



Forestry Commission

Joint Bursary Award Scheme

Guidance for Applicants

This guidance is additional to the General Applicant Guidance issued on the Scottish Forestry Trust (SFT) website and is specifically related to the Joint Bursary Award Scheme (“the scheme”) between the Forestry Commission and the SFT.

Purpose

1.0 The purpose of the scheme is to support postgraduate forestry research studentships relevant to UK forestry and carried out in the UK. Studentships will be related to the practice and application of forestry and forest products and will comply with the objectives and priorities of the SFT. Studentships can be Masters or Doctorate level, and students will be registered at UK Universities.

1.1 The scheme is available for new studentships and was launched in April 2011. Studentships can be 3 or 4 years duration.

1.2 funds will support a rolling programme of Ph.D and Masters qualifications that will cover the following subject areas:-

- a) earth and environmental sciences
- b) downstream manufacturing/product development/marketing or innovation
- c) social/politics/policy
- d) other

Assistance Levels

2.0 There is a presumption that proposals will be co-funded with a third party, for example a combination of industrial sponsorship, CASE funding, charitable support or personal funds. Leverage including additional funds or in-kind contributions, will be a factor in project selection.

2.1 Subject to approval by the Trust, and to the provisions of section 2 of the Trust's general applicant guidance, assistance levels will not normally exceed 30% of costs for doctoral research degrees and a maximum of £3,000 for Masters research degrees.

2.2 It will be unacceptable for students to rely solely on the scheme as their sole source of funds. Bursaries will only be available to fund new research and not research which is already in progress at the time of application.

2.3 Where possible, we wish to support open access to the results of projects and research that we support. We realise that there is a cost attached to securing open access rights and are willing to consider this cost as an eligible item of expenditure to which our intervention rates would apply.

Selection Process and Academic Support

3.0 Applications will be considered three times a year by the Trust's Projects and Research Committee. Dates for submission and decision, will be normally be announced annually on the Trust's website www.scottishforestrytrust.org.uk

3.1 Periodic progress reports and final reports will be required according to an agreed project schedule and these must subsequently be approved by the SFT prior to the release of any staged payments due.

3.2 The SFT or FC reserves the right to nominate a non-academic supervisor for each studentship if appropriate. Such matters will be considered at approval stage and on a case-by-case basis to ensure that supervision arrangements comply with University's internal policies and procedures.

Outputs and Evaluation

4.0 The funders of the scheme will expect that in addition to the publication of the academic findings of the work, researchers will submit a report for publication suitable for an informed lay audience. The funders reserve the right to publish such reports.

4.1 Research degrees supported through the scheme will be subject to an evaluation following the conclusion of the scheme. This will be carried out using the following criteria:-

- a) Number of completions compared to starts (including MPhil awards to Ph.D. candidates)
- b) Successful placement in the profession post studentship
- c) Timeliness of the project's delivery
- d) Actual leverage achieved, financial and in-kind
- e) The number of citations, presentations and publications made during and up to 18 months of completion of the studentship
- f) The extent to which there has been dissemination of the results of the supported students.

A non-attributable summary of the scheme evaluation will be posted on the SFT's website within 18 months of the completion of the scheme.

Intellectual Property

5.0 The SFT reserves the right, if appropriate, to make, have made, use and market products derived from inventions and other forms of intellectual property which arise from the studentship and which are in ownership or under the control of the research institution, subject to entering into a royalty-sharing agreement with the institution.

Liabilities

6.0 All research undertaken during the studentships will comply with an appropriate ethical code to be specified in the research proposal

6.1 Research institutions participating in the Scheme will be required to indemnify the partnership from claims arising from the activities of the student.

Appeals

7.0 The decision of the Trustees is final and no appeals will be considered under any circumstances.