

Scottish Energy Research Academy
(SERA)

Energy Industry Doctorates
in
Renewable Energy Technologies

Project Selection Process

Notes for Guidance, V.4

January 2012

Proposing a Studentship Project – Notes for Guidance

1. Introduction

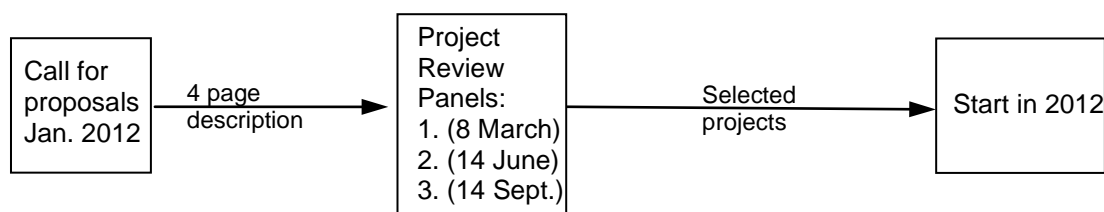
The Energy Technology Partnership (ETP) has established an Energy Industry Doctorate Programme in Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Technologies.

This programme is addressing the strategic demands of industry and government for ‘industry-ready’, post-doctoral researchers to enhance energy industry innovation and knowledge exchange effectiveness. A defining characteristic of the programme is strong industry engagement where companies are co-investors, support project specification and engage with the research directly.

Forty-two high quality PhD studentships were awarded, on a competitive basis, during 2010 and 2011, as summarised in appendix 1. We have successfully broadened out the thematic and institutional involvement and hope that we can continue to build on this in the next stage of the programme.

This document provides guidance to academics who wish to submit proposals for one of the ca. 20 ETP studentships that are available to start in 2012.

An overview of the process is shown below, together with timescales.



2. Call for Proposals

Project proposals are sought, from ETP member universities, in the area of Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Technologies, including:

- Wind energy;
- Marine energy;
- Bio-energy;
- Solar energy;
- Energy conversion and storage;
- Energy materials;
- Grid and networks;
- Energy utilisation in buildings;
- Carbon Capture and Storage.

3. Format for Proposals

The pro forma for this submission is attached in Appendix 2. Note that this document must not be more than four pages in length.

When writing a proposal summary, please bear in mind the following points:

- *Describe the proposed project.* Include a high level description of the scope and rationale for the project, the objectives of the work, the potential impacts of the study, the benefit to the sponsoring company, the research excellence of the sponsoring academic department, the opportunity for knowledge exchange, project plans, milestones, timescales and costs;
- *Engagement with Industrial Sponsors.* All proposals must be submitted after consultation with at least one industrial sponsor. Provide the company and contact name on the proposal form and also a letter of support from the company confirming its level of financial support;
- *Academic supervision.* Building on the partnership model of the ETP, proposals must have both a main academic supervisor (where the student is based) and a secondary co-supervisor in a different ETP university;
- *Sources of Funding.* The proposal must show the anticipated sources of funding for the project, likely to be a mix of industry, university and SFC/ETP (e.g. $\frac{1}{3}$, $\frac{1}{3}$, $\frac{1}{3}$ although this may vary). Proposers should assume a 3.5 year studentship and a maximum contribution of £25k per project from the SFC/ETP grant.

4. Review Process

Projects will be assessed according to the following four criteria:

1. Clear evidence that the project is demand driven by industry (including a commitment of industry part-funding and/or support in-kind) and has significant potential for knowledge exchange;
2. Academic quality of the research proposal; clarity of objectives and the degree to which these are achievable; quality of the academic environment in which the research would be conducted and potential to have impact;
3. Evidence that the project will promote cross-ETP collaboration (i.e. co-supervision and, where possible, other opportunities for joint working across ETP);
4. Evidence that the balance of funding from industry and host institution is available.

In addition, it will be a condition of award that the project supervisor can demonstrate that the proposed student has an undergraduate 1st/ 2.1 or a Masters degree in Physical Science or Engineering.

There will be three separate project review panels in 2012.

Proposal Deadline	Review Panel	Communication of Outcome
23 February 2012	8 March 2012	15 March 2012
31 May 2012	14 June 2012	21 June 2012
31 August 2012	14 September 2012	21 September 2012

The project proposal must be submitted by the lead academic on the project and e-mailed to Simon Puttock by the deadlines shown above.

The review panel will comprise members of the ETP Directorate (Professors Jim McDonald (Chair), Patrick Corbett, Andy Knox, John Irvine, Paul Mitchell and Robin Wallace) with representation from the Scottish Funding Council.

