The Rocketry, Research, Teaching and Training PhD Hub (R2T2): Cohort 2

Additional guidance and clarification

Closing date

The closing date for this opportunity is 2nd October 2024.

Number of students

UKSA have agreed to fund a further cohort of 10 rocketry PhD students. Successful applicants will work together with UKSA and STFC to form the R2T2 Hub

Each PhD will be funded for a maximum of 4 years, starting from October 2025.

Applying as a consortium or individually

Research Organisations (ROs) may apply as part of a consortium as well as individually. UKSA and STFC will consider all applications equally whether they are from individuals or consortiums.

As general advice if you are applying individually, we would recommend still considering means of engaging with other ROs under the R2T2 hub. It is possible that the 10 PhDs will be divided between multiple ROs, and we would like to ensure that these will collaborate to share lessons learned and other useful information (e.g. progress, new training opportunities). Therefore, it is useful to know what collaboration opportunities you would like to undertake as part of the Hub and how it would benefit the academic sector as well as the PhD students participating in R2T2.

All applications should be made through The Funding Service (TFS).

Applicants must adhere to the word limits set for each application.

Linked applications

Linked applications are not possible. Applications can be from individual ROs or as a consortium only.

Allocation of applications

We would award the most suitable applicants, assessed in line with the evaluation criteria included in the grant call. The studentships can be divided between multiple ROs, and we would like to ensure that these will collaborate to share lessons learned and other useful information (e.g. progress, new training opportunities). For instance, a consortium might be awarded 5 of the 10 PhDs, while the remaining 5 will be divided between 2 other singular applicants, depending on their score and number of PhDs requested.

Available funding

UKSA will fund 75% of the FEC for cohort 2 with the total amount available of £1,498,763.

This initiative aims to boost industry investment in skills and requires applicants to demonstrate commitment of industry funding for cohort 2, 25% of the per PhD (£27,458) and consumable cost (£22,500).

When referring to costs in an application please include as much justification as possible. We appreciate that some information cannot be predicted, so please provide clear reasoning as to why any information has not been included.

Use of consumables per student

Consumables can be used to cover the following:

- Student travel.
- Research training support, including consumables, travel and laptops separate from the rocket building costs.
- Field workshops.
- Cohort development costs, including the written and development of new courses costs. This could include recruiting an external developer but not a dedicated in-house FTE.
- Media costs, including the cost of printing course materials.
- Subcontracts for additional training.

Consumable funding cannot be used to cover administration staff costs and academic time needed to support and manage the programme.

Please note that it is against STFC guidelines to fund additional PhDs from money set aside for consumables. Any unspent funds would be returned to UKSA via STFC and be put towards any future cohorts.

Overheads

It is STFC standard practice not to pay overheads on student grants, this includes the additional funds provided for consumables.

International student eligibility

Applications must be from a UK university, but international students are welcome. All students would receive a full award, to include stipend and fees at the home level, UKSA would not pay the additional amount required for international students.

The [standard UKRI guidance](#) applies to this scheme. As per the UKRI training grant conditions, a 30% cap on international recruitment applies to all students registered on a single training grant held by the university. This cap doesn't apply to any matched funded students, who are exempt from the UKRI eligibility criteria.

However, STFC recognises that in many cases the numbers on individual applications are quite small. The application of the cap is constrained by the number of studentships that can be supported. Consequently, our guidance is that where 30% of the number of studentships on the grant is equal or greater than 1 (i.e. if there are 3 or more studentships on the grant), then the cap of 30% applies. If 30% is less than 1 student (i.e. if the grant comprises 1 or 2 studentships), a maximum of 1 international student can be recruited.

Industrial partners

Applicants must be UK registered academic institutions and the PhDs must be mainly delivered in the UK, but they can partner with both UK and international industry stakeholders.

Research areas

Not all PhDs need to be in the same research area. It would be beneficial if there are overlaps in PhD research and training, but they do not need to be completely co-ordinated. We would encourage students to share information and lessons learned across the R2T2 hub.

Postdoctoral Research Assistants (PDRAs)

PDRAs can only be funded by the student training grants under consumables if there is a clear benefit to the delivery of the PhD project. However, this is not the case for additional academic time, which would not be permissible. Administrative support to manage the award and placement can be applied for as additional costs. As mentioned previously, if all grant recipients consider it necessary to have a central R2T2 Hub FTE to cover the additional administrative work, the UKSA will cover the cost for this request.