



We are delighted to announce the launch of the 2014 BU PhD Studentship competition for projects starting in October 2014, part of the Fusion Investment Fund. Potentially, there will be up to 50 studentships available across two parallel strands: (1) **Matched Funded** and (2) **Fully Funded**. All proposals should be aligned clearly to one of the eight BU Research Themes.

## **Strand 1 – Matched Funded Studentships - up to 40 studentships available**

- The matched funder should provide 50% of the studentship costs, plus research costs, which is equivalent to £24,000 over three years (full details are outlined below).
- Matched funding may be provided by: Industry/business partners, Government and non-government organisations; other academic institutions; NHS; Research Councils; or other external bodies.
- Priority may be given to applications that involve supervisors from two or more Schools and/or those from early career researchers.
- Applicants are encouraged to discuss potential applications to this funding strand with the Deputy Dean for Research or equivalent within their School.

## **Strand 2 – Fully-Funded Studentships – up to 5 studentships available**

- These are exceptional awards for highly original, timely and non-applied or “blue-sky” research projects where there is no potential for match funding.
- Only projects where there is a clear link to one of the BU Research Themes will be considered. Priority may be given to projects which involve supervisors from two or more Schools and/or those from early career researchers.
- Applicants are encouraged to discuss potential applications to this funding strand with Professor Matthew Bennett or Professor Tiantian Zhang in advance.

The final number of fully funded or matched funded studentships available may be reduced due to BU international partnership developments.

The studentships will be awarded to supervisory teams on the basis of a competitive process across the whole of BU led by Professor Matthew Bennett (PVC) and managed by the Graduate School. Applications will be reviewed and assessed with awards made by a cross University Panel consisting of the academic members of UET and members of the BU Professoriate.

All proposed projects should be novel with clear project delivery plans, and to provide clear statements on the societal impact. In selecting proposals for funding emphasis will be placed on the excellence of the research and quality of proposal. Strategic fit with one of the BU Research Themes and potential for societal impact are amongst the key criteria.

**Only the best projects in each strand will be funded and proceed to advert.  
Full details and criteria are set out in this Policy document.  
Staff are asked to check the eligibility criteria carefully before applying.**

Applications on the Studentship Proposal form which can be downloaded from the BU Research Blog and the Graduate School staff intranet, should be submitted to the Graduate School; email: [phdstudentshipcompetition@bournemouth.ac.uk](mailto:phdstudentshipcompetition@bournemouth.ac.uk)) **no later than 5pm on Monday 6 January 2014**. Proposals will then be circulated to the judging panel for decision making mid-January 2014.

A second round of the competition may run in February 2014 if any awards remain unallocated following the first round. Successful projects under this round will recruit candidates for a January 2015 start.

### Details for Matched Funded Studentships Projects

Matched funded studentships are offered on a stipend and fee waive basis for 36 months only. Fees will be waived by the lead School. After 36 months, studentship candidates will automatically be transferred to continuation status and will normally be liable for Continuation Status Fees.

The matched funder should normally provide a minimum of 50% of the studentship stipend plus the research costs, which is equivalent to £24k over 36 months:

<b>Stipend</b>	Year 1	£7,000
	Year 2	£7,000
	Year 3	£7,000
<b>Research Costs</b>		£3,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>£24,000</b>

Schools are responsible for ensuring each studentship candidate with a guaranteed grant of between £3k and £5k over 36 months for use by the candidate to support the project costs such as fieldwork, consumables and conference travel.

Please note that these funds cannot be used to support BU staff to complete doctoral programmes.

Normal studentship terms and conditions will apply.

### Support for Academic Staff

Staff Development will be running a one day workshop on Tuesday 15 October 2013 for academic staff considering submitting a proposal(s). The workshop will include: identifying networks; maximizing opportunities; proposal writing; sharing and developing studentship ideas with panel of experts; recruitment strategies. Booking should be made through Staff Development ([staffdevelopment@bournemouth.ac.uk](mailto:staffdevelopment@bournemouth.ac.uk)).

