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**BBSRC DTP 2024 Scheme**

**Criteria, Approval Process and Timeline**

Projects for BBSRC DTP and CASE studentships must be submitted to the FBMH Doctoral Academy by **5pm, Monday 9 October 2023** (see the timeline below). The Doctoral Academy will seek approvals on behalf of the Primary Supervisor following submission.

All Projects are expected to meet the University’s requirements for PhD supervision, summarised as:

*Members of the supervisory team will have a proven track record of researching at internationally recognised levels of excellence and regularly publish the results in leading outlets, in addition to supervising research students through to timely and successful completion of their degrees.*

Eligible Primary Supervisors can submit a project to *either* the MRC or BBSRC DTP standard scheme ***but not both***. There is no limit to the number of projects that a co-supervisor can be named on. Primary Supervisors can submit projects to one standard scheme ***and*** one CASE scheme in this round, if eligible.

Individuals that were awarded a standard BBSRC or MRC DTP studentship as Primary Supervisor in the last round (i.e. have a student starting in September 2023) ***cannot apply to the same*** ***scheme*** as Primary Supervisor this year.

Primary Supervisors awarded a BBSRC/MRC CASE studentship starting in September 2023 can apply to either MRC/BBSRC DTP standard or CASE this year; there are no restrictions in order to promote collaborations with industrial partners.

Projects must lie within the BBSRC’s remit- see <https://www.ukri.org/councils/bbsrc/remit-programmes-and-priorities/>

**Approval Process**

(Following submission of a project)

**Stage One approval**

Sign-off by appropriate School PGR Director and Head of Division (FBMH) or via FSE Doctoral Academy. Criteria for approval will include checking that:

Primary supervisor

* has submission rates exceeding 90% of previously completed PGR students, after accounting for any late submissions due to covid / ill health / maternity / insufficient academic progression etc.
* has a good track record of eProg engagement
* meets the eligibility criteria as set out in section 3 of the [Supervision Policy](http://www.staffnet.manchester.ac.uk/services/rbess/graduate/code/supervision/)
	+ including where an honorary member of staff who is also a member of an NHS trust is selected as the main supervisor, a co-supervisor must hold a substantive role at The University of Manchester
	+ including where an Early-Career Researcher (ECR) is the main supervisor, they must hold a contract beyond the end date of the PGR (or with approval from HoD/line manager to confirm their post is underwritten/in budget), and an experienced co-supervisor must be included
* can provide a vibrant research environment and has evidence of significant publications
* has overall responsibility for leading on the project
* currently holds an externally-funded studentship awarded in open competition (e.g. from charitable/industrial sources) ***or*** is actively seeking external/self-funded students via self-funded project advert(s)
* has overall responsibility for leading on the project

Supervisory Team

* At least one member of the supervisory team has active research grant support
* All members of the supervisory team must have relevant expertise and details of their contribution to the project must be included on the form. All supervisors are expected to hold a minimum 20% share of the supervisory load
* All members of the supervisory team should have completed the required training in relevant Equality, Diversity and Inclusion courses (Diversity in the Workplace, Unconscious Bias) ideally at the point of application and, at the very least, before any interviews are conducted. Details can be found [here](https://www.staffnet.manchester.ac.uk/staff-learning-and-development/learning-pathways/equality-diversity-and-inclusion/). Also training on supporting students should be undertaken, details can be found [here](https://www.staffnet.manchester.ac.uk/supporting-students/training/skills/).

**Stage Two approval**

Management Board final review and approval. This will ensure that each project:

* fits the relevant remit and skills agenda for BBSRC
* includes interdisciplinary research
* provides clear justification for any exceptional RTSG support costs (above £5k per annum), if requested
* clearly outlines the rotation skills training to be provided

CASE projects will be reviewed by an independent panel with extensive experience in securing CASE funding, which will report back to the DTP Board.

All approved projects will be progressed according to the timeline set out below; the Primary Supervisor will receive detailed communication about the status of their project throughout the recruitment process.

**Applicant quality and shortlisting**

Applicants should be assessed by the supervisory team who will be responsible for nominating their best candidate for a formal panel interview. The academic excellence and potential to excel in postgraduate research is paramount.

The expectation is that only the very best quality students are put forward by the supervisory teams. Advice and guidance on assessing candidates and formulating a strong nomination will be circulated to supervisors once projects are approved for advertising.

Formal DTP panel interviews will then be conducted, consisting of 3-4 independent academic members of staff, arranged to represent a spread across Faculties or Themes. Offers of studentships will be made by the Board following interview days. EDI/WP considerations, supervisor status (e.g. ECR), funding status of the supervisory team and priority research areas (as defined in Faculty Research Strategy) may be used to prioritise candidates if there are more highly-ranked students than places available.

 **Timeline**

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| Deadline for submission of projects | 9 October 2023, 5pm |
| Deadline for project approvals to be completed | 20 October 2023 |
| Advertising of shortlisted projects | 30 October 2023 |
| Closing date for applications | 19 January 2024, midnight |
| Deadline for Primary Supervisor to nominate a preferred candidate | 23 February 2024, 5pm |
| DTP Committee Interview Shortlisting | 1 March 2024 |
| Formal panel interviews held | w/c 4 March 2024 |
| DTP offers confirmed by Management Board | w/c 18 March 2024 |