

POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH TRAINING AT MEDICINE AND MEDICAL SCIENCES, UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN



Scientists acquiring doctoral training need to build a wide portfolio of skills to match their understanding and experimental ability. Reflecting this need, the training of scientists in PhD research programmes at The University of Aberdeen has undergone major changes to provide opportunities for variable modes of training, for the introduction of greater interactions with industrial partners and for more ambitious project management. Our programme generates diversity in the training mechanisms and funding structures, enabling new opportunities for industry, benefactors and charities to work with us to train PhD scientists.

Training in research in the medical sciences at Aberdeen uses a range of structured programmes that reflect the need for the acquisition of both generic and specific skills. The following structures lie at the core of our training strategy:

- 1) **3 yr standard training awards**
- 2) **4 yr ambition awards**
- 3) **1 yr recognition awards**
- 4) **Team building awards**
- 5) **Industrial and CASE awards**

Our financial models are all underpinned by two major sources of funding – RCUK Doctoral Training accounts and University of Aberdeen College awards. This funding is based on recognition by external peer review of the quality of the training environment, facilities and science programmes at Aberdeen. To maximize the benefit of diversity in training mechanisms we wish to attract matching financial support from industrial partners. Potential to interact with an industrial partner is a consistent benefit to young scientists.

Using these funding schemes, we present the following portfolio of opportunities:

3 yr training awards - these training awards provide young scientists with the basic funding required for training in a well-established discipline in excellent laboratories. Projects are of limited duration with focused objectives. Scientists training on this model can move to a 4 yr award on a competitive basis.

Key points

- Traditional PhD training.
- Research can be commercial or non-commercial.
- Research project complete in 3 yr with potential to extend to 4th yr.
- Sponsoring partner contributes 50% of costs.
- Scientist can work closely with partner and may work at partner's company for a limited time.

4 yr ambition award – suited to collaborative research programmes across several disciplines or involving exceptionally high risk, such as opening a new area.

Key points

- Research contains high risk elements.
- Research can be commercial or non-commercial.
- Research project complete in 4 yr.
- Sponsoring partner contributes 50% of costs.
- Scientist can work closely with partner and may work at partner's company for limited time.

1 yr recognition awards - this award is recognition of exceptional ability during a standard 3 yr training period. Award of funds for the 4th year is dependent upon review of the student's research plan that indicates the added value of an extra year of study in terms of project potential, risk taking, published output and career development. The 4th year of funding is designed to recognize high calibre research workers at the start of their career.



Key points

- 1 year of training added to extend 3 year studentship.
- Awarded on competitive basis
- Recognition of high calibre junior research scientist

Team building awards – Scientific research flourishes when teams are tackling related problems from different perspectives. In Aberdeen our institute structure means that we are particularly well placed to offer a team-working environment through the close alliance of evidence-based medicine and laboratory sciences. The co-location of team members on a single site makes project management easier and aids frequent interchange between the researchers.

Key points

- 3 or 4 yr award.
- Opportunity for incremental funding models based on output
- Research can be commercial or non-commercial
- Scientist can work closely with partner and may work at partner's company during training for a limited time.
- Medically orientated

Industrial and CASE awards - Industrial partners can participate directly in management of the research training through either fully-funded awards or through CASE awards.

CASE awards - the core funding for this award comes either from the University or from RCUK but it is supplemented by the industrial partner with a contribution to the student stipend plus a contribution to

the laboratory. The research project is jointly managed between the partner and the University academic and may be of either 3 or 4 years duration. It is normally expected that CASE projects reflect the priorities and ethos of the industrial partner but are not commercial research. Publication of data is normally expected to be rapid with the partner having a controlling influence.

Key points

- Three or four year training award leading to PhD
- Core funding from RCUK or University
- Industrial partner required
- Industrial contribution set by RCUK guidelines
- Scientist expected to complete part of their training at the industrial partner's laboratories (at least 3 months and up to 18 months).

Industrial awards - An industrial partner wholly funds this training and it is expected that the research will be confidential until an agreement for release of the data for publication is agreed. These projects are usually mainstream commercial research that is of interest to the partner but which is best conducted in a university setting.

Key points

- Three or four year training award leading to PhD.
- Core funding from company.
- Industrial partner required.
- Research under complete control of partner.

Further Information:

Professor Ian R Booth Director,
Institute of Medical Sciences,
University of Aberdeen,
Foresterhill,
Aberdeen, AB25 2ZD.

Tel. 01224-555852

Fax 01224-555844

i.r.booth@abdn.ac.uk

www.abdn.ac.uk/ims