### Supervisor Eligibility Criteria

The first supervisor should take responsibility for the application and ensure that the application meets the eligibility criteria set out below.

All proposals should have a balanced supervisory team; supervisors should not normally supervise more than 6 full-time PGR students, as a first supervisor, including this project. The first supervisor, who must be a permanent member of academic BU staff, should complete the application and must be a qualified supervisor defined as having a current "certificate of supervision", be research active, and in consideration for the REF submission.

All applications must be endorsed by the Deputy Dean (Research) or equivalent in lead Academic School.

### Candidate Recruitment

Once awarded all Studentships will be advertised and subject to a recruitment process managed and overseen by the Graduate School.

All projects will be promoted internally on the BU Studentship web pages and advertised externally on [jobs.ac.uk](http://jobs.ac.uk); [findaphd.com](http://findaphd.com). Supervisors should also use any relevant subject or discipline networks to promote their projects. Supervisors will be given a 4 month period in which to recruit a suitable candidate. Funding from projects failing to recruit a suitable candidate will be returned to the central studentship fund for reallocation. Potential supervisors have an important role in ensuring that it is advertised on all relevant subject/sector specific bulletin boards or equivalent.

Interviews should be held in line with BU policy - all interview panels will comprise the supervisory team and be chaired by an independent Professor or other senior staff from the host Academic School. Interviews should refer to the interview form and person specification available from the Graduate School. Interviews should last normally 30 minutes and all candidates should be given a tour of BU and School facilities by a PGR. Academic Schools are responsible for paying interview expenses (normally second class rail travel) to candidates.

UET approval of each candidate is required via the Graduate School. In order to make this a swift and trouble free process supervisors should make it very clear on the nomination form how the selected candidate demonstrates (with evidence) that they meet the recruitment criteria and will justify the investment being made. On receipt of UET approval, formal offer letters will be issued to the successful candidate by the Graduate School.

## Candidate Eligibility Criteria

The Studentships are open to UK, EU and international students. Candidates for a BU PhD studentship should demonstrate outstanding qualities and be motivated to complete a PhD in 3 years. All candidates must satisfy the University's minimum doctoral entry criteria for studentships of an honours degree at Upper Second Class (2.1) and/or an appropriate Masters degree. An IELTS (Academic) score of 6.5 minimum is essential for candidates for whom English is not their first language.

In addition to satisfying basic entry criteria, BU will look closely at the qualities, skills and background of each candidate and what they can bring to their chosen research project in order to ensure successful completion. **It is important to consider that in most cases the interpretation of 'outstanding' is likely to be those candidates with a First Class (Hons) degrees and/or a distinction at Masters, with clear documented evidence of drive and commitment.**

Applicants will be asked to submit an application form and a synopsis (1500 words) outlining their understanding of the project for which they are applying, the approach they would envisage taking and what qualities they will bring to the research community.

## Unsuccessful Applications

Formative feedback on all unsuccessful applications will be provided to encourage proposal development. Appeals should be made to the PVC via the Graduate School.

## Timetable

A second round of the competition may run in February 2014, if any awards remain unallocated following the first round. It should be noted that to ensure sufficient time to recruit a suitable candidate, projects funded under the second round will be recruiting candidates for January 2015 start.

The Graduate School will manage the recruitment process along the following timetable:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Action</b>
30 September 2013	Launch PhD Studentships Internal Competition (Round 1)
15 October 2013	Staff Development Workshop
6 January 2014	Deadline for submission of proposals to PhD Studentships Internal Competition (Round 1)
January 2014	Project evaluation and decision making
February – May 2013	PhD Studentships External Competition (Recruitment Round 1)
<i>February – April</i>	<i>PhD Studentships Internal Competition (Round 2, if required)</i>
<i>May – August</i>	<i>PhD Studentships External Competition (Recruitment Round 2, if required)</i>
September 2014	Successful Candidates Start (Round 1 projects)
January 2015	Successful Candidates Start (Round 2 projects)

All of the forms and further information on the scheme is available from the BU Research Blog and the Graduate School Staff Intranet. The process map is shown below:

# PhD Studentship Competition 2014 – Process

