



Tree Health Scotland 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 Tree Health Scotland Bursary Award Scheme (“the scheme”) between the SFT and Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS).

1 Purpose

1.1 The purpose of the scheme is to support postgraduate forestry research studentships relevant to tree health in Scotland and carried out by institutes within the UK. To be eligible for consideration, studentships must address tree health in Scotland and must comply with the objectives and priorities of the SFT. Studentships will be for Doctorate level research, and students will be registered at UK Universities.

1.2 The scheme will be open for new PhD studentships from 1 April 2015 and extends to research that is expected to complete by December 2020 although there may be some flexibility in completion dates.

1.3 Funds will support PhD qualifications that are intended to:-

- Address tree pest and pathogen issues which are of current concern or which represent a future threat to the trees, forests and woodlands of Scotland
 - a. When addressing current pests and diseases, be based on Scottish sites.
 - b. When examining new pest and disease threats can involve broader sites throughout the UK
- Address practical issues that have applied outcomes

2 Assistance Levels

2.1 There is a presumption that proposals will be co-funded, for example by combining the Bursary funds with industrial sponsorship, university funding, CASE funding, charitable support or personal funds. Leverage including additional funds or in-kind contributions, will be a factor in project selection.

2.2 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 50% of costs for doctoral research degrees. It will be unacceptable for students to rely on the scheme as their sole source of funds

2.3 Bursaries will only be available to fund new research and not research which is already in progress at the time of application.

3 Selection Process and Academic Support

3.1 Applications will be considered three times a year by the Trust's Projects and Research Committee. Dates for

submission and decision, will normally be announced annually on the Trust's website www.scottishforestrytrust.org.uk

3.2 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.

3.3 The SFT and FCS reserve the right to nominate a non-academic supervisor for each student receiving a studentship if appropriate. Such matters will be considered at approval stage and on a case-by-case basis to ensure that supervision arrangements meet the funder's needs and comply with universities' internal policies and procedures.

4 Outputs and Evaluation

4.1 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.

4.2 Research degrees supported through the Tree Health Scotland Bursary scheme will be subject to a combined evaluation following the conclusion of the scheme. Each funded studentships will be expected to contribute to successful evaluation, which will be carried out using the following criteria:-

- a) number of completions compared to starts;
- b) successful placement in the profession following the 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 after 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.

5 Intellectual Property

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 the ownership or under the control of a participating university or research institution, subject to entering into a royalty-sharing agreement with the university, student or institution.

6 Liabilities

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

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

7 Appeals

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