

# AHDB Studentship Call 2019: Q&As



10/07/2019

## General Enquiries:

- **When does the call close and when will we hear?**

The call closes at midday on Monday 30 September 2019. Notifications will be made to all applicants on Wednesday 08 January 2020.

- **The form asks for the funding requested from AHDB and the total funding both excluding VAT, how does this work for the likes of consumables?**

The studentship funding will cover all project costs. VAT on consumables is not usually recoverable in AHDB funded studentships. Only where sub-contracts are used do we request that these costs should be inclusive of VAT.

- **What is the maximum funding of £74,100 is eligible to cover?**

The £74,100 in funding will cover the tuition fees, stipend and experimental costs. The experimental costs can be used for project consumables, laptop costs, and may be used to fund attendance at relevant conferences (please see table below). You are not required to provide a presentation of costings within the proposal.

National Minimum Doctoral Stipend for 2019/20	£15,009
UK Research and Innovation Indicative Fee Level for 2019/20	£4,327
Experimental Costs	£5,300
Annual Budget (rounded up)	£24,700
<b>Total Studentship Budget</b>	<b>£74,100</b>

- **If our fees are higher than the UKRI indicative fee level, will AHDB consider applications that exceed £74,100 to take this into account?**

The amount offered for the studentship will not increase if fees are higher than the UKRI indicative fee level; the total amount of funding from AHDB is capped at £74,100 per project.

- **Can we allow for an annual inflation % on the studentship costs?**

Funding is available at the levels indicated on the website at a fixed rate. The amount offered for the studentship will not increase based on inflation, and is capped at a total amount of funding of £74,100 per project.

- **Given that experimental costs towards a studentship are £5,300, does the AHDB actively encourage contributions from other organisations? For example, if a PhD project was to cost £100,000 and AHDB were willing to contribute £74,100, could the shortfall be made up by the host organisation or any other?**

AHDB would welcome co-funding in projects. Details should be stated in the application.

- **Is London weighting available?**

AHDB does not offer additional London weighting.

- **Does AHDB provide extended funding to attract veterinary graduates into the PhD programme?**

AHDB does not offer a supplement to the grant for graduates from any field of study.

- **Please clarify whether any specific contribution is required from the host institution?**

No, not essential, but leverage of other sources of funding could strengthen a case.

- **Is there funding available for under graduate students?**

This call is open for applications for post-graduate studentships only. Funding to support undergraduate students is available from some AHDB sectors, but would be advertised separately on sector websites as a separate call.

- **I am looking to secure additional funds to match fund the AHDB contribution if successful. How far down this road do I need to be in terms of an application/securing additional funding before the AHDB PhD application deadline?**

In this situation the application would be scored on its merits at the time of application. If AHDB funding is successful then it will be stated whether or not this offer is conditional on securing the additional funding.

- **If collaborating industrial partners are interested in the studentship. Is it a requirement for them to contribute cash or in-kind if named on the application? If the latter, does a cost breakdown of in-kind contribution have to be included in the proposal?**

It is not a requirement for the industrial partners to contribute cash or in-kind funding. If there is an in-kind contribution, only the total value from each source and a short description of the nature of the contribution is required (e.g. materials, equipment etc.).

- **Can students apply?**

Unfortunately we do not accept applications directly from students. The application process is for universities to apply to us with a project. If they are successful, recruitment of the student is then undertaken by the University for that particular project.

However, some sectors welcome applications from universities that have already identified a motivated student, in which case a CV and motivation letter must be submitted alongside the application. However, this can still only be submitted by the applying university.

- **Would an application be considered without an AHDB representative?**

Naming an AHDB supervisor is not essential in your application. However, in assessing the proposal we would be looking for how you propose to engage with industry in delivering the project.

- **Would a studentship be restricted to 3 years' duration, or could a studentship be included with a duration of 4-years?**

Yes, or even 3.5 years if appropriate, but the amount offered would not change.

- **Would the AHDB consider an application submitted in relation to a Part-Time PhD Studentship over a period of 5 years?**

AHDB has in the past funded part-time studentships. However, there would need to be a strong case made for such an arrangement in the project application, and this would be considered on a case-by-case basis.

- **Does the Industry Partner need to be UK based?**

It is not necessary for an industry partner to be UK based. Please see section 17 on the guidance document for collaborating organisations.

- **Would it be acceptable for the PhD Studentship - if awarded - to start in April 2020, or would the earliest start date for the current call be autumn 2020?**

The proposed start time of the studentship would be considered, but note that the turnaround time between when notification would be issued (08 January 2020) and the proposed start date of 01 April 2020 would be short.

- **Can studentships relating to poultry be included?**

AHDB does not collect levy from the poultry industry – so poultry falls outside the AHDB remit. If you have research ideas it might be worth contacting the British Poultry Council at [www.britishpoultry.org.uk](http://www.britishpoultry.org.uk) who may be able to advise on industry involvement.

- **What are the criteria for the student eligibility? Could we have students applying either from Europe or Overseas students? If yes, can they be registered for their PhD in countries abroad or should we have them registered in a UK University?**

Students outside of the UK would be eligible to apply for an AHDB funded studentship, as long as they have registered to an UK university when undertaking the PhD. We ask that the intended University be specified in the application form.

- **Could you please explain the eligibility for applying regarding the number of supervisors or institutions required? Do we need industrial collaboration or contributions?**

There is no specific requirement with regards supervisors or institutions. Applications usually include a main supervisor, plus at least one co-supervisor; which may be reflected in the number of

institutions involved. Industry collaboration is encouraged and co-funding is welcome.

- **I have the opportunity to work with an industrial partner, but they have asked if the results from the project could be kept confidential for a period of time. Is this permitted for an AHDB funded studentship where the industrial partner would also look to make a financial contribution?**

AHDB will consider proposals where results need to be kept confidential, but this would be dependent on two factors:

1. the level of funding being contributed by an Industry Partner;
2. the time scale involved before results could be disseminated to our levy payers.

Details would need to be documented in the call application.

## **2019 Sector-specific enquiries**