



Call for Project Proposals FAQs

1. There are three types of studentships on offer.

Standard, Standard CASE and Industry co-funded Studentships. For both standard and standard CASE studentships students undertake rotation projects in the first year before choosing their final PhD project. For Industry co-funded studentships students do not undertake rotation projects.

2. What is the financial requirements for CASE partners for the SoCoBio DTP?

- For SME [Companies <50 Employees] industry partners the financial contribution is zero, but companies are required to host the student for a 3-month placement and cover the additional costs (extra travel etc).
- Any other industry partners [Companies >51 Employees (including employees in parent companies or subsidiaries)] the financial contribution is £1400 per year (£5,600 over the 4 years). In addition to the financial funding the industry partner is required to host the student for a 3-month placement and cover the additional costs (e.g., extra travel/accommodation etc). Financial contribution to the student's stipend is not mandatory but encouraged.

3. Is a CASE supervisor required?

CASE partners do not need to co-supervise the student unless they have someone qualified and willing to do so. If you have an industry co-supervisor, another co-supervisor from another SoCoBio partner is not required.

4. Is it essential to have at least two supervisors from different institutions?

Yes, it is however, if you have an industry partner that is match funding or a CASE partner then it is possible for the partner supervisor to be from industry, providing they have identified someone suitable (i.e., qualified and willing to supervise).

5. Is the funding for a full PhD studentship (stipend + fees)?

The funding is for a full studentship (fees, stipend, RTSG, fieldwork and PIPS allowance). RTSG amount is specified on the proposal form as this can vary.

6. What is the exact p.a. cost for the industry partner?

Cost for industry partner would be:

50% of full fees, stipend, RTSG, Fieldwork and PIPS

Full studentship cost breakdown

- Currently (2023/24) fees and stipend are £4,596.00 and £18,622 respectively but would increase with inflation each year.



- RTSG is £5k p.a. plus £230 p.a. for 'fieldwork' (conferences, travel expenses, consumables, exchange between partner institutions)
- PIPS is £1,000 (one off payment)

7. If submitting a co-funded PhD would the student be directly recruited to the project?

Yes, the supervisory team would advertise, shortlist for interview and interview applicants to their project. A SoCoBio representative would be required at your interviews to ensure consistency in recruitment processes across SoCoBio studentships.

8. What are BBSRC guidelines for CASE projects?

<https://bbsrc.ukri.org/documents/case-information-pack-pdf/>

9. BBSRC frequently asked questions: CASE Studentships

<https://bbsrc.ukri.org/documents/case-faqs-pdf/>

10. What counts as "matched funding available to support this studentship"? How does this differ from "relevant current funding"?

Matched funding is when there is significant additional funding that offsets the cost of the studentship. So, for example, some companies will fund 50% of the costs, or you may have funding from a charity, your own funds etc. Match-funding cannot be greater than 50% but could be less than 50% at the approval of the Management Board.

Relevant current funding is what you have in the way of grants supporting your research, so we know the student is going to a well-funded environment. Note though it is not necessarily essential to have grants, it depends on the project etc.

11. If a student chooses my project for Rotation 1, does it mean that I will have a student for Rotation 2?

There is no guarantee that you will get a second rotation student. It is the students who choose which projects they undertake for their rotations. Second rotation projects are selected in November of Year 1 of the programme. Supervisors will be informed in December if their project has been selected as a second rotation by a student. *When submitting a project, it must be designed with rotations in mind so it can be completed as a rotation project for either a first or second rotation or both – more details on this in response to Q 13*

12. How much RTSG does a rotation project receive?

Each rotation project will receive up to £1000 of the students yearly RTSG allowance.

13. What are the expectations or guidelines for projects if my project is chosen for rotation 1 & 2.

Projects should be designed for rotations unless they have industry match funding. They could be selected by one student for a first rotation and another for a second rotation. The rotation period is 4 months. Students for rotation 2 need to work on the project (Not carry out a study non-related to the



original PhD project). The second rotation student does not necessarily have to carry on the same set of experiments as the first student, but they can if they wish.

14. Does my project qualify for BBRSC funding if my area of research is in medicine (biology/engineering)?

The project needs to fall within the BBSRC remit (not working specifically on a disease for example, though there is some flexibility for aging projects).

15. Am I eligible to submit a project proposal if I am on a fixed-term contract.

You are eligible provided your contract extends beyond the duration of the studentship.