

## Summary

The White Rose College of the Arts & Humanities (WRoCAH) was launched in October 2013 and has secured in excess of £19M from the AHRC for PhD studentships at the Universities of Leeds, Sheffield and York. To support WRoCAH and stimulate collaboration across the three universities, a number of White Rose Studentship Networks have also been funded by the three universities.

**TWO Networks will be funded in 2016/7 by this competition** (subject to quality), **Each Studentship Network is allocated three fully funded PhD studentships** (for full-time PhD students starting around October 2016).

## Eligible Research Areas

The WRoCAH Executive Board recognizes the value of (i) having external partners involved as a way to enrich the student experience; (ii) enhancing links between the White Rose universities and their external partners, with the aspiration that this leads to a mutually beneficial longer term collaboration. For the competition this year we therefore invite proposals for networks which embrace **external partnership working**.

Each network must :

- have an overall research theme
- include at least one non-HEI external partner.

There is no constraint on the eligible research themes, so long as they fit within the subject areas supported by the AHRC. Applicants are advised to note the topics of existing networks ([link](#)) for examples of past successful themes.

The partner(s) may each be linked with specific studentships, or act in support of the network as whole. Networks may include one external partner organisation or several partners but the role of the partners needs to be justified by the added value they bring to the theme.

The nature of the collaboration is not limited, but might include access to resources (archives, collections, facilities, buildings, artefacts etc) and/or skills and expertise. Proposals where the research project has been designed in collaboration with the partner organisation are also eligible (as in the AHRC CDA/CDP model). For each external partner there must be a named contact, who must indicate their support for the proposal by signing the application form.

There is no requirement that external partners will provide funding for the network, except where a student is expected to spend an extended period away from their home university. The AHRC have confirmed that external organisations which have their own CDP studentship networks are still eligible to participate in White Rose Studentship Networks. All WRoCAH external partner organisations are eligible [[link](#)], but there is no requirement that external partnerships are restricted to those organisations.

If you wish to discuss the eligibility of your ideas/proposal then please contact Professor Julian Richards ([julian.richards@york.ac.uk](mailto:julian.richards@york.ac.uk)), the Director of the White Rose College of the Arts & Humanities.

## Background

The White Rose Networks studentships initiative was set up in 1997 to encourage collaboration between the Universities of Leeds, Sheffield and York. Since 2005 the studentships have been awarded as networks to promote collaboration across the three institutions. The aspiration is that funded networks will act as platforms for future external collaboration and/or funding bids. We therefore advise applicants to consider how the Studentship Network will align with opportunities from funding bodies (for example the Research Councils' priorities) and to include this information in the proposal.

## Scheme

1. This scheme supports a research network comprising three PhD studentships. The students will all be working on an aspect of the over-arching theme, and therefore will benefit from being part of an integrated community working upon a larger initiative.
2. Each studentship is bilateral and should involve two supervisors – the principal supervisor at the lead institution and the co-supervisor at another White Rose institution. Each university should act as lead on one studentship, and partner on another.
3. Each studentship should also have a named representative of an external non-HEI organisation, but there is no requirement that they will act as a co-supervisor, although they will be expected to participate fully in the network, attending network meetings etc.
4. Each Studentship Network should therefore consist of six academics and three PhD students with parity of involvement across the three institutions, plus at least one named representative for each external partner organisation,
5. Proposed networks where the principal supervisor on one studentship acts as co-supervisor for a second student will not be accepted.
6. One academic (either principal or co-supervisor) will be required to act as a network leader.
7. Studentships provide full tuition fees at standard UK/EU rates, an annual maintenance stipend at the standard RCUK rate,
8. WRoCAH runs the competition to select the Studentship Networks and a common application process for networks students with common deadlines will operate.
9. The administration of the studentships after award, including financial payment to students, will be provided by the individual Universities.

## Timetable

Action	Date
<p><b>Call launched at HRC Proposition Day at University of York.</b></p> <p>Advertised on the WRoCAH and White Rose University Consortium web-sites</p> <p><a href="http://www.wrocah.ac.uk/networks">www.wrocah.ac.uk/networks</a></p> <p><a href="http://www.whiterose.ac.uk">www.whiterose.ac.uk</a></p>	24 November 2015
<b>Universities to promote internally</b>	Until call closes
<p><b>Proposal development</b></p> <p>If you wish to discuss the eligibility of your ideas/proposal then please contact Professor Julian Richards (<a href="mailto:julian.richards@york.ac.uk">julian.richards@york.ac.uk</a>), the Director of the White Rose College of the Arts &amp; Humanities.</p>	Until call closes
<p><b>Closing deadline for Network applications</b></p> <p>Proposals should be submitted to the WRoCAH office by the closing deadline by email.</p> <p><a href="mailto:networks@wrocah.ac.uk">networks@wrocah.ac.uk</a></p>	<p><b>5pm on Friday 4 March 2016</b></p> <p>In the interests of fairness, proposals received after this date will not be considered.</p>

We also need approval from the Head of Department/School where a PhD student would be based – see section 'Head of Department/School Approval' for more detail.	
<b>Decision made and Networks announced</b>	by 18 March 2016
<b>Network advertisements finalised (including specified interview date)</b>	by 22 April 2016

## Application Procedure

Applicants must complete the “**WRoCAH White Rose Studentship Networks 2016/7 Proposal Form**”. It is the responsibility of the network leader to collate the studentship information and submit the proposal to White Rose by the deadline.

