



PhD Programme – Call for CASE Projects #4

1. Introduction

A key activity of IBioIC is the support of industrially relevant PhD Projects that bring biotechnology closer to industrialisation.

The Call is open to industrially lead PhD projects in collaboration with a Scottish University or a University of the N8 partnership. We particularly encourage applications from SMEs. All applications should demonstrate a good REF quality profile, a good track record of PhD supervision and a commitment to fund a mandatory 3 to 18 month industry research placement within the company. The IBioIC CASE Award Executive Group is responsible for the quality management of the CASE Studentship Training Programme, the quality of studentship supervision and governance of the CASE funded awards.

The PhD studentships will be funded for a duration of 4 years and each PhD Project will be assessed by way of competition. This paper is a call for PhD CASE Projects to enter this competition. It sets out the rules, processes and guidelines on how this competition will be operated. IBioIC reserves the right to further change these processes in order to keep to the imposed timetable. Any changes of process will be notified to all entrants.

2. Criteria for PhD Projects

For a PhD Project to be considered for funding it must meet the following minimum criteria:

- I. Aligned within the major themes of IBioIC CASE awards, namely;
 - Industrial Biotechnology and Bioenergy (including Sustainable Feedstocks, Integrated Bioprocessing and Downstream Processing)
 - World Class Underpinning Bioscience (Synthetic Biology and Bio-catalysis and Biotransformation)
- II. Demonstrate industrial relevance that is met by the innovative use or application of biotechnology
- III. The Project must be championed by industry and led by an IBioIC HEI Partner or an N8 Research Partnership Institution (see Appendix 2) and must be supported by at least one of IBioIC's Industrial Members. If the lead Industrial partner is not a member of IBioIC at the time of application then that industrial partner must become a member before

funding is awarded. The industry partner in the project will commit to providing the student with a **minimum** of 3 months placement period and meet associated costs of student travel, accommodation and any laboratory consumables.

- IV. The project may consist of any number of partners so long as these criteria are met. Evidence of leveraged or existing funding is essential to the application and may be used as a deciding factor in differentiating projects of similar quality.
- V. For projects led by SMEs: evidence of a minimum of **20%** contribution (cash or in kind) to be supported by the non-academic partner(s). The level of funding leveraged is one of the measures used in the evaluation of competition entries.
- VI. For projects led by large companies: IBioIC will contribute a maximum of **50% cash** funding with the remainder to be supported by non-academic partner(s). The level of funding leveraged is one of the measures used in the evaluation of competition entries.

3. Value and Funding

Funding to cover the cost of stipend and tuition fees (at RCUK rates) and a Research Training Support Grant (RTSG) of £5000 per annum is available from IBioIC to support PhD studentship for projects of 4 years duration.

The sponsoring organisations, academic and/or industrial partners are responsible for additional costs including those associated with the mandatory industrial placement.

If other funding sources are to be used these should be subtracted from the requested IBioIC contribution. Those proposed projects that have leveraged or co-funding may be used to differentiate projects of sufficiently high quality.

4. Number of PhD Projects to be awarded

The number of PhD Projects to be awarded in this fourth IBioIC competition shall be determined by the merit of the Projects submitted and the total Funding required versus that available.

5. How to enter

Appendix 3 contains a sample Competition Entry Form and requirements for supporting documentation. Please download and complete the separate Competition Entry Form (Word format). The project leader should complete this and submit their entry to Dr Susanne Boyle, IBioIC Skills Programme Manager (PhD_admissions@ibioic.com) before 16.00 hours on 9th December 2016. The intention is to keep entry requirements to a minimum whilst still supplying enough information to allow reviewers to make an informed decision on the relative merit of each Project. The review panel may request further information on the Project.

6. Timing and Process for award

Process	Timing	Action	Managed by
Call opens	24 October 2016 (12 noon)	Send out this document to all potential Industrial members and HEI Collaborators	Susanne Boyle
Call closes	9 December 2016 (4 pm)	Collate all applications for review	Susanne Boyle
Minimum criteria check	19 December 2016	Pass on all eligible projects to panel members drawn from IBioIC Case Award Executive Group and SAB for review	Susanne Boyle
Review by panel drawn from IBioIC Case Award Executive Group and SAB	23 January 2017	For technical merit, criteria outlined below (2 x reviewers)	Executive Group-SAB panel/Susanne Boyle
Governing Board approval	26 March 2017	Funded projects to be announced	IBioIC Staff
Negotiation of contracts	April – August 2017	Agree detailed project outputs, funding schedule, training programme	Susanne Boyle
Contract in place & Funding starts	01 October 2017		Susanne Boyle

7. Project Selection Criteria

PhD Projects will be selected on their technical merits. All projects meeting the minimum criteria set out above will be scored by two independent assessors using a point system, if the points awarded vary by more than 10, either the assessors will discuss and agree a final score or an independent third assessor will make a judgement on the final score. If the points awarded by the two assessors are within 10 then an arithmetic average of the two scores will be the final score. The Executive Group will then meet to set a threshold, projects scoring above the threshold will be eligible for funding. The final funding decision will be determined by the level of co-funding being offered with the final score divided by cash offered as a percentage of the total funding. The projects will be funded with the revised highest scoring project being offered funding until the available funding pot is fully allocated.

