

## FoE Guidance on PhD Studentships

### 1. EPSRC Doctoral Training Partnership

#### a. College DTP allocation

The DTP (Doctoral Training Partnership) is allocated to the College by EPSRC on a two yearly basis. Each department in FoE is allocated a number of these studentships, including those that can be used for international students (there is a cap of 10% of across all sources of EPSRC PhD funding (DTP, CDT, iCASE etc)).

For further information see:

- [College guidance](#) on Research Council PhD studentships:
- [EPSRC information on the DTP](#)
- [EPSRC Guidance on student eligibility](#)

#### b. EPSRC CASE conversion - Faculty process

The College has a target to convert 10% of DTP studentships to CASE awards. In order to reach this target the Faculty holds back a number of DTP studentships, equivalent to 10% of the Faculty's allocation, to award as CASE conversions.

Each year there is a call (in 2019 the deadline was 12 March) for departments to put forward applications for students to work with companies on a PhD project. Students must be eligible to receive both fees and a stipend from EPSRC in order to apply for a CASE conversion.

In order to be counted as a full CASE conversion:

- The student must be in receipt of a full award i.e. 100% DTP funded over the period of the studentship.
- The industrial partner must provide extra funding to the project (**a minimum of a third of the EPSRC funding**) on top of the full DTP award. This figure was £30,000 in 2019 for the minimum contribution from the industry partner but they are encouraged to cover travel and additional research costs etc. on top of this.
- The student is jointly supervised and spends at least three months at the industrial partner who pays any travel, accommodation, subsistence costs etc.

Examples of collaborative training which **do not** constitute a full CASE conversion are:

- Example 1: 50% DTP funds plus 50% industrial sponsorship.
- Example 2: 50% DTP, 50% non-EPSRC university funding plus additional industrial contribution.
- **For further information on CASE conversions see the [EPSRC guidance](#).**

### 2. EPSRC iCASE

#### a. What is iCASE?

iCASE (Industrial Cooperative Awards in Science & Technology) funding for studentships is provided directly to businesses by EPSRC and allows the businesses to take the lead in arranging PhD projects with an academic partner of their choice. EPSRC use an algorithm based on financial contributions on EPSRC-funded research to allocate funding to companies. It is therefore up to the company whether they want to base a studentship at Imperial.

### **b. What do the students receive?**

Students receive funding for a full EPSRC studentship for 4 years. Companies provide additional top up to the project of a minimum of a third of the EPSRC funding. The student must spend at least three months at the company, and the company pays any travel and subsistence costs. Projects should be in the area of engineering and the physical sciences.

For students the eligibility requirements are the same as for other EPSRC studentship funding.

- **For further information see the EPSRC [guidance and information on iCASE](#).**

### **3. CDTs**

EPSRC also funds studentships through Centres for Doctoral Training (CDTs). Students are funded for four years and their training includes technical and transferrable skills training, as well as a research element. The main difference between CDT studentships and individual studentships funded through the DTP is that CDT students receive training in cohorts and the CDTs often involve other institutions. Students apply to the CDT and the usual rules apply for eligibility for EPSRC funding.

There was a call for CDTs in 2018 and EPSRC funded 7 centres at Imperial.

- **Further information can be found on the EPSRC [website](#).**

### **4. President's PhD Scholarships**

The President's PhD Scholarships is a College scheme to provide funding for 50 high achieving PhD candidates each year. The process is managed centrally by the Research Office but includes shortlisting by departments and ranking by the Faculty before the final panel meeting at College level. The final decisions are made by the Imperial College Selection Panel, consisting of the Vice-Provost (Research) and the Faculty Vice-Deans for Research.

Once candidates have identified a supervisor and are confident that they can meet the eligibility requirements, they apply through the Imperial online admission system. Departments shortlist their candidates for interview and, following these interviews, they put forward the names of their top candidates to the Research Office. The Research Office send the paperwork to the Strategic Research Managers in each Faculty so that the candidates in each Faculty can be ranked. In FoE the panel to rank the candidates consists of a representative from each Department, usually the Director of Postgraduate Studies. Once the Faculty have ranked the candidates, the scores and ranking are sent to the Research office so that scores from all four Faculties can be combined to provide a list for the final ranking at College level. This process happens three times a year and a total of 50 studentships will be allocated across the three selection panel meetings.

A detailed description of the process is available in the College guidance on the process for staff.

- **[College guidance](#) for staff**
- **[College guidance](#) for students**

### **5. College Scholarships Search Tool**

For further sources of PhD funding the College has a [scholarships search tool](#).