Strategic Research and Knowledge Transfer Development Fund – Research Student Support

Criteria and Process for Application

The Strategic Research and Knowledge Transfer Development Fund is open to bids from research themes, clusters or departments for specific sums which will support research students in areas of research excellence. An annual amount of £100,000 has been put aside to support postgraduate research students; if the quality of applications proves to be high, this may rise in the future.

The process will be embedded within the Themes and Clusters initiative and applications to the fund will generally arise from the business plans developed by the clusters. It also offers an opportunity for supervisors to bid for funding to top up existing sources of support, whether departmental or external.

The overall intention is to strengthen Stirling’s research environment, increase postgraduate research student numbers, and ensure that we remain an attractive centre for the best new researchers in our fields of expertise.

A flexible approach to allocation guarantees a variety of models in keeping with the needs of different disciplines. Possible models include: full funding, part-funding bursaries, 50% match funding and fee ‘waivers’.

Student Eligibility

Normal University entrance requirements apply, with eligibility restricted to students who also meet all of the following criteria:

- Students of high calibre with potential for achieving research excellence
- Students who are new to post-graduate research
- Doctoral students
- Full-time EU students

Proposals should be costed for three years of study.

Proposals

Assessment of proposals will be co-ordinated by the Deputy Principal (Research and Knowledge Transfer). Proposals should be submitted to Wilma Ellis, Head of Policy and Graduate Team, Research and Enterprise Office by 5pm on January 31st each year. Decisions will be notified to applicants during February, allowing timely recruitment of the highest quality research students.

Proposals (no more than two sides of A4) should cover the following, which will form the basis of the criteria for assessment:

- The significance of the research to be undertaken.
- The anticipated benefits to the institution from the proposed activity.
- Relationship with and contribution to the business plans for a research cluster or with the departmental research strategy.
- The total sum required, over a three year period, including fees, stipend, fieldwork, conference and travel costs where appropriate.
- Any arrangements for external support which would enhance the value of this studentship award.
- Arrangements for recruitment of the student(s).
- Assurance that the funding will be used solely for eligible students.

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