



Knowledge Economy Skills Scholarships (KESS2)

The Knowledge Economy Skills Scholarships programme supports **PhD, MRes and MPhil** scholarships in **Welsh Universities**, undertaken in collaboration with an external partner. Cardiff University has **PhD, MRes and MPhil studentships** available to start in 2019. KESS2 scholarships are **open to all academic Schools** at Cardiff University on a **competitive first-come, first-served basis**.

CRITERIA FOR PARTICIPATION

Research projects must demonstrate through the application process:

- co-development with an external partner in Wales, addressing the partner's research needs;
- an on-going benefit to the relevant regions of West Wales and the Valleys (see map – local authorities in yellow) OR East Wales (white);
- fit to one of the Welsh Government's priority economic sectors: ICT & Digital Economy; Low Carbon, Energy and Environment; Life sciences and Health; Advanced Engineering and Materials.

External partner: Partners are normally expected to have a base in the relevant region of Wales in order to strengthen on-going benefit to that region – this does not have to be a headquarters.

A range of organisations can participate, including Micro companies, SMEs, and Large companies, third and public sector. **Partners are required to make a minimum annual cash contribution of £5,500-7,000, excluding VAT per year (depending on project type and size of partner):**



Partner type	No. of Employees	KESS2 West		KESS2 East	
		Cash PhD (x3)	Cash MRes (x1)	Cash PhD (x3)	Cash MRes (x1)
Micro	<10	No further projects available	£3,750	£5,500	£5,500
Small	<50		£3,750	£5,500	£5,500
Medium	<250		£4,250	£6,000	£6,000
Large	>250		£4,750	£6,500	£6,500
Inter-trans-multi-national	n/a		£4,750	£7,000	£7,000
Third /Social/ Public		Dependent on Organisation Type/size as above			

Eligible students must have: Home/EU status; meet the minimum academic qualifications for entry onto the University course; and, have the right to work in the UK on completion of the scholarship. Eligible students must be able to provide documentary evidence of a **home or work address in the relevant region of Wales** (East or West) at the time of their KESS2 application and on enrolment for study.

Funding: KESS2 supports a **student stipend (c. RCUK rates) plus c.£3K** per year for consumables, training, travel and small equipment costs**. Fees are not an eligible KESS2 cost, but are accounted for centrally by the University (no charge to School accounts). Academic supervisors must complete timesheets to evidence their time spent on the project, which will be used as in-kind match-funding. (**Additional consumable budget is available under the KESS2 East programme on a *first come first serve basis; a justification of need will be required.*)

Intellectual Property: will be owned by the University in order to comply with European State Aid regulations. External partners can obtain an exclusive or non-exclusive licence, charged at market rates, to exploit IP. Partner's background IP is secured at the start of each scholarship.

Skills training and Postgraduate Skills Development Award (PSDA): KESS2 students must achieve a PSDA in addition to their academic qualification. The PSDA is awarded by Bangor University, following achievement of 60 credits (PhD) and 30 credits (MRes/MPhil) of skills training and attendance at a mandatory residential KESS Graduate School. Existing PGR training provision and external courses contribute to these credits.

Reporting and submission periods: Academic and partner supervisors and KESS2 students will be required to prepare quarterly progress reports as evidence of activities, including skills training attained. Students are expected to spend at least 30 days a year with the partner. The University will provide annual reports to the partner. KESS2 students are expected to **submit their thesis within 6 months (PhD) and 3 months (MRes/MPhil)** of the end of their funding period.

DEADLINES

East Wales PhD, MPhil and MRes Project applications is now closed and we are reviewing applications received as part of the last call. Further deadlines will be confirmed if Cardiff places remain unallocated.

No further PhD places are available for West Wales. West MPhil and MRes applications can be submitted at any time. Academic supervisors must **liaise with their School PGR/Research offices** when preparing applications – applications should be submitted via the School office to the Doctoral Academy Doctoral-Academy@cardiff.ac.uk with School approval.

CARDIFF UNIVERSITY APPLICATION PROCESS

Academic supervisors complete a KESS2 **Project Application Form** with their external partner, providing an outline of the proposed research project that demonstrates fit to KESS2 criteria. Applications should be reviewed and approved by School Directors of Postgraduate Studies or Directors of Research, prior to submission to the Doctoral Academy in Cardiff. Project applications will be checked for eligibility and fit to KESS2 criteria, then referred to a Central KESS2 Allocation Panel, managed by Bangor University. The Central KESS2 Allocation Panel confirms allocation of funding to projects.

Academic supervisors and external partners should widely advertise and co-recruit an eligible student for funded projects. Students must be accepted on a University PGR course before an offer of KESS2 funding is made. Supervisors nominate a student for a KESS2 scholarship, and the student completes a '**Participant Form**', triggering eligibility checks and induction/briefing by the KESS2 Administrative team.

Students and Partners will be asked to sign 'KESS2 Agreements' which provide terms and conditions of participation.

The KESS2 project 'Application Form', student 'Participant Form' and sample agreements are available by emailing the Doctoral-Academy@cardiff.ac.uk and as downloads on the KESS2 intranet site.

CONTACTS AT CARDIFF UNIVERSITY

Doctoral Academy - Doctoral-Academy@cardiff.ac.uk

Cardiff KESS2 Administrative team KESS@Cardiff.ac.uk / Phone: +44(0)29 206 88482

<http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/business/develop-your-workforce/kess>

Mae Ysgoloriaethau Sgiliau'r Economi Wybodaeth (KESS2) yn fenter sgiliau lefel uwch Cymru gyfan dan arweiniad Prifysgol Bangor ar ran y sector Addysg Uwch yng Nghymru. Mae'r fenter wedi'i hariannu'n rhannol gan raglen gydgyfeirio Cronfa Gymdeithasol Ewrop Llywodraeth Cymru. Knowledge Economy Skills Scholarships (KESS2) is a pan-Wales higher-level skills initiative led by Bangor University on behalf of the Higher Education sector in Wales. It is part-funded by the Welsh Government's European Social Fund (ESF).

Bangor University is currently applying to the Wales European Funding Office for funds to extend the KESS2 programme to support projects in East Wales. A funding decision on this 'KESS2 East Programme' is expected autumn 2018. At this point, KESS2 East programme funding is not confirmed, but Cardiff University has been encouraged to recruit projects for 2019 start dates. We expect this to be the *only opportunity* for a PhD intake (MPhil and MRes projects will be available annually until 2020). Applicants and Schools PGR Offices will be kept informed of progress on funding approvals from WEFO. Offers of KESS2 East scholarships and studentship Agreements will not be issued until WEFO's approval of funds is received.