Technical merits will include:

- a. Technical feasibility (Projects should have a good likelihood of technical success and also include details of metrological methods used to support the work undertaken) 40 points
- b. Technical ambition (Projects should have a degree of ambition as well as being feasible; Please provide details of project management activities) 30 points
- c. Degree of invention (Projects should be novel) 10 points
- d. Industrial relevance (Evidence of industrial relevance should be shown) 20 points

8. Additional Guidance

The decision of the Governing Board when awards are made shall be final and without appeal. The processes followed and decisions taken by the Case Award Executive Group, SAB and Governing Board shall be minuted and made available to any member requesting them.

APPENDIX 1- Glossary of Terms

IBioIC	Industrial Biotechnology Innovation Centre
Industrial Member	A company that has signed an IBioIC Core or Leading member agreement (or Accession Agreement). For the purposes of the first competition application can be made by any company so long as the agreement is signed before being awarded funding.
HEI	Higher Education Institute
HEI Partner	HEI that has signed an IBioIC Collaboration Agreement (or Accession Agreement). For the purposes of the first competition application can be made by any HEI so long as the agreement is signed before being awarded funding.
SAB	Scientific Advisory Board
Project Team	A combination of at least one Industrial Member and one HEI Partner that has formed a team to submit an entry to this competition
Governing Board	IBioIC Governing Board
Executive Group	CASE Award Executive Group
Funding Terms	The terms and conditions applied or agreed by any third party in providing Funding;
Management Team	The IBioIC Skills Management Team
PhD Project	Any PhD project funded by IBioIC

APPENDIX 2 – Eligible HEI Partners

Edinburgh Napier University
Heriot Watt University
Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen
Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS)
The James Hutton Institute
University of Aberdeen
University of Abertay, Dundee
University of Dundee
University of Edinburgh
University of Glasgow
University of the Highlands and Islands
University of St Andrews
University of Strathclyde, Glasgow
University of West of Scotland
Queen Margaret University
University of Liverpool
University of Leeds
Durham University
Lancaster University
Newcastle University
The University of Sheffield
University of Manchester
University of York

APPENDIX 3 – Competition Entry Guidance

- Applications must be 3 pages in total (including project outline, submission rate Table, structures, Gantt charts or project map/outline associated with goals linked to technical ambition, feasibility). Any applications which are longer than 3 pages will be cut to 3 pages and only these 3 pages will be taken into account when reviewing the application.
- Font size should be 11, Calibri body. Margin size should be 2.54 cm (top, bottom, left and right) with orientation set at portrait. Applications that fall out with these restrictions shall not be assessed.
- Please append the CV's of both primary and secondary academic supervisors (maximum of 2 pages per supervisor). Please include the numbers of students supervised to completion in your CV.
- Please include the CV's of industrial supervisor (maximum 2 pages)
- Projects must demonstrate industrial relevance and include a minimum of 3 month industry placement.
- Please include letters of industrial support with details of industry placement (duration/location/financial contribution).
- Studentships are 4 years in duration.
- Where a non-standard amount of funding is sought sufficient evidence should be given to justify this (maximum 1 page).

Project Overview (please complete this entry form)

PhD Project Title	Please provide a title for the proposed studentship
IB Area and Sector (Please indicate the area that the project aligns with)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Sustainable Feedstocks b. Biocatalysis and Biotransformation c. Synthetic Biology d. Downstream Processing e. Integrated Bioprocessing
Project Summary	Please complete a 3 page summary of the project in line with the guidelines (<u>Please see:</u> Appendix 3 of IBioIC PhD Project Competition #4)
Lead HEI Partner	Please include contact details
Lead HEI Partner	Please provide details of 4 year submission rates for a) Research Council and b) all full time PhD students using Table 1 (below)
Academic Supervisors (Primary and Secondary)	Please provide details of number of completed PhD students that have been supervised by both the primary and secondary supervisors.
Projects funded from 2014	Please provide details of funding gained for 2014, 2015 and where possible detail any funding gained for 2016
Governance	Please state the governing procedures in place for PhD students at lead HEI
Other Partners <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Industry • SME • HEI 	<p>Please include contact details of other Partners and indicate if these Partners are members of IBioIC. Please also give details of their financial contribution to the PhD project; both cash and in-kind contributions and proposed location and duration of industrial placement.</p> <p>Please indicate whether the lead industry partner is an IBioIC member Yes <input type="checkbox"/> or No <input type="checkbox"/></p>
Investment Required & Leverage	Give details of total PhD project costs and include expected IBioIC contribution (per year for project duration)
PhD Project Start Date	01 October 2017
Outcomes expected	Please list the expected technical outcomes of the project
Student Details	If known, please include brief details of proposed student (Name; Degree Qualification(s) & Awarding HEI(s))

Table 1: % Submission Rates

Please provide 4-year submission rates for a) Research Council supported full-time PhD students and, b) all full-time PhD students

Starting Academic Year	(a) Research Councils		(b) Total (including Research Councils)	
	Number registered	% submitted within 4 years	Number registered	% submitted within 4 years
2009/2010				
2010/2011				
2011/2012				

Definition:

The 4-year submission rate is the % submission rate for those who submitted their thesis within 4 years of registration, excluding any students who withdrew from the programme within the first 12 months.

Applicants should aggregate the submission rates of all departments / schools / other units in which Research Council funded students, and other full-time PhD students, may be registered.