



# 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 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.

**Q:** What counts as an Industrial sponsor?

**A:** Any enterprise/organisation, small, large, public sector, charity or community group

**Q:** Can multiple organisations act as the industrial sponsor?

**A:** Yes the industry sponsor could be a single company/organisation or multiple companies/organisations and split the industry partner costs across them all. E.g. the Industry partners could be made up of an SME + large company or Large company + Public sector + Third sector or SME + SME. How each partner will be involved in the project should be detailed in the Application form.

**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 and 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

**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 university and industry partner/s. 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 must spend the funds by the end of the Financial year 31<sup>st</sup> March. 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 a specific date?

**A:** The student can register and start the PhD programme at their host University at any time before the date stated in the Guidance notes, for example they could register in March and begin the programme in October the same year. Students can also already of started the PhD before the application is submitted.

## 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:** The 2019/20 programme received 10 applications, 7 of which were successful. 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. Check the current guidelines for the latest call for 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 license?

**A:** The royalty-free licence is granted in perpetuity.

**Q:** Is there any significance of the topics allocated to the 14 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:** How long should each section of the application be?

**A:** There is no word limit on each section but the whole application should be a maximum of 7 pages.

**Q:** Can academics apply if they have already received ETP funding before (either from the PhD programme or the Knowledge Exchange Network (KEN)?

**A:** Yes academics can apply multiple times to the programme regardless of any other ETP funding they may have received.

**Q:** How to find an industry sponsor?

**A:** ETP is happy to help find industry sponsors, our network of Business Development Mangers have contacts with companies across Scotland and beyond. Contact details for the BDMs are on the ETP website.

#### Budget

**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>	<u>PhD cost £90k</u>
ETP	£30k	£30k	£30k	£25k	£30k
Host University	£30k	£45k	£30k	£25k	£30k
Industry Partner	£30k	£45k	£10k cash + £20k in-kind access to facilities	£40k	Consortium of 3 industry partners £10k each

**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. The costs don't have to be evenly split.

**Q:** Does the grant cover tuition fees and living expenses?

**A:** Tuition fees and stipend costs should be included in the cost profile. The ETP funding can be put towards either or both.

**Q:** Is the grant paid on a yearly basis?

**A:** No, ETP pays it's full contribution up front as soon as the student is registered. The schedule for payment by the industry sponsor should be agreed between the Host University and sponsor.