A proposal requires the following:

- A description of the overall Studentship Network (to be completed by the Network leader).
- Information regarding each studentship within the Network. Therefore, there will be three lots of studentship information for each Network.
- External partner organisation(s) approval by an authorised signatory
- Head of Department/School Approval (see below)

Individual applications that are not part of a network will not be considered.

## Head of Department/School Approval

For a proposal to be eligible then the Head of Department/School where a PhD student would be hosted must approve of the proposal. This is because this Department/School would provide the principal supervisor for this student as well as having the student based there.

By submitting the Studentship Network proposal the applicants confirm that the proposed principal supervisors of the PhD students have approval from their Head of Department/School.

Please note that we need this approval for all three PhD students in the Studentship Network. Any proposal submitted without the appropriate Head of Department/School approval will not be considered, and the entire network will be withdrawn from the competition. Electronic signatures are acceptable.

## Partner Organisation(s) Approval

For a proposal to be eligible an authorised representative of each external partner organisation must also sign to indicate their commitment to the proposal, including access to resources, training, supervision. They should confirm any financial commitment made to the network, and their understanding that they will be responsible for bearing their own costs. It is important that the signatory for the external partner is authorised to commit their organisation in this way.

## Assessment Procedure

The WRoCAH Executive Board will make the decision on which proposals to support. Eligible proposals will be assessed using the following criteria:

1. The **added value** of the collaboration (in what way does the network provide an opportunity for collaboration which would not otherwise exist). Individual applications that are not part of a network will not be considered.
2. The **strategic relevance** of the network to the White Rose universities/WRoCAH, and the extent and nature of interaction with appropriate external non-HEI organisations
3. The **sustainability** of the network and its potential for long term collaboration.
4. The **novelty, timeliness and clarity** of the studentships overall.

5. Do the proposed supervisory teams have **satisfactory track records**? Please note that applications from new supervisors are welcomed, but applicants must demonstrate that there is suitable experience within the supervisory team.
6. Are **resources and facilities** adequate?

## Network Operation and Reporting

Each Network is expected to meet as a group at least three times a year. A short report on network activities will be required each year. The academic lead for the network will be responsible for producing the report, and a form will be provided for this purpose. Failure to complete annual reports may result in future network funding being withheld.

The reports will be used to inform the development of the studentship scheme, and to assist White Rose in developing new activities within the consortium. The Network may occasionally be asked for informal updates, e.g. for publicity purposes, or to attend WRoCAH or PVC Research and Innovation meetings.

## Student Recruitment

Each studentship is tenable for three years from Session 2016/7 (to start in October 2016) and will provide:

- Standard Home/EU tuition fees
- A maintenance grant (stipend) paid at standard Research Council rates for the first year of study (renewable for a second and third year of study subject to satisfactory academic progress)

Each Networks student will also have access to the full WRoCAH training programme and associated funding opportunities including:

- WRoCAH Induction and three Annual Colloquiums
- A 1-month Researcher Employability Project in the 2nd year
- Researcher Training Mobility fund
- Research Support grant
- Student-led Forums funding

For more information about each of these schemes, please visit the WRoCAH website:

<http://wrocah.ac.uk/funding/current-students/>

It is expected that the student appointed to the project will liaise with both supervisors at least 6 times a year.

Applicants for these studentships will be expected to hold at least a UK Upper Second Class Honours degree or equivalent.

Students appointed to the individual projects will be bound by the regulations of the lead institution at which they will be registered. However, partner institutions should also extend the use of computing and library facilities as well as laboratory/research facilities by arrangement. Students would not normally be eligible to apply for accommodation at the partner institution.

If international students are appointed to the project then the following individual University regulations will apply:

- Leeds: If an international candidate is offered a White Rose Studentship, the School would have to pay the difference between the international fee rate and the standard UK/EU fee rate.
- Sheffield: If an international candidate is offered a White Rose Studentship, the candidate/department will be required to pay the difference between the international fee rate and the UK/EU fee rate.
- York: If an international candidate is offered a White Rose Studentship, the department will be required to pay the difference between the international fee rate and the UK/EU fee rate.

This must be made clear in the network advertisement.

The source advertisement for each Network studentship to be held on the WRoCAH website. Individual institutions and departments may advertise themselves and field enquiries but must link to and direct applicants to the WRoCAH

page so all formal applications are channelled via this route.

## Student Eligibility

Applicants for these studentships will be expected to hold at least a UK Upper Second Class Honours degree or equivalent.

Home, EU and Overseas students are eligible for WRoCAH White Rose Networks Studentships (however see Funding for additional information regarding fees for Overseas students).

All applying Networks students must have made a programme application to the relevant institution BEFORE applying for Network funding.

## Application procedure

After award, Network Leads must prepare their studentship advertisement text in consultation with the other 5 network supervisors. A date for interviews must be agreed in advance so it can form part of the advertisement.

Copies of the Network advertisement should be provided to the WRoCAH office by **Friday 22 April 2016** (office@wrocah.ac.uk)

Leeds	Shirley Yeadon	Postgraduate Scholarships Postgraduate Research & Operations	+44 113 343 4077 s.yeadon@adm.leeds.ac.uk
Sheffield	Catherine Wynn	Scholarships Officer Pricing and Contracts Team	+44 114 222 1417 C.Wynn@sheffield.ac.uk
York	Helen Jones	Research Student Administrator Registry Services	+44 1904 323374 helen.jones@york.ac.uk

Students will make their Network funding applications directly to WRoCAH who will work with the individual PG administration contacts above to collate and forward the application paperwork to the relevant Network Lead as soon as possible after the closing deadline.

The application form is very similar to the one used for AHRC Competition Studentships and can be seen here: <http://bit.ly/wrocah-networks16>

## Interviews and selection

Each network should agree a date for interviews in advance so that this date can be included in the advertisement for the studentship. Interviews for all 3 studentships in each network should ideally take place on the same day or on two consecutive days.

- The interviewing panel must consist of *at least* the 3 main supervisors but ideally all 6 academics involved in the Network. The representative(s) of the external partner organisation(s) should also be invited to attend.
- Students should be selected on the basis of:
  - a complementary cohort
  - their academic excellence and articulation of how they intend to address the research project as defined
  - their understanding and desire to work with and benefit from a network
  - their desire to engage with the opportunities of the WRoCAH training programme.

Where it is not possible to recruit all three students at the same time (for example, due to lack of suitable applicants for one of the studentships) then the remaining studentship(s) should be re-advertised as quickly as possible and a new deadline set, with agreement from the WRoCAH office. Networks should go ahead and offer to the suitable students they have rather than lose those students. The final student should still be recruited to the same criteria and with as many of the original panel as possible to ensure continuity.

## After appointment

Students appointed to the individual projects will be bound by the regulations of the lead institution at which they will be registered. However, partner institutions should also extend the use of computing and library facilities as well as laboratory/research facilities by arrangement. Students would not normally be eligible to apply for accommodation at the partner institution.

## Additional WRoCAH funding for students and supervisors

Each WRoCAH Network Studentship is supported by an additional £7,500 contribution on top of stipend and fee payments (ie. £22,500 per Network over the three years).

These funds are for individual student participation in WRoCAH activities and additional funding schemes, and to support Network activities. Funds are pooled across WRoCAH for all Networks.

*NB: No funding is directly available for bench fees or similar. The same is true for consumables costs, unless these form part of a specific individual student application to the Research Support Grant (RSG) fund.*

- The financial administration of the studentships after award, including most financial payments to students and supervisors, will be provided by the individual Universities (exceptions detailed in the table below).
- Awards made under RTM-L, RSG, REP and KEP funding schemes to be released to the student according to local institutional procedures.
- Costs incurred under RTM-L, RSG, REP and KEP schemes to be summarised and claimed by each institution annually from WRoCAH in June.

Type of funding	Student	Supervisors
Stipend	Annual maintenance stipend at the standard RCUK rate.	
Fees	Full UK/EU research degree tuition fee.	
Training and Research Support	Full training programme and access to additional funding opportunities (RTM-S/L, REP, RSG, KEP, SLF) For full details for each scheme and application procedures see: <a href="http://www.wrocah.ac.uk">www.wrocah.ac.uk</a>	
Travel and Accommodation	Travel costs for <b>up to 6 supervision meetings of which 3 should be whole-network meetings</b> per academic year under RTM-S scheme (see <a href="http://www.wrocah.ac.uk">www.wrocah.ac.uk</a> for details).  Other travel and accommodation as per individual scheme guidelines under Training and Research Support above.	Travel costs for <b>up to 6 supervision meetings of which 3 should be whole-network meetings</b> per academic year, claimed as per institutional procedures (see below)
Subsistence	Not normally eligible. See individual scheme guidance for eligible costs.	Daytime subsistence for 3 whole-network meetings per academic year.
Network interviews		Supervisors may claim for travel to Network interviews and for daytime subsistence.

Claims procedure for Student/Supervisor	Awards under all additional funding schemes except Small Awards and SLF released according to local institutional procedures.  Funds for Small Awards and SLF are handled directly by WRoCAH office.	All supervisors claims to be made directly from WRoCAH Office using University of York claim form which can be found at <a href="http://www.wrocah.ac.uk/links">www.wrocah.ac.uk/links</a>
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NB External partners are responsible for covering their own costs within the network.

## WRoCAH Contact Details

Please feel free to contact the WRoCAH Director or Manager if you have any queries regarding the eligibility of a network or the application process.

<i>Eligibility of proposals</i>	<i>Application process</i>
<p><b>Professor Julian Richards</b>            WRoCAH Director            Humanities Research Centre            University of York            Heslington            YORK            YO10 5DD  <a href="mailto:julian.richards@york.ac.uk">julian.richards@york.ac.uk</a>            01904 328132</p>	<p><b>Caryn Douglas</b>            WRoCAH Manager            Humