

FIGHT FOR SIGHT

(BRITISH EYE RESEARCH FOUNDATION)

PhD STUDENTSHIPS - GUIDELINES

Fight for Sight (British Eye Research Foundation) is the leading national charity dedicated to funding research into the causes, diagnosis and prevention of blindness and the treatment of eye disease.

Guidelines for Applications

Applications are invited for Fight for Sight PhD Studentships to start in October 2007 in any area of vision research relevant to the Charity's aims (stated above).

1. Applications for PhD Studentships are initially by Abstract and must be submitted on the PhD Studentships Abstract Application Form. This form when completed should extend to no more than 3 sides of A4 paper. Shortlisted applicants will be asked to provide a full submission which must be submitted on the PhD Studentships Full Application Form. These forms are available from the website www.fightforsight.org.uk under 'Research' or by contacting The Grants Officer at grants@fightforsight.org.uk on telephone 020 7929 7755. The font size used to complete both application forms must be at least 12pt. The layout of the forms should not be altered relative to the originals.
2. The closing date for return of completed Abstract Application Forms is **5.00pm on Thursday 30 November 2006**. For shortlisted applicants the deadline for the receipt of Full Application Forms is **5.00pm on Monday 22 January 2007**. Applications received after these times will not be considered. Final decisions should be confirmed in April 2007. When submitting your application forms, please send the relevant completed form by email **and the original (including supporting original documents and signature page) and 20 unbound single-sided original copies** to The Grants Officer, Fight for Sight, 1st Floor, 36-38 Botolph Lane, London EC3R 8DE. Both the emails and posted applications must reach the office by the respective closing times. Please mark the outer envelope with the sender's details.
3. A Fight for Sight PhD Studentship will provide a grant of up to £93,000 to support the training of graduate students for three years from October 2007. Students may be selected following the award.
- 4 The PhD Studentship will be awarded on the understanding that Fight for Sight does not under any circumstances accept liability as 'sponsor' under any relevant legislation. The host institution is responsible for acting as or organising a sponsor if required.
- 5 The Studentship will be awarded subject to Terms and Conditions applied following approval of the PhD Studentship. For information purposes only please find below an outline of some of the conditions included:
 - 5.1 The Studentship will be awarded for three years. Extensions will not be available.
 - 5.2 Grant holders will be expected to provide a full written report within 21 months of the commencement of the grant and within 6 months of the conclusion of the PhD Studentship. Fight for Sight may also invite the PhD Student to report orally on their progress.

5.3 Grant holders should ensure that the student is known as the 'Fight for Sight PhD Student' and that Fight for Sight's support is suitably acknowledged on all publications, posters and presentations resulting from the work. Copies of research papers should be forwarded to Fight for Sight. Any written press statement associated with the research must be approved by Fight for Sight before release.

5.4 The student may be 'adopted' by a local fundraising group and may be asked to give a presentation to a lay audience during the studentship. If appropriate, they may also be asked to show a fundraising group round their laboratory.

5.5 The PhD Studentship is awarded on condition that the host institution administering the grant accepts full responsibility for the management, monitoring and control of the research work, the staff working on the project and the dissemination of the results of the research.

5.6 Fight for Sight requires the host institution to protect any and all intellectual property rights arising from the PhD Studentship. The Terms and Conditions also require the sharing of any financial benefit arising from the PhD Studentship.

6 This information does not form the whole or part of the Terms and Conditions of Fight for Sight PhD Studentships. A copy of the Terms and Conditions on which Fight for Sight PhD Studentships are provided can be obtained from our website www.fightforsight.org.uk.

7 Fight for Sight only considers applications that directly relate to the charity's aim to fund research in to the causes, diagnosis and prevention of blindness and the treatment of eye disease. When the Grants Allocation Panel considers the applications they will take into account the scientific merit of the research project, it's suitability as a PhD project and the research and training environment provided by the host department.

Completing the Abstract Application Form

Please use headings given using not less than 12pt font. The form when completed must not exceed 3 sides of A4 paper.

