



PhD Match-Funded Studentships 2024: Funding Guidance & Process

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1. Introduction

Bournemouth University is committed to continue supporting the growth of our postgraduate researchers (PGRs) through the BU match-funded studentship scheme. As such, we are delighted to announce the launch of the allocative process for projects due to start during 2024-2025 academic year.

There are up to **10 match-funded studentship projects**¹ available, with a focus on supporting the [BU research themes](#). There are no fully-funded studentships on offer. Match-funded studentships will only be offered in conjunction with guaranteed external match-funding.

The allocative process will be overseen by the BU Studentships Funding Panel and administered by the Doctoral College.

2. Studentship Priority Areas

The main purpose of the scheme is to provide investment for increasing PGRs numbers; building research capacity and capability across our [research themes](#), developing and strengthening external relationships; and enhancing the sustainability of the University's research culture and environment.

The focus of match-funded studentships should be on developing high quality research; strengthening the PGR experience; enhancing the quality and breadth of PGRs supervision; and increasing PGR future employment opportunities.

3. BU Studentship Terms & Conditions

The BU match-funded studentships are normally offered on a full-time basis only, with stipend and full fee waiver for 36 months. Candidates are expected to complete their study within 48 months. Full details of the BU Studentships Terms and Conditions are set out [here](#). In line with our commitment to [Athena SWAN charter](#), part-time studentships will be considered on an exceptional basis.

4. Match-Funding

The external match-funding may be provided by industry or business partners, with direct relevance to the proposed research area; government and non-government organisations; other academic institutions²; NHS; UKRI; or other external bodies.

The external match-funder should provide a minimum of 50% of the studentship stipend, plus the £3K research costs in line with the [Postgraduate Research and Development Fund](#). Our stipend rates are aligned to the UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) stipend which are published annually and therefore the match-funder contribution may vary from the published figures.

The external match-funders contribution is equivalent to minimum of *circa* £31,968 over 36 months / £43,209 over 48 months:

Funding Type	Year	Stipend	Match-Funder Contribution
Stipend	Year 1 (2024-25)	£18,744	£9,372
	Year 2 (2025-26)	£19,306	£9,653
	Year 3 (2026-27)	£19,885	£9,943

¹ Based on 50% level of match-funding

² BU must be the degree-awarding institution

	Year 4 (2027-28)	£20,482	£10,241
Research Costs		£1,000 <i>per annum</i>	
Total match-funder contribution for 3-year project		£31,968	
Total match-funder contribution for 4-year project		£43,209	

Confirmation of support by the match-funder is required at the point that the application is submitted to the internal competition.

Lead supervisors will need to undertake the full Due Diligence process prior to submitting the applications. The Due Diligence policy can be found [here](#) and the report to complete can be found [here](#).

All applications must be fully supported by the Deputy Dean (Research) in the lead faculty, who by doing so, confirms that the faculty will support any research costs associated with the projects and not covered by the match-funder.

5. Match-Funder Contracts and Intellectual Property (IP) agreements

Details of the research contract can be found [here](#). These template research contracts should be shared with the match-funder as part of the project development, and they should be asked to confirm if they will agree to these or whether additional contract negotiations with BU will be required.

The external match-funder should be asked if there is intention to create exploitable IP during the term of project and/or own the resulting Foreground IP. If so, the lead supervisor should consult the [Research Commercialisation Manager](#) for advice prior before progressing any further discussion with the external match-funder.

Contracts will be finalised for successful applications after the funding outcome, in a process managed by Research Development & Support (RDS). **If a match-funder withdraws support at any point after a candidate receives an offer, the lead faculty will be responsible for matching the central contribution.**

6. Supervisor Eligibility Criteria

Match-funded studentship proposals should have a balanced supervisory team, and it is expected that these will normally comprise mixed levels of supervisory experience, and **must include at least one ECR**, to build the future research capacity.

All supervisors must meet the eligibility criteria set out in the [Code of Practice for Research Degrees](#) Section 4.

All applications must be fully supported by the Deputy Dean (Research) in the lead faculty, who should confirm the eligibility of the proposed supervisory team.

7. Application & Assessment Process

Details about the funding and recruitment processes, including application forms, [BU Studentship Terms & Conditions](#), and information for match-funders will be available on the [Doctoral College intranet](#) and via the BU Research Blog.

Applications must be completed fully and submitted, by the lead supervisor, to the Doctoral College via email: phdstudentshipcompetition@bournemouth.ac.uk.

The deadline for submission of applications is 5pm on Monday 11 December 2023.

Please ensure applications contain all relevant information (project proposal; letter of support from match-funder; due diligence form) as **incomplete applications will not be considered**. Applications should be written in an accessible manner as they may be reviewed by non-subject specialists.

Applications will be allocated randomly to members of the BU PhD Studentship Panel³ for reviewing and scoring against the criteria outlined below:

- **Potential quality of the project** (scored out of 5 but double weighted): The Panel will consider whether the proposed project has clearly articulated aims, rationale, methods and outcomes, has the potential to be delivered on time and has the potential to deliver a contribution to knowledge
- **Potential impact** (scored out of 5): The Panel will assess whether the project has the potential to lead to academic, and/or societal, impact
- **Potential PGR development opportunities** (scored out of 5): The Panel will consider the development opportunities available to the successful candidate.

The Panel will be asked to score the application against the above criteria using the following scoring matrix:

Score	Rating	Comments
5	Excellent	Potential for excellence
4	Good	Considerable merit and future potential
3	Satisfactory	Merit but is not consistently high quality and/or is limited in future potential
2	Fair with some weakness	Merit but notable limitations
1	Weak	Below satisfactory

Additional points will be awarded for

- **Clear link to one or more of the research themes.**
- **Inclusion of ECR on supervisory team** (additional 2.5)
- **Cross-faculty supervisory team** (additional 2.5).

Applications will be ranked by total score which will reflect the quality of the project and funding awarded to the highest ranked. Only the best quality projects will be funded, so funding may be re-allocated or compressed, dependent on an overall comparison of project quality.

8. Candidate Recruitment

Recruitment of candidates will be administered by the Doctoral College in conjunction with the lead supervisor. Details of the candidate eligibility and recruitment process will be issued as part of the funding outcome and can also be found [here](#). However, it is important to note that BU is seeking to attract high quality candidates to these projects.

9. Timetable

The Doctoral College will manage the **BU match-funded studentship process 2024**, including the candidate recruitment process, along the following timetable:

Date	Action
Monday 23 October 2023	Internal phase of the BU Studentships allocative process launched
	Supervisory teams commence development of projects and secure match-funding
Monday 11 December 2023	Closing date for submission of internal applications
	DC allocate projects at random to Panel Members for review
Monday 18 December 2023	Applications sent to Panel Members for review (to be returned by Monday 8 January 2024)
Monday 22 January 2024	Studentship Funding Panel meeting
	DC inform feedback to supervisors and request marketing materials

³ BU PhD Studentship Panel members may submit applications to the call but will not be involved in the discussion or scoring of their applications. All Conflict of Interests will be declared in accordance with BU policy and guidelines.

From w/c Monday 5 February 2024	Supervisors return marketing paperwork
	RDS to complete Research Contract
	DC and M&C publish adverts when marketing paperwork returned and research contracts complete
Sunday 16 June 2024	Latest closing date for applications
Monday 23 September 2024	Successful Candidates start

10. Questions

Any questions about the BU match-funded studentships 2024 should be directed to phdstudentshipcompetition@bournemouth.ac.uk in the first instance.