



Intensive Industrial Innovation Programme Application Guidance Notes

Durham, Newcastle, Northumbria and Teesside University are delighted to be able to offer **up to 45** part-funded 3 year industrial PhD placements to eligible SMEs in the North East of England (ie Northumberland, Tyne and Wear, Durham and Tees Valley). This project is funded by the Universities and European Regional Development Fund and looks to support local firms with their research and development needs, developing new products and services in key sectors and creating high quality jobs in the local economy.

Contact details for queries: iiip.ne@durham.ac.uk

Who can apply?

Businesses who wish to participate in the ERDF Industrial PhD programme must:

- meet the EU definition of an SME
- be located within the North East of England geographical area
- be active in one of the key sectors for the North East
- be financially stable
- not exceed State Aid limits as a result of participating in the programme

The eligible key sectors are:

- Passenger vehicle manufacturing
- Subsea and offshore technology
- Life sciences and healthcare/health innovation
- Creative, digital, software and technology based services
- Surface science
- Ageing
- Energy
- Systems satellite applications
- Energy networks
- Materials Integration
- Water
- Chemicals
- Advanced Manufacturing
- Logistics
- The Circular Economy

**What do I receive?**

The project enables a **dedicated post graduate researcher to be assigned to your company working exclusively on your research needs** whilst pursuing their PhD studies. This post graduate researcher has the support of experienced academics to ensure they are maximising the impact that can be made on your project and also access to world leading research facilities. The programme itself has dedicated administrative support to ensure that the process is as seamless as possible. PhD students will be required to spend up to half of their time on the business's premises and at least half their time at the university.

Which Universities can I work with?

This offer is available from Durham, Newcastle, Northumbria and Teesside Universities enabling potential beneficiaries to link with the institution which can best meet their research needs. Durham University is acting as the hub for this project liaising with all of the partners to identify best fit. If you know the University you wish to work with then please indicate this on the eligibility assessment form; if you are unsure then we will get in touch and assess your institutional fit.

What are the time frames?

The ERDF IIIP studentship projects last three years. They start on 1st October 2019. SME partners who participate in the Programme are required to commit for the three years.

How to Apply

All applications for the programme should be submitted by midday on the **30th April 2019** when they will be assessed for eligibility, strategic fit and University thematic fit.

There are two forms to be completed by the SME:

Part 1 SME Eligibility Assessment Form – you are encouraged to complete and return this as soon as possible so that your eligibility to be considered for participation in the Programme can be assessed. You are also required to provide a copy of your latest company accounts and/or management accounts to enable us to make the eligibility checks. The latest date to submit the form and information is 30th April, but we would welcome the form as soon as possible.

Part 2 Industrial PhD Research Proposal

This form describes the research proposal in more detail. The deadline to submit this form is 30th April 2019.

Each PhD project will have an academic supervisor at one of the four universities in the ERDF IIIP Programme: Durham, Newcastle, Northumbria or Teesside. If you already have a preference for a particular university, and already know an academic

there, you may approach them about the ERDF Programme in order to discuss a potential project with them and together you can complete the Specific Research Proposal section of this Part 2 Form. However, if you do not already know an academic supervisor, you can provide an overview of the research and indicate the university you would prefer, and you will be matched with an appropriate academic.

In both cases the deadline for submitting Part 2 is 30th April 2019. However, if you need to be matched with an academic, we encourage you to return the form as soon as possible. We will endeavour to match you with an academic as soon as possible. The academic will then contact you to discuss the Programme and you may then further develop the Specific Research Proposal.

The email address for submission of all forms and accompanying information is iiip.ne@durham.ac.uk

The timetable is as follows:

Programme open for applications	25/02/2019
Submit Part 1 as soon as possible to enable early eligibility checks	
Submit Part 2 as soon as possible, especially if you need to be matched with an academic PhD supervisor	
Deadline for submission of applications (Part 1 and Part 2)	30/04/2019
Assessment of Eligibility	01/05/2019 – 21/05/2019
Assessment of Research Proposal	01/05/2019 – 21/05/2019
Date of notification of results	24/05/2019 onwards
Issue and signing of contract between SME and University	01/07/2019 – 30/09/2019
Start recruitment of post graduate researcher	24/05/2019
Research project starts	01/10/2019
Research project ends	30/09/2022

How will applications be assessed?

Eligibility checks will be carried out. Those projects where the SME is deemed eligible are reviewed by an Expert Panel at each University, taking into consideration the business need and benefit, the quality of the proposed research project and the expertise of the team.

When will I hear if my proposal has been successful?

We hope to be able to inform companies of the outcome of the assessment of applications in late May 2019, when student recruitment will commence.

What will it cost?

It is anticipated that the SME will pay an annual cost relating to the award of the PhD for EU/domestic students plus any additional research costs, e.g., travel costs to company premises, attendance at conferences, specific equipment. See Appendix 1 for an indication of the types of additional research costs.