1. Supervisor

Please provide details including current post held. Applicants with less than 3 years funding remaining on their contract from the start of the PhD Studentship must nominate a second supervisor. The second supervisor should have a contract which extends beyond the termination date of the PhD Studentship. The second supervisor must also complete the CV page.

2. Department/Institution

Department, institution, address, work telephone and mobile numbers and email and fax.

3. Title of Research

Please enter a brief title of your project and the proposed start date and duration of project (in months) up to a maximum of 36 months.

4. Description of Research

Please use the heading given.

5. Curriculum Vitae

Please attach a Curriculum Vitae for the Supervisor, to be no more than 2 sides of A4

6. Signature of Applicant

Completing the Full Application Form

Please use headings given using not less than 12pt font.

1. Supervisor

Please provide details including current post held. Applicants with less than 3 years funding remaining on their contract from the start of the Studentship must nominate a second supervisor. The second supervisor should have a contract which extends beyond the termination date of the Studentship. The second supervisor must also complete the CV page.

2. Department/Institution

Department, institution, address, telephone, email and fax.

3. Title of Research

Please enter a brief title of your research and the proposed start date and duration of project (in months) up to a maximum of 36 months.

4. Scientific Abstract of Research Project (250 words)

Note: Sharing information and knowledge about Fight for Sight's research portfolio is important and consequently summary information including the research abstract and lay summary for successful applications is published on our web site. Please take this into account when preparing your abstract and lay summary. If you do include information on the use of animals, please be aware that the information – including your name and institution – will be freely available to users of our website.

5. Description of Research for Lay Trustees (200 words)

7. Other Support

Please explain whether the application has been submitted to another funding body in the past year. Also detail whether the application will be submitted elsewhere.

8. Use of Animals

Please indicate whether the appropriate Home Office Project licences and Personal licences are in place.

9. Ethics Committee Approval

For projects requiring ethical approval, applicants should submit one copy of the appropriate ethics committee submission and confirmation of approval, or the date on which this expected.

It is the responsibility of the host institution to ensure that all ethical and legal requirements and Home Office regulations are met.

10. Proposed Research

Proposed research description. Please describe your proposed research in no more than 3500 words. Please use the headings given.

11. Summary of support requested

The Fight for Sight stipend for PhD studentships is £17,000. PhD registration fees, consumables and other costs should also be listed. Please include incremental increases in years two and three where appropriate. Requests for equipment may also be made, where it is justifiable and essential to the success of the research.

Equipment costs should be exclusive of VAT. Departmental bench fees and overseas' students PhD fees will not be paid by the charity.

11. Details of support requested

Please give full details of the support requested with a full justification for these costs. If an overseas trip is planned please fully justify the benefits to be gained.

12. Background information

Description of Department/Institution(s), previous experience in vision research, special features and facilities of the research training environment, relevant collaborative projects and basic research resources available (1 side of A4).

13. Training

Describe the training programme for the PhD student to include: mechanisms for monitoring progress, availability of taught courses, practice at presentations etc. (1 side of A4).

14. Curriculum Vitae of Applicant (Maximum of 3 sides of A4).

Applicant supervisors with less than 3 years funding remaining on their contract from the start of the Studentship must nominate a second supervisor. The second supervisor should have a contract which extends beyond the termination date of the Studentship. The second supervisor must also complete the CV page.

15. References

Please list details of three external referees. Of these, at least one and preferably two should be outside the UK. We may contact one or more of these and we may also send your application to other referees of our choice.

Fight For Sight operates a Peer Review system which we believe enables an equitable and efficient way to review grant applications. Following shortlisting, the applications remaining in the process will be peer reviewed.

Peer review comments will be sent to applicants prior to the Grants Allocation Panel meeting. Applicants will then be given the opportunity to comment on these reviews. The applicant comments and the reviews will be sent to the Grants Allocation Panel members for discussion at the Grants Allocation Panel meeting.

16. Supporting Documents

Please include:

Ethics Committee letters of submission and approval (where applicable.)

Only where completely unavoidable, should photographs or colour figures that cannot be photocopied successfully in black and white be submitted. Where submission of such photographs is necessary, please send 6 copies of each.