

**THIRD CALL FOR PROPOSALS:
POSTGRADUATE COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH STUDENTSHIPS**

Closing Date for Receipt of Proposals is 12 noon, 31st October 2007

Nature of Call

This third call invites proposals for Great Western Research studentships. Great Western Research aims to provide 130 Postgraduate Research Studentships in 5 collaborative themes and currently 67 studentships have had funds committed.

Studentships will be offered under joint supervision between at least two HEIs based in the South West of England. Studentships must be designed to meet business or broader economic development needs and will be jointly funded by external partners and SWRDA (via GWR). Studentships can be held in any SW HEI provided they are compliant with the current QAA Code for Postgraduate Research Supervision.

Proposals can be for one or more linked studentships.

Rules

Studentships must comply with the rules of the scheme and will be evaluated against fixed criteria. These are described in the [Studentship Eligibility and Application Guidelines](#) available on the GWR website.

The collaborative projects must focus on one of five research themes: Materials, Applied Mathematics, Sustainability (Social Science Perspectives), Psychology or Creative Arts, and may collaborate across 2 of these themes.

All projects must involve at least one external partner (preferably commercial). The lead partner must also be based in the South West region and formal support from the partner organisation will be required on submission (i.e. letter of support, subject to contract). Proposers will have up to 6 months to secure a formal agreement once their project outline has been approved.

In order to facilitate the involvement of SMEs in the scheme GWR has agreed with SWRDA to allow proposals in which an SME is the lead partner in research/intellectual terms, whilst not contributing the majority of the funding. In such "mentoring" proposals the SME must provide at least 20% of the overall funding, and the proposal must be able to demonstrate clear benefits for the SME. An additional funding partner will be required who contributes 30% of the funding, with GWR contributing the remaining 50%. Provision of the 30% funding for mentoring proposals by the mentor organisation will not count to either the cap of 6 proposals per organisation or the overall cap on non-business partner totals for this mentor.

Thus for example a proposal with an SME as a lead partner contributing only 20% of the funding and with Airbus, the Environment Agency or the Met Office as a mentor contributing the remaining 30% of the funding would be eligible under this new rule.

Please note Airbus UK have applied for and received approval for 8 Studentships in the first round and will not be eligible for consideration in this call as lead partner (except as in the case above).

Only 30 Studentships will be allocated in partnership with a public-sector organisation, and thus far 21 have been approved. Please check with the GWR team on the status of public sector and non-business allocations before preparing an application.

Application Procedure

Applications must only be submitted electronically using the studentship project application form: http://www.greatwesternresearch.ac.uk/studentship_form.php Hard copies of the forms are available on the website in PDF format for downloading as reference only. Application forms will be available on the GWR website from 24th October.

Guidance on completing the form is contained in [Studentship Eligibility and Application Guidelines](#) which is available on the GWR website.

Timetable for Second Call

24 th October 2006	3 rd call for Proposals issued.
24 th October 2006	Application form available on the website Applications will be assessed on a rolling basis by the theme panels and Regional Research Board in order to provide decisions within an 8-9 week period
31 st October 2007	<i>Close of third call</i>

GWR reserve the right close the 3rd call early when all available funding has been allocated.

Where to Find Information and Help

Theme descriptions and guidance notes are available at <http://www.greatwesternresearch.ac.uk/>

For help in submitting proposals, researchers should contact their Institutional Coordinator and Theme Panel Chairs. Contact details can be found on the website: <http://www.gwr.ac.uk/contact.html>