Each research proposal is likely to have differing additional research costs, and so we ask that the company and the University discuss these estimated additional research costs as early as possible in order to ensure that costs are agreed and outlined in the final contract.

Please note this is a three year business commitment and this should be factored in from the outset.

Is there a legal agreement?

Yes, for SME's to be allocated PhD students to work on their projects within the ERDF IIP Programme, a collaboration agreement must be signed between the SME and the relevant University which will host the PhD student. Collaboration agreements will set out the financial commitments including the additional research costs for which an upper limit will be agreed. The collaboration agreement must be signed before a PhD candidate can be offered the place on your project.

Does support under the Intensive Industrial Innovation Programme have any State Aid implications?

Yes. The value of any assistance delivered through the IIP programme constitutes State Aid as defined under Articles 87 and 88 of the Treaty of Rome and is granted as De Minimis Aid / GBER Innovation Aid for SMEs. European Commission rules prohibit any undertaking beneficiary from receiving more than €200,000 of De Minimis aid / GBER Innovation Aid for SMEs over a rolling fiscal three year period. Any De Minimis aid / GBER Innovation Aid for SMEs granted over the €200,000 limit may be subject to repayment with interest. Therefore any support delivered under the IIP to a company is dependent in part upon the beneficiary not exceeding a threshold of €200,000 of De Minimis aid / GBER Innovation Aid for SMEs in any three-year period. If you have received any aid over the last three years (from any source) you should declare this on the Part 1 SME Eligibility Assessment form with details of the dates and amounts of aid received.



We estimate the total value of De Minimis aid / GBER (based on the exchange rate at 22/02/2019) to an individual SME through the IIP will be in the order of £36,215 or €41,658 per year, or approximately £108,645 / €124,959 over the duration of the three year project. Please [contact iiip.ne@durham.ac.uk](mailto:iiip.ne@durham.ac.uk) directly if you would like any advice and guidance in this regard.

Who owns any intellectual property that may arise as a result of the research project?

The company fully owns the arising IP however there are safeguards to ensure that the student can submit their thesis for examination and are able to lodge academic publications relating to the results of the studentship in furtherance of the student's career.

How many three year research projects can a single company undertake?

One. A company may propose a number of projects if appropriate but will need to choose only one to take forward once the eligibility and suitability assessment has taken place. Also please note if you have been a recipient of IIP in 2018 you will not be eligible for a further award.

Can a company propose a prospective graduate researcher?

No. The post-graduate positions will be advertised widely via usual University channels. Company employees are not eligible to become graduates, unless they resign their company position, apply to be a PhD student at the University and their position is re-filled by the company.

Do we treat the post graduate researcher as an employee of the company?

The post graduate researcher is **not** an employee of the company and will receive payment from the University in the form of a stipend towards their living costs. Whilst they will spend 100% of their time on the company research project, they will not spend more than 50% of their time at the company premises. We encourage companies, where possible to include the student in company induction programmes and company staff meetings. This will help form stronger links and ensure that the working relationship between the business and student is maximised which could lead to better project outcomes.

Other Relevant Questions

Can a university spin-out company or a company wholly or partly owned by an academic be an eligible company?



Yes, but individuals with such interests must declare these on the research proposal and take no part in the consideration of projects proposed.

Can a company who has worked with a University before propose a research project?

Yes, but the research proposal must clearly articulate how the proposed collaborative research project will result in clear additionality and not be possible without project funding from the ERDF IIIP Programme.

Can more than one company work together on a research project?

Yes, but one company must take the lead role in the project proposal and make arrangements with the partner company with respect to the exploitation of the projects results. The lead company will pay the tuition fees of the graduate and consumables, but may wish to arrange a contribution from other companies they partner with.

How much on-going administration work will the SME have to complete?

Each month the authorised signatory for the SME will be asked to sign off the timesheet which reflects the time their PhD student has spent working with the SME on the project

At key stages the SME will be asked to complete a minimal amount of paperwork on the success of the programme. This will include providing feedback on new products / new staff employed relating to this research work.

Appendix 1 Additional Delivery Costs (Exc VAT)

- a) Annual costs related to the award of the ERDF PhD (for Domestic/EU students). Please note that these costs do increase annually in line with recommended research council guidelines.

Durham University	£4,327
Newcastle University	£5,010
Northumbria University	£4,620
Teesside University	£6,000 (higher tier – School of Science, Engineering and Design) £4,400 (standard tier – all other Schools)

plus

- b) Consumables/additional costs incurred to help deliver the research project.

Durham University	Differs by department and project type – to be agreed between University department lead and SME at the earliest stage possible.
Newcastle University	Differs by department and project type – between £3,000 and £7,800
Northumbria University	Differs by department and project type – to be agreed between University academic supervisor and SME at the earliest stage possible.
Teesside University	Differs by department and project type – to be agreed between University department lead and SME at the earliest stage possible.