**University of Manchester and NPL Collaborative EngD/PhD call – Round 4**

**Overview**

We are pleased to announce the continuation of the collaborative studentship competition between the **Faculty of Science and Engineering,** University of Manchester (UoM) and the National Physical Laboratory (NPL) for EngD/PhD projects starting in **October 2025.** The competition has established a joint programme of research aligned to both UoM and NPL’s strategic ambitions with at least **three** studentships per year allocated to the cohort. The aims are to:

* Increase the number of collaborative and industrially-aligned studentships offered in partnership with companies local to Greater Manchester
* Identify and create EngD/PhD projects with strong measurement science focus that align to organisational research goals
* Help grow and retain the talent pool in the Greater Manchester area.

The competition is co-ordinated by the University of Manchester’s Business Engagement team and the [Postgraduate Institute for Measurement Science](https://www.npl.co.uk/pgi) (PGI).

**About the programme**

* **Funding:** 50% funded by UoM and the remaining contribution to be provided by third parties, the **minimum £50k** (Note this could also be a split of £25k industry + £25k NPL if funding available). Advice from [Business engagement team](https://www.staffnet.manchester.ac.uk/fse/faculty-support-services/research-business-services/business-engagement-and-innovation/business-engagement-support-team/) and/or PGI can be given to potential partners to determine the specific cost model that will apply
* **Third party engagement**: This is essential for a successful application.
* **Duration**: 42 month PhDs/EngDs
* **Supervision**: All students must have an NPL co-supervisor to provide metrology capability and expertise and link through to industrial application respectively
* **Placement**: Minimum of 3 months at an [NPL site](https://www.npl.co.uk/locations) and/or Industry partner
* **Training:** In addition to the UoM PGR training programme, all students will be enrolled in the PGI where additional [training](https://www.npl.co.uk/getattachment/skills-learning/PGI/Research-and-Training/Training-Booklet_Oct-2020-(1).pdf.aspx?lang=en-GB) will be provided
* **Cohort size**: Successful studentships will join a cohort of now 12 students
* **Location:** Students will be based at UoM and spend a minimum of 3 months with NPL or an Industry partner with placement costs being covered by the host.
* **Legal**: a Studentship Agreement template is in place for joint UoM NPL students. The standard UoM NPL template will be adapted for any third-party involvement
* **Eligibility of students**: scheme open to students of any nationality subject to any company restrictions / limitations associated with export controls etc. If an overseas student is appointed, confirmation of an overseas fee waiver needs to be sought from Head of Research from PIs respective school.

**Competition guidelines**

We are inviting University academics and NPL scientists and engineers working in collaboration with a third party, to develop suitable proposals in their respective science areas (and with other departments where appropriate). Applicants should co-ordinate and prepare 1-page proposals and submit to [fseresearchstrategyandinnovation@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:fseresearchstrategyandinnovation@manchester.ac.uk) by the **15th Nov 2024** ready forevaluation by an expert panel.  The proposal application form is attached with this communication.

Projects must have a central measurement science challenge and/or application. In this round, the competition will focus on developing projects that align with FSEs strategic priorities and NPL’s Research roadmaps. Of particular interest, and specifically linked to the strategic themes of the UoM NPL Partnership, are:

* Data science approaches to measurement challenges
* Advanced materials and engineering
* Life sciences and health
* Quantum materials and technologies

Approval from NPL’s Department Head and Departmental Head of Science is required prior to submission to ensure capacity within the NPL groups (contact can be made with Departmental Heads of Science via the email links at the bottom of this document). Proposals will be submitted to a selection panel for evaluation. The panel will score all proposals against the following criteria:

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| **Criterion** | **Max score** |
| Science and Engineering Quality | 60 |
| Impact and strategic alignment | 20 |
| Third party support | 20 |

The selection panel will be chaired by the FSE Associate Dean for Business Engagement & Innovation and will include NPL and UoM personnel. More details, including the blank proposal form are attached with this communication. The timetable for the competition is as follows:

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| **Competition launch** | Monday 2 September 2024 |
| **Drop-in session (on-line)**  Meeting ID: 342 983 473 374  Passcode: ghPSEu | 9 September at 10.30  [**Join the meeting now**](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_NjhmM2JjYjYtZTk1MC00ODlhLWEzODItOGZkOTVkMjhiNWM4%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%22601e5460-b1bf-49c0-bd2d-e76ffc186a8d%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22e52e1b27-f0fc-4af6-af8a-087e21563a11%22%7d) |
| Deadline to submit proposals | Friday 15November 2024 |
| Panel issued with all proposals | Tuesday 19 November 2024 |
| Panel selection | w/c Monday 25 November 2024 |
| Announcement of allocation decision | w/c 2 December 2024 |
| Drop in Session for successful applicants | Friday 6 December 2024 |
| Student starts | September/October 2025 |

Please work directly with your university contacts (and/or NPL contacts) and industry partners to develop ideas and prepare your proposal. If you require assistance in making connections, please contact [linden.fradet@npl.co.uk](mailto:linden.fradet@npl.co.uk) at NPL and/or [fse-be@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:fse-be@manchester.ac.uk) for University support from the Faculty BE team.