  pure mathematics  statistics  stochastic processes  other | Chemistry  analytical chemistry  applied chemistry  environmental chemistry  physical chemistry  other |
| Computer Science  artificial intelligence  computer architectures  computer vision  computer graphics  data science  human computer interaction  machine learning  networks  other |
| Anthropology  biological anthropology  social anthropology  other |
| Architecture, Building & Planning  architecture  built environment  landscape architecture  rural planning  surveying  urban planning  other |
| Engineering  acoustics engineering  aerospace engineering  energy technologies  environmental engineering  geotechnical engineering  marine engineering  offshore engineering  petroleum engineering  robotics  other |
| Environmental Sciences  climate science  hydrology  marine sciences  meteorology  pollution  soil science  other |
| Geography  agricultural geography  cultural geography  economic geography  environmental geography  GIS  human geography  marine geography  physical geography  remote sensing  social geography  urban geography  other |
| Physics  acoustics  astronomy  astrophysics  chemical physics  computational physics  electromagnetism  environmental physics  experimental physics  medical physics  nuclear physics  optical physics  particle physics  quantum mechanics  solid state physics  space science  theoretical physics  other | Geology  applied geology  geochemistry  geophysics  geoscience  geotechnology  hydrogeology  marine geology  palaeontology  seismology  volcanology  other |
| Food Sciences  food production | Politics & Government  development studies  government  international relations  politics  public policy  other |

# **Appendix 1: Guidance notes**

## **Note 1 – Primary Supervisor eligibility**

The eligibility criteria for Primary Supervisors are that they:

* are employed by, and usually based at, an ARIES hosting partner institute or school/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 where they are named as the Primary Supervisor, but there is no limit to the number of projects that can be submitted each year in which they are named as a co-supervisor.
* 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 2 – Collaboration**

ARIES encourages all PIs to look for opportunities to collaborate *across different institutions and organisations*. **Collaboration** can be via providing supervisory expertise, access to equipment or processes, CASE supervision and funding, and co-developing specific research projects. These opportunities may involve financial assistance. ARIES requires 70% of studentships funded to be collaborative.

**CASE:** Any organisation that is **not** **eligible for NERC funding** may be a CASE partner, whether or not they are an ARIES partner. The PGR is required to spend a minimum of three months with the CASE partner at the partner’s cost. The CASE partner is requested to provide a minimum of £1,000 per year towards the PGR’s research costs. This must be agreed in writing at point of submission. Where multiple collaborative partners are involved in a research project, it is possible to split these requirements across different partners. ARIES requires 35% of funded studentships to be CASE.

**Match-funding:** Any organisation may offer match-funding at a rate of 50% of the studentship (although this is not necessary for all proposed projects). This equates to around £45,000 over the lifetime of the PhD. This can come from the organisation of which the primary supervisor is part, or from external organisations. Studentships with confirmed match-funding will be prioritised for funding so long as the candidate is ranked in the top 2/3 of the candidates in a given year.

## **Note 3 – Supervisory teams**

Supervisory teams must comprise a Primary Supervisor and at least two more members. For PGRs hosted by non-HEI Partners, the second supervisor must be based at and employed by the HEI of registration. 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.

## **Note 4 – Project proposals**

Consider these questions:

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