

12 December 2017

Dear Principal,

MATCH-FUNDING AVAILABLE FOR PhDs

I am writing to ask whether you would be interested in collaborating with the Scottish Aquaculture Innovation Centre (SAIC) on a new pilot programme to co-fund PhD places.

For the pilot, SAIC is able to provide 50% of the cost of a total of four PhDs – £50,000 per PhD – to commence in Autumn 2018 and complete in 2021.

Eligibility criteria

This match-funding is subject to two key criteria. Firstly, each PhD must focus on one of our Priority Innovation Actions (PIAs), as identified by industry members:

- PIA 1: Addressing environmental and health challenges, including sea lice, gill health and feeds for nutrition
- PIA 2: Unlocking additional capacity for aquaculture development
- PIA 3: Establishing a reliable supply of mollusc spat.

SAIC will organise a joint industry-academic workshop for early 2018 where the most pressing issues for applied research can be discussed in more detail and the scope of each co-funded PhD can be agreed in principle.

We would propose to announce the SAIC PIA PhD programme and advertise the PhD opportunities shortly thereafter.

Industry-related training

The second requirement of the SAIC PIA PhD programme is that participants spend a significant amount of time in an industry setting, increasing their understanding of the commercial context in which their applied research is being undertaken and, in turn, enhancing their employability.

This element of the programme will be coordinated by SAIC and funded separately from the core PhD funding, with support from the Scottish aquaculture industry.

Looking ahead

If the response to the pilot programme is strong, and the initial evaluation is positive, it would be our intention to run this scheme again in future years.

Express your interest

If your institution would be interested in match-funding a PhD place – or places – in

conjunction with SAIC, please email Don Fowler, SAIC Aquaculture Innovation Manager, at donald@scottishaquaculture.com by **Wednesday 20 December 2017**.

I am copying this letter to Keith McDonald at the Scottish Funding Council for information.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Heather Jones." Below the signature is a short horizontal line.

Heather Jones
Chief Executive