

Industrial CASE Accounts

Introduction

Industrial CASE provides a mechanism for funding industrially-relevant PhD studentships that are jointly supervised by the academic and industrial partners. Selected companies (the co-operating body) receive an industrial CASE (ICASE) studentship allocation from EPSRC and take the lead in arranging suitable projects with academic partners (HEI) of their choice. EPSRC will provide funding for these studentships directly to the academic partner through an Industrial CASE Account (ICA). Companies also provide the HEI with a cash top-up to the project of at least a third of the EPSRC funding. Projects must be in the engineering or physical sciences.

Basis for ICA Value: An Industrial CASE Account is a Training Grant that provides HEIs with the finance associated with each cohort of students starting their Industrial CASE training programmes with a specified set of company partners, usually from October onwards. The ICA grant will detail the individual studentships of which it is comprised. ICAs are intended to be flexible, such that departmental allocations may be operated independently, or combined to maximise the use of available funds.

Collection of Information: EPSRC will maintain a database of contact, financial and project information on students whom it supports on Industrial CASE Accounts. The information will be provided (by the host University) to EPSRC on an electronic form accessed via the website as soon as the student is appointed or by October 31st the year following the date of issue of the award.

Industrial Case Account - Additional Conditions

Notwithstanding UKRI Training Grant Conditions, the following additional Terms and Conditions are specifically applicable / relevant to EPSRC Industrial CASE training grants:

GAC 1. Use of Funds

ICASE funding may only be used to support Industrial CASE (ICASE) doctoral studentships. Each ICASE award is a fully funded studentship and is to be used in support of the specific student / project. HEIs are able to decide on the level of stipend (at or above the national minimum).

Should a student drop-out before completion of the project, EPSRC expects the Research Organisation to approach the original industrial partner in the first instance with a view to identifying a suitable replacement student. Should the industrial partner withdraw, another cooperating body should be sought to maintain the industrial dimension of the ICASE award. However, if this proves impractical a student already registered may continue to be supported from the ICASE grant.

GAC 2. Visits to Cooperating Body

Students are expected to spend at least three months of their four year ICASE award on the premises of the cooperating body. Students can spend longer periods with the company, subject to the HEI's minimum attendance requirements for students to remain registered for the higher degree.

GAC 3. Responsibility of Cooperating Body Supervisor

Contact should be maintained between the cooperating body (project partner) supervisor and student throughout the duration of the award as appropriate.

GAC 4 Financial Contribution of Cooperating Body

As a measure of its interest and involvement the Cooperating Body (project partner) must make a financial contribution to the project. Such a contribution should cover:

a. all expenses (e.g. travel and accommodation costs incurred by the student as a result of periods spent with the project partner).

The student should not be out of pocket as a result of undertaking the project.

b. an annual contribution in cash to the Research Organisation towards the cost of the project and support of the student of at least 1/3rd the funding provided by EPSRC. [HEIs are able to decide on the level of stipend (at or above the national minimum), noting there is the opportunity that the stipend of an Industrial CASE student can be increased above the minimum payment using the industrial top-up.]

GAC 5 Collaboration Agreements

The basis of collaboration between the Research Organisation and Cooperating Body (project partner), including the allocation of resources throughout the grant (or individual student project as appropriate) and ownership of intellectual property and rights to exploitation, is expected to be set out in a formal collaboration agreement. It is the responsibility of the Research Organisation to put such an agreement in place before the relevant project begins. The terms of collaboration agreements must not conflict with the Research Councils' terms and conditions.

Arrangements for collaboration and/or exploitation must not prevent the future progression of research and the dissemination of research results in accordance with academic custom and practice. A temporary delay in publication is acceptable in order to allow commercial and collaborative arrangements to be established.

GAC 6 International Students

Across EPSRC training awards within an institution, the Research Organisation may choose to provide open eligibility for up to 10% of the students starting in an academic year. As part of this flexibility, institutions may allocate all or a proportion of this ICASE award to support the very best students of all nationalities, without the normal residency eligibility restrictions applying (provided the 10% institutional limit is not exceeded). Details of the students funded through this flexibility must be reported through the Je-S Student Details as 'International Doctoral Scholars (IDS grant)' and the student record linked to the relevant ICASE training grant. The institution may not receive an international fee, from any source, for students accepted through this flexibility i.e. the fee must be discounted to the UK/EU level.