



# ETP Energy Industry Doctorate Programme

## FAQ

### Industrial partners

**Q:** Does the industrial partner support the PhD student directly or transfer their budget to the host university?

**A:** The host university manages the stipend payments to the student, therefore the industry partner should transfer their financial contribution to the host university.

**Q:** Does the industrial partner have to be based in Scotland or the UK?

**A:** The industrial partner can be based anywhere: Scotland, UK, Europe, internationally.

**Q:** Does an external research institute or charity count as partner?

**A:** Yes, they can. The important detail is that the partner acts as a co-investor, supports project specification and engages with the research directly. It also depends on exactly what the research institute is and does. Contact ETP for confirmation of eligibility.

**Q:** What is the incentive for industrial partners if the IP is not exclusive?

**A:** IP goes to where the IP is created and can go to the host University or industrial partner. Scottish Government does not own the IP, it only has access to it; ETP also has no claim to the IP. It is a discussion between the host university and the industry partner as to who owns the foreground and background IP – ETP does not get involved.

**Q:** In terms of co-sponsoring, does the cost of staff time of the supervisor count towards the industry's contribution?

**A:** It can do. Industry partners can make part of their contribution in-kind in the way of staff time or access to facilities. However if the industry contribution includes some cash and some in-kind then the host university may have to contribute more cash depending on the total cost of the PhD.

**Q:** International vs UK student tuition fees are hugely different. If we don't have limitation, the portion of (1/3) could be very different. How can the industrial partner commit to 1/3 which is varying?

**A:** The exact split of the cost is up for discussion between the host university and the industry partner. ETP will pay a maximum of £30k and the rest of the cost of the PhD be split between the host and industry. When starting the discussions with the industry partner examples of UK student costs and international student costs should be given.



## Timeline

**Q:** Why is the timeline so out of sync with the 'typical' timeline where students graduate in June/July and then look to start PhD in October?

**A:** This is to do with the Scottish Government's budget, ETP only receives the grant in May 2020 and must spend the funds by the end of the Financial year 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021. To allow enough time for the project applications to be properly reviewed it makes the timeline quite tight.

**Q:** Must the student be appointed and in place (registered) by mid-March?

**A:** The student can register and start the PhD programme at their host University at any time before 31 March 2021, for example they could register and begin the programme in October 2020. ETP will award the Grants in October 2020 and as soon as the university accepts ETP's offer the student can start.

## General

**Q:** Are prospective students requiring tier 4 visa eligible?

**A:** Yes, they are. Prospective students from any nationality are eligible. The studentships from this programme are competitive so they must demonstrate academic ability through their educational qualifications.

**Q:** Could you give us an indication of the success rate for this scheme? How many applications did you receive last year and how many of those were successful?

**A:** Last year, the 2019/20 programme received 10 applications, 7 of which were successful. Over the whole course of the programme, the success rate has been around 2/3. For your application to be successful, the PhD proposals should relate to one of the six strategic aims of the Scottish Energy Strategy - The Future of Energy in Scotland. There are also additional topics of interest in 2020/21 round, full details of which can be found in the application form and notes for guidance. You should also demonstrate that your proposal has demand from the energy industry and that it will also promote ETP's mission and values.

**Q:** What is the duration of the royalty-free licence?

**A:** The Royalty free licence is granted in perpetuity.

**Q:** Is there any significance of the topics allocated to the 13 institutions?

**A:** No, it is where the ETP Theme Coordinator's are based as generally that university has the largest pool of research in that topic.



**Q:** Is the costing full economically costed? Is the university contribution of 1/3 of the funding or in kind?

**A:** Yes the costs are FEC. ETP will pay up to a maximum of £30k the rest of the costs should be split between the host university and the industry partner. Example split of costs;

	<u>Average PhD cost £90k</u>	<u>PhD cost £120k</u>	<u>PhD cost £70k</u>	<u>PhD cost £90k</u>
ETP	£30k	£30k	£30k	£25k
Host University	£30k	£45k	£30k	£25k
Industry Partner	£30k	£45k	£10k cash + £20k in-kind access to facilities	£40k

**Q:** What is the full breakdown of the partners who fund the programme?

**A:** The funding is offered based on a 1/3 1/3 1/3 model. ETP, a host University and an industrial partner fund the programme for each studentship using this formula. For example: in a £75k project, ETP might fund £25k, the University would fund £25k, and the industrial sponsor would fund £25k.