

Knowledge Economy Skills Scholarships (KESS II)

The Knowledge Economy Skills Scholarships programme will support **PhD, MRes and MPhil scholarships in Welsh Universities**, undertaken in collaboration with an external partner.

Cardiff University has at least **24 three-year PhD and 35 one-year MRes/MPhil** studentships available. KESSII scholarships are **open to all Academic Schools** at Cardiff University on a competitive basis.

CRITERIA FOR PARTICIPATION

- Research projects must demonstrate through the application process:
 - co-development with an external partner from the West Wales and the Valleys region, addressing the partner's research and skills needs;
 - an on-going benefit to the West Wales and the Valleys region;
 - a 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.**
- 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 West Wales and the Valleys region on completion of the scholarship. Eligible students must be able to provide documentary evidence of a **home, work or study address in the West Wales and the Valleys region of Wales** at the time of their KESSII application and registration for study.
- External partner: Partners have to have a base in the West Wales and Valleys region. All types of organisations are eligible (micro, small, medium, large companies, and third sector), with a weighting towards SMEs. **Partners are required to make a cash contribution of £3,500-5,000 ex.VAT per year (depending on company size).** Further details are provided in a separate factsheet available for external partners, available from the KESSII website or KESSII Administrative team, contacts below.
- Funding: KESSII funding will cover a student stipend (c. RCUK rates) plus c.£3K per year for consumables, training, travel and small equipment costs. **Fees are not an eligible KESSII cost.** Academic supervisors must complete timesheets to evidence their time spent on the project, which will be used as in-kind match-funding.
- 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 (PDSA): KESSII students must achieve a PDSA in addition to their academic qualification. The PDSA is awarded by Bangor University, following achievement of 20 credits (MRes/MPhil) and 40 credits (PhD) 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 KESSII 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. KESSII students are expected to **submit their thesis within 6 months (PhD) or 3 months (MRes/MPhil)** of the end of their funding period.



*The Convergence area covers West Wales and the Valleys, and is made up of the following 15 local authorities:

Isle of Anglesey; Gwynedd; Conwy; Denbighshire; Ceredigion; Pembrokeshire; Carmarthenshire; Swansea; Neath Port Talbot; Bridgend; Rhondda Cynon Taf; Merthyr Tydfil; Caerphilly; Blaenau Gwent; Torfaen.

DEADLINES

KESSII will operate with an open call - **project applications will be accepted at any time up to 12th December 2016.**

Academic supervisors must **liaise with their School PGR/Research offices** when preparing applications – applications should be submitted via the School office to KESS@cardiff.ac.uk with School approval.

CARDIFF UNIVERSITY APPLICATION PROCESS

Academic supervisors complete a **KESSII Project Application Form** with their external partner, providing an outline of the proposed research project that demonstrates fit to KESSII criteria.

Project applications will be peer-reviewed for eligibility, fit to KESSII criteria and quality, then recommended to a Central KESSII Allocation Panel, managed by Bangor University. The Central KESSII Allocation Panel confirms allocation of funding to projects.

Academic supervisors and external partners are expected to co-recruit an eligible student for funded projects. Students must be accepted on a PGR course at Cardiff before an offer of KESSII funding is made (i.e. students must also apply through the usual Cardiff University PGR admissions route).

KESSII Project Application and Student 'Participant' forms are available by emailing KESS@cardiff.ac.uk

CONTACT FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AT CARDIFF UNIVERSITY

KESS Project staff: **Esther Meadows, Rebecca Blackwell**, Research and Innovation Services (RIS)

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

Ysgoloriaeth Sgiliau Economi Gwybodaeth (KESS) yn Gymru gyfan sgiliau lefel uwch yn fenter a arweinir gan Brifysgol Bangor ar ran y sector AU yng Nghymru. Fe'i cyllidir yn rhannol gan Gronfeydd Cymdeithasol Ewropeaidd (ESF) cydgyfeirio ar gyfer Gorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd.

Knowledge Economy Skills Scholarships (KESS) 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) West Wales and the Valleys programme.