Call for proposals for

*ISIS Facility Development and Utilisation Studentships*

***What are ISIS Facility Development and Utilisation Studentships?***

ISIS wishes to co-fund PhD studentship projects which focus on the development of ISIS facility capabilities or the utilisation of capabilities previously funded by this call. Studentship projects can be within any of the science areas studied by neutron scattering or muon spectroscopy at ISIS but they must focus on facility-development or the utilisation of facilities previously developed under this call alongside a strong science case. This may include technique, software or sample environment development which is of wider use within the facility beyond the immediate PhD student project.

We particularly welcome joint applications to ISIS and Diamond and will look to ring-fence 4 joint studentships for those joint applications which meet the application criteria.

***How many studentships are available?***

ISIS will make available funding for approximately 6 half ISIS studentships and up to 4 joint ISIS/Diamond half studentships.

***Who may apply?***

Any academic belonging to a UK university with the authorisation to supervise PhD students may apply. We assume that the applicant will be the university PhD supervisor. An ISIS staff scientist must be a co-applicant and co-supervisor, and play a full and equal role in the studentship project and supervision, including the interviewing of potential candidates.

All applicants must provide evidence with their application that they have already secured a 50% contribution of project costs.

The student must spend at least one year of their time at ISIS (at RAL for joint ISIS-Diamond studentships), in addition to normal short trips for experiments, during their PhD (in a schedule to be arranged by mutual agreement between the ISIS and university supervisor). Standard PhD progression qualifiers (1st / 2nd year reports etc.) may be used to assess the degree of interaction with the ISIS facility. If it is deemed insufficient interaction has occurred, STFC reserves the right to withdraw funding.

***What will ISIS provide?***

ISIS will provide up to 50% funding for each studentship including any fees required by the host University. Matching funds from other sources must to be secured by the applicant and proof of funding submitted with the application. The student will need to be registered at the host university, and ISIS will make payments to the University to cover the ISIS portion of the stipend and fees. ISIS (STFC) will set up an agreement with the host university which specifies a schedule for payments to the university to cover the ISIS contribution to the studentship, together with other details of the working arrangements for the studentship.

In addition, up to £2000 per year per student for travel and consumables (to be claimed by the student against actual receipted expenditure) will also be available for research training expenses including the cost of travelling to and from the Rutherford Laboratory.

***How long are the studentships for?***

Studentships should start in autumn 2019 and can be for between 3 and 4 years. Studentship posts not filled by end of 2019 will be withdrawn.

***How to apply?***

The completed application form, together with a 2-page project description for ISIS proposals, a 1 page project plan or Gantt chart (total 3 pages), letters of support and proof of co-funding should be emailed to Martin Jones (martin-owen.jones@stfc.ac.uk) by 6pm on the 1st of October. Project description must fit within the two page limit and must contain the following headings;

**Background** Background information of the proposal including why it is timely and interesting and the goals of the project.

**PhD Project** The scientific project to be undertaken by the PhD student including important milestones and how will the combination of University and ISIS resources contribute to student experience.

**Facility Development/Utilisation** How the project will either develop the facility or profitably utilise facility development previously funded under this call, including details of wider use beyond the immediate research team and legacy applications.

**Partnerships** Details of partnerships, 1) within the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory 2) with industry and 3) with other academic institutions / ISIS users.

**Project Plan** In the form of a Gantt chart or similar on a separate page

***When should applications be made?***

The deadline for applications for this call is 1st October 2018.

***Selection criteria for ISIS to provide funding:***

* The quality of the science (40%).
* The quality of the facility development aspect and the benefit to the ISIS community (40%). Appropriate examples of development projects will be of wider use to the ISIS community beyond the immediate PhD project and may focus on instrument, technique, sample environment or software development. Purely scientific projects or those with weak development aspects will be rejected. Letters of support from institutions other than that of the applicant(s) demonstrating the significance of the project to the wider ISIS community are welcomed and may be included in the application.
* The quality of the PhD training (10%). What will the student undertake during their PhD and how will the combination of ISIS and University resources provide a rewarding and beneficial experience for the student.
* Partnerships (10%). Partnerships with other RAL institutions (Diamond light source, Central Laser Facility, the Research Complex at Harwell, the Harwell Imaging partnership, RAL Space etc.), government laboratories (The Hartree Centre, NPL etc.) or private industrial will be viewed favourably, especially where such links are supported through additional funding. Supporting letters from additional project partners must be included.
* An ISIS staff scientist (or ISIS *and* Diamond for joint proposals) as co-supervisor of the student
* The student should spend at least one year of their time at ISIS (50% of their time at RAL for joint ISIS-Diamond projects), in addition to normal short trips for experiments, during their PhD (in a schedule to be arranged by mutual agreement between the ISIS and university supervisors).
* Demonstration of a source of co-funding to provide the 50% contribution not supplied by ISIS or Diamond.

***Selection process:***

Proposals will be sent for external review. Once reviews have been received, a selection panel consisting of ISIS senior staff and members of the ISIS user community will rank the proposals for potential funding. In addition to the above selection criteria, ISIS will seek a breadth of science areas and partnering universities when making a final decision on which applications will be supported.

The panel will meet to review proposals soon after the application deadline, and applicants will be informed in early 2019, after which a list of funded project titles and PIs will be published.

**Joint ISIS / Diamond Proposals**

Joint ISIS / Diamond proposals are welcomed. Proposals that seek both Diamond and ISIS supervisors in addition to a supervisor from the host University will be subject to review by separate panel composed of Diamond and ISIS staff. Successful ISIS and Diamond staff applicants will then be invited for interview by a panel again composed of Diamond and ISIS staff and studentships awarded on the basis of these interviews (please note, only ISIS and Diamond staff will be interviewed). Interviews will focus on the selection criteria detailed above, the training provision for the PhD student and the role of the ISIS and Diamond supervisors to the PhD project.

The joint ISIS / Diamond panel will meet in October 2018, with successful applicants invited for interview in November / December 2018. Proposals seeking joint ISIS and Diamond supervisors may be submitted to either the Diamond or ISIS call for studentships, but the request for joint Diamond and ISIS supervision must be indicated on the application form and in the case for support.

Depending on the quality of the proposals, we aim to fund up to 4 joint ISIS / Diamond studentships, with accepted joint ISIS / Diamond studentships funded 1/4:1/4:1/2 ISIS:Diamond:University.

***Proposal information:***

Applicants should provide the information requested on the application form. In addition, a Gantt chart or project plan and a description of the research project to be undertaken should be provided. The description of the research project should take into account the selection criteria given above and should be a maximum of two pages for ISIS-only applications and three pages for joint ISIS and Diamond proposals.

Certain information (applicant and institution, general project description) may be made public by ISIS for successful proposals.

Application for an *ISIS Facility Development Studentship*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Project Title** |  |
| **Name of applicant (university supervisor)** |  |
| **University** |  |
| **Department** |  |
| **Postal address** |  |
| **Phone number** |  |
| **Email** |  |
| **ISIS co-supervisor** |  |
| **Joint with Diamond** | **Yes No**  |
| **Diamond Co-Supervisor** |  |
| **Proposed student start date** |  |
| **Length of studentship required** |  |
| **Funding requested from ISIS (ISIS will provide up to 50% of the costs of the studentship including fees). Please complete the table on the right to show funding requested.** |

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| £k | Yr 1 | Yr 2 | Yr 3 | Yr 4 |
| ISIS |  |  |  |  |
| *Partner* |  |  |  |  |
| T&S  |  |  |  |  |

 |
| **Funding source(s) for non-ISIS part of studentship..** |  |
| **Is a particular student being considered for this post? If so, please provide details (name; (likely) degree result; *etc*.)** |  |
| **Please provide a short (200 word) description of the project suitable for a general audience including suitable science area keywords. (For successful applications, this may be made public).** |  |

**In addition to the above form, please provide a description of the proposed research project. The description must include the relevance of the project to this funding scheme using the selection criteria described and be of a maximum of two pages for an ISIS-only proposal and three pages for a joint Diamond and ISIS proposal.**

**Please submit the application form and 2-page project description to** **martin-owen.jones@stfc.ac.uk** **by 6pm on 1st October 2018.**