

Guidance for applicants

This is an open competitive call for doctoral studentships. Applications should be submitted online by potential supervisors based at a degree awarding body, who if successful will have one year to recruit a student, based at a degree awarding body. **Applications by potential students will not be considered.**

ICoN will fund proposals up to £50,000 (GBP), with the requirement that the successful applications secure matched levels of funding. The matched funding may come from either from their academic institution(s) or industrial sponsor(s).

The Doctoral studentships will be awarded on the basis of excellence, impact and fit to the charitable aims of the [Lloyd's Register Foundation](#) and themes in the [Foundation's Foresight Review of Nanotechnology](#) (2014). You are strongly advised to read this publication and familiarise yourself with the Foundation's aims.

ICoN's approach offers a unique model for creating impact by enabling research to take place across the traditional boundaries that can be encountered, i.e. geographical, institutional, resource and interdisciplinary. Our members will participate in relevant workshops and knowledge-exchange meetings as well as undertaking collaborative activities with complementary international groups. ICoN's greatest outcome will be this nurturing of a new generation of interdisciplinary engineers, who will undoubtedly be valuable assets for both academia and industry.

Potential supervisors should complete the online application form clearly and concisely, remembering the review panel may not necessarily be experts in the specific area of the proposed project. Please ensure that all sections are completed and that you do not exceed the stated character limits:

- Title of PhD 300 chars
- Project description 3000 chars
- Fit to LRF ICoN aims 2000 chars
- Track record of applicants 2000 chars
- Industrial partner 2000 chars
- Impact summary 3000 chars

You may upload a one page project abstract.

All awards will be made in GBP, with staged payments subject to evidence of matched funding and the receipt of satisfactory annual reports. Examples of acceptable matched funds are tuition fees, stipend, access to clean room facilities with evidence of how this cost is derived.

Please note that institutional overheads, large items of equipment, supervisor time and intellectual property (IP) will not be funded and will not be considered as matched funding.

Once your application has been submitted it will be subject to peer review, using the following evaluation criteria:

- The proposal shows a novelty of approach and the advancements in safety proposed are credible
- Alignment with the mission of the Foundation and themes of the Foresight Review

- Track record of applicants: do they have appropriate experience and commitment to the programme
- Will they work well together: is the quality of the proposed interaction between the participating applicants clear
- Meaningful contribution of any industrial partner(s) to the doctoral training.
- ***If there is an industrial partner*** is the Industry/societal impact of proposal clear and credible
- Effectiveness of proposed measures for communication and dissemination of results
- Does the proposal provide value for money, support and management.

The Score descriptors will be as follows:

- 1 Poor. The criterion is inadequately addressed, or there are serious inherent weaknesses
- 2 Fair. Proposal broadly addresses the criterion but there are significant weaknesses
- 3 Good. Proposal addresses the criterion well, but a number of shortcomings are present
- 4 Very good. Proposal addresses the criterion very well, but a small number of shortcomings are present
- 5 Excellent. Proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion. Any shortcomings are minor.

Once the peer review, moderation and prioritisation is complete the Programme Management Board select the projects that will be supported. All applicants will be notified of the outcome within by the advertised deadline.

Please note that the Board's decision is final and due to the volume of applications expected feedback will be limited to comments provided by the reviewers. Unsuccessful applicants, whose application meets the minimum threshold for consideration by the Programme Management Board, will be allowed one re-submission of the project idea in a further call.