5. More Information

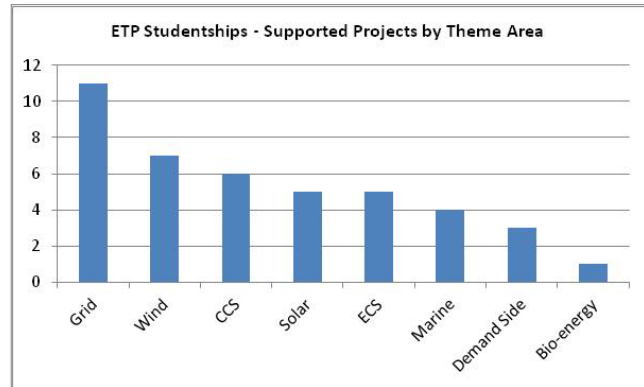
Please contact Simon Puttock (simon.puttock@eee.strath.ac.uk or tel. 07896034738) if you require any additional clarification or information on this process.

Appendix 1

1. Theme Area

ETP currently has nine technology thematic areas of focus.

Studentships awarded in 2010-11 have encompassed all eight low carbon theme areas (oil and gas outside scope of grant).

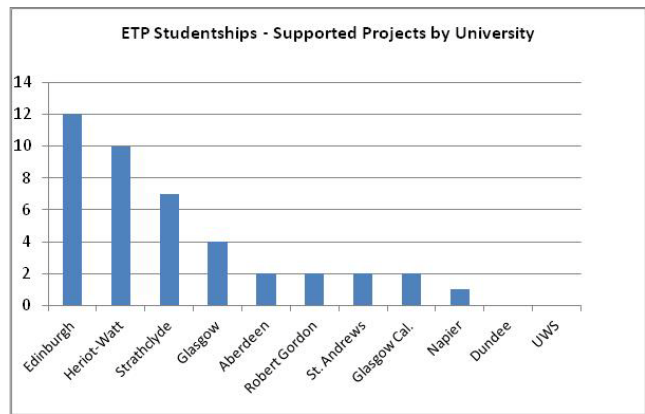


2. University Supervision

ETP currently has 12 university members.

The studentships approved to-date have a main supervisor in nine of the ETP universities.

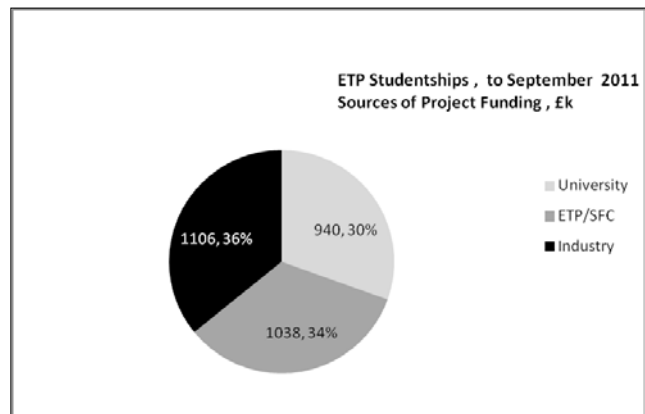
UHI has very recently become a full member of ETP and is a co-supervisor in several of the projects.



3. Sources of Funding

The 42 studentships approved to-date have ca. £3.1m of committed funding (average £73k per project). The standard model of funding is; $\frac{1}{3}$ university; $\frac{1}{3}$ ETP/SFC; $\frac{1}{3}$ industry.

Industry co-funding has exceeded expectations (36% of total), an indication of the relevance and value of the studentships to the sponsoring companies. Companies have also offered substantial in-kind support to the projects.



Appendix 2: ETP Studentship Project Proposal. V4

Project Title		
Proposer	Lead University	
	Supervisor	
	Co-Supervisor	
Industrial sponsor	Organisation	
	Contact name	
Funding sources	Total project cost	£k over 3.5 years
	Industry funding	£k or state if only in-kind support offered
	University funding	£k
	SFC award funding	£k (max £25k per project)
Student	Do you have a potential student already identified: Y/N	
Dates	Date of this form	
	Project start date	
<p>Use this space to describe your project proposal, ensuring that the headings below are addressed. Do not exceed four pages.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Project description 2. Demand driven by industry 3. Academic quality and environment 4. Cross-ETP collaboration 5. Sources of funding 		

Please return this completed form only (not the rest of the guidance note) by e-mail to Dr Simon Puttock, Executive Director ETP (simon.puttock@eee.strath.ac.uk)