

Sustainable Futures Studentship Scheme – Call for Proposals

The UK has committed to a “net zero” carbon target by 2050. This means emissions from homes, transport, farming and industry will have to be avoided completely or – in the most difficult examples – offset. Health concerns over poor air quality has led to a number of UK cities announcing plans to restrict or ban all older petrol and diesel vehicles from inner city zones by 2030.

These targets can only be achieved if radical new low carbon ways of conducting business, leisure and healthcare activities can be devised and implemented at scale. The energy mix associated with electricity generation and how we heat our homes, offices and produce and transport goods and food will all have to undergo significant changes.

These challenges can be addressed not only through technological innovation but also by understanding how existing processes and supply chains will have to adapt and alter and the impact on services such as healthcare provision, lifestyle adaptations etc. Public perception and support for these changes is also critical to success. Although the above is the major focus of this scheme, any proposal that aligns with the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals, would be welcomed.

The University of Chester wishes to attract the best minds to undertake research into these challenges in any discipline and is offering part (50%) funded studentships (Home Fees and UKRI level Stipend) for Postgraduate research students to undertake a one year MRes or three year PhD programme.

It is hoped that industry, commerce, charities or other organisations will partner with the university and the PGR student to make up the remainder (the other half) of the studentship for the duration of the programme.

Annual Cost for MRes/PhD for 2021/22 (subject to inflation in subsequent years)

MRes/PhD Fee £4,500 (UK rate)

UKRI level Stipend £15,609

Total: £20,109

The University of Chester will fund up to £10,055 per student per annum, with the remainder anticipated to be funded by an external partner/s. It is expected that students will be ready to start on 1st October 2021.

Proposals from staff, supported by their Head of Department, should be submitted using the attached application form. Applications are expected to iterate how they meet the challenge of sustainability, and provide confirmation of commitment and level of support from the external partner/s. Proposals should be received by researchoffice@chester.ac.uk by **12 Noon on Friday 2nd July 2021**.

For further information please contact Nicola Armstrong, Head of the Research & Innovation Office, nicola.armstrong@chester.ac.uk, 01244 511053.

Please note:-£10,055 studentship per annum offered (by the University)– any applicable bench fee would be liable for payment by the student or external partner/s, overseas students or external partner/s would be required to cover the difference for international fees. External partner contributions are subject to VAT.