Faculty of Science

Additional guidance for completing JARSS applications.

In previous years many applications have had to be returned by Faculty to Departments/supervisors for revision because they were incomplete or needed amendment in specific areas. This guidance is intended to avoid that by providing useful 'hints and tips' on what is expected in each section.

The process

Studentship applications submitted on the PGR Studentships System pass through four stages before final approval (each designated by a circle on your application timeline). Note that only one person can be the controlling user at any time, meaning that only their edits will be saved.

Stage 1: The application is controlled by the applicant (primary supervisor of the proposed project). They should **complete it fully and ensure all required supporting documents are attached in PDF format**[†]

Stage 2: The application is controlled by the department. The designated person (HoD, DoR or PGR Director) should complete the Departmental Supporting Statement.

Stage 3: The application is controlled by faculty. The designated Faculty Officer checks for completeness; the VDR checks the finances are correct; the AD-PGR checks the academic aspects then completes the Faculty Supporting Statement.



Stage 4: The application is controlled by the university. The PGR Funding Team and DAP scrutinise all aspects carefully before approval is granted.

† For SEA applications, this means:

- An up-to-date copy of the student's cv
- Transcripts for **all** degrees (whether awarded or ongoing) i.e. not just the most recent one
- Two references, which must not be written by the prospective supervisors, EITHER signed, on headed paper and dated within the last 6 months OR as an email from the referee printed to pdf and uploaded (and similarly recently dated).

Project Summary

Please ensure your application is clear and comprehensible to a general scientific audience. Please structure it as you would any other funding application i.e. include:

- Sufficient background for the reader to understand what the research is about and why it is
 important that it be funded. It is useful to include some high-level context e.g. this will help
 cure cancer, solve climate change, speed up computing ten-fold etc, along with your more
 specific/technical justification.
- The key aims and objectives of the project.
- Some information on what the student will actually do. You might want to divide this into major tasks or work-packages, to illustrate the shape and flow of the research project.

Literature references may be included but are not necessary. There is no need to fill the 1500-word limit. However, very short applications are unlikely to contain enough detail to be assessed.

Research Strategy Alignment

Please consider the relationship between your project and some or all of:

- University strategic theme(s) or cluster(s) as noted in the Strathclyde 2030 strategic plan https://www.strath.ac.uk/whystrathclyde/strathclyde2030/world-leadingresearch/
- Wider university goals e.g. to promote sustainability, inclusivity, internationalisation etc
- Faculty or departmental priority research areas
- EPSRC priorities or existing funding (especially when applying for an EPSRC-funded JARSS)

If there is involvement of any strategic partners (UK or international) then please mention the nature of the involvement. You can give further details in the new "In-kind contribution from external collaborators" box (see below).

Project Fit

Here you are essentially being asked 'What is potentially to be gained through funding of this specific studentship?' Does it, for example, help a CF establish their independent research portfolio, lay the foundation for a future DTC, cement an important industrial partnership etc?

Collaborator engagement and role in project (for EPSRC collaborative awards only)

Name your external collaborator – noting that it cannot be another HEI – and explain the nature of their involvement in the PhD. Be sure to confirm details of the three-months' internship (noting that this can be made up of more than one visit provided the total duration is three months).

Student Experience and Training

Please try to address both subject-specific and wider training available for example through:

- the PGCert Researcher Professional Development
- opportunities available through partnerships such as SUPA or because the project aligns with a DTC.
- External engagements such as visits to collaborators, industrial placements etc, which add valuable experience.

Financial contribution

If external funding is involved, the collaborating partner must provide a letter of support, which should be uploaded with the application (in PDF format).

In-kind contribution from external collaborators (new this year)

Please list here any significant non-financial contributions being made to the studentship.

Responsible research and innovation (new this year)

Include both relevant training activities the student will undertake (either as part of the PGCert or through external partners) and other project-related RRI activities. For further information on RRI see: https://www.ukri.org/who-we-are/epsrc/our-policies-and-standards/framework-for-responsible-innovation/