

### RSO PhD bursary call: Application form

Project title			
Investigator(s)			
University / Organisation			
Lead investigator contact details	Address		
	Tel. no		
	Email		
Has the lead investigator received funding from RWM / NWS previously?			Y/N
If yes, provide details			
Which research project brief are you applying to?			

**List the main objectives of the proposed project (max 100 words)**

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**Summary (max 200 words)**

Describe the proposed project in simple terms in a way that could be publicised to a general audience.

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**Confirm that the PhD project would start by October 2025 and complete in 4 years.**

If a student has not been recruited by July 2025, NWS will review and determine if there are grounds for an extension to recruitment.

Yes / No – add comments if required.

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**Confirm that you will accept the NWS terms and conditions if awarded funding.**

Yes / No (please note, if stated “No” then the proposal will be excluded from the competition).

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**Project Proposal**

**Provide clear details of the proposed research and discuss the key outcomes for the PhD (note, we assume typical PhDs will be 4 years).**

Please read the associated guidance and provide a clear proposal.

Responses will clearly define:

- The scope and main deliverables from the project.
- How the work is novel and/or builds upon previous work or experience of the supervisory team and why this research in this proposal is the best method.
- How your proposal will make things better and advance knowledge; either by mitigating risk or finding a new or different way of doing things.
- A demonstrable understanding of the technical and research background of the challenge area.
- The suitability of the methodology to achieve the project's aims.
- The ambition, novel approaches and transformative aspects or potential outcomes that the proposed research might achieve.

(max 1000 words)

**Fit to Scheme**

**Refer to specific NWS challenges that exist now or are likely to become issues in the future. Except in the case of the 'open' theme, it is expected that this will be explicitly linked to a statement in the call for proposals.**

- Alignment to the brief or justification as to how the proposal meets NWS challenges.
- Describe how the proposed research relates to those problems and will tackle them/increase understanding of them/contribute to or produce an alternative tool or technique for dealing with them.

(max 500 words)

**Skills and Capability Generation**

## RWM RSO PhD call

- Identify the specific skill set that will be developed by the proposed work and demonstrate how & where that fits into the long-term NWS mission.
- Identify “peripheral” skills/knowledge e.g. communication skills, networking, exposure to the nuclear sector that will be developed during the PhD research project and explain why these are now/will in the future be relevant to NWS mission.
- Show how skills will be developed/retained within the wider supervisory team, e.g. networking, exposure to the nuclear sector. This will include the student, the Principal Investigator (PI), industrial supervisor and any other industry experts who will be engaged throughout the project.

(max 250 words)

### Knowledge Exchange and Impact

- Describe what will be done by the researcher and academic PI to ensure that the learning from the project is:
  - Incorporated into the overall body of knowledge.
  - Visible to, and accessible by, interested parties within NWS, for example, are unlikely to have access to academic journals.
  - Visible to, and accessible by, the wider community (e.g. other academics, industry supply chain).
- Describe how the work will be made accessible to and/or could be applied by those working within the NWS or the supply chain.
- Identify other industries who might benefit from this knowledge.

(max 200 words)

### Project Management

**Please provide a timeline for the proposal with key milestones (note, typical PhDs will be 4 years).**

- Incorporate a project plan/Gantt chart showing the durations of the key phases of the work and identifying key milestones and deliverables.
- Identify any major risks to the research and associated mitigation that can be considered against these risks.
- Clearly define input / time / resources that would be required from NWS, excluding industrial supervision, to support or enable the project, such as security clearance, sample access or site visits.

RWM RSO PhD call

- Demonstrate value for money for any equipment (costing more than >£1K) required to deliver the research, including in-kind access to equipment where appropriate.
- Demonstrate that any proposed active work has been discussed in advance with the relevant facility owners/operators and is feasible within the bounds of the proposal.
  - Describe any details of active work (additional max 250 words).

(max 700 words plus Gantt chart)

**Please provide a costed proposal, identifying additional ‘in-kind’ contributions which you can bring to the PhD project. Maximum budget available is £145,000.**

Include an approximate breakdown of costs to the nearest £1K showing how the funding will be split between labour, equipment, and consumables etc.

- Stipend (student support). Mandatory information: NWS recognises that cost of living increases have impacted postgraduate researchers. We expect students funded through the RSO PhD Bursary call to receive a stipend that is at least equivalent to those paid by UKRI, and recommend you account for 5% inflation per annum. For example, the 2024/25 UKRI minimum stipend is £19,237 per year.
- Fees (including overheads, permanent staff costs, estate costs).
- Research training support (e.g. travel and subsistence, conference registration fees, training courses).
- Equipment and consumables (equipment >£1K should be itemised).
- Itemise any leverage associated with the research. This can include the use of existing facilities, in-kind support from other areas/projects, use of NNUF or other national infrastructure.

Fund heading	Description (itemised to the nearest £1K)	Cost (£)
<b>Student stipend</b> As above, we expect at least UKRI match for stipend costings.		
<b>Fees</b> We have had examples where projects have recruited international candidates. Typically, these require support from the host (e.g. Int’l fee waivers or other fee waivers). If you		

RWM RSO PhD call

have negotiated these please provide details here.		
<b>Travel &amp; Subsistence</b> Please include any travel between host institution and NWS for supervisory meetings etc.		
<b>Consumables</b>		
<b>Directly allocated costs</b> For example, technician time to support working in external facilities.		
<b>Other</b>		
	<b>Total costs</b>	
	<b>In-kind contributions</b>	
	<b>Other direct contributions</b>	
	<b>NWS grant requested</b> Maximum amount available £145,000	
Please add details of co-funding, either anticipated or confirmed. Please also detail any in-kind contributions that enhance the PhD. Include evidence of support where relevant.		
<p><b>Supervisory team</b></p> <p><b>Please show how the supervisory team has the required expertise in the relevant areas.</b></p> <p>Expertise required in an appropriate field for the proposed research, evidenced by e.g. journal papers, reports. This section will be assessed in relation to career stage and experience. The inclusion of early career researchers, and / or researchers new to radioactive waste disposal, in the supervisory team is encouraged.</p> <p><b>Please attach a 1-2 page CV for the PI.</b></p> <p>(max 200 words)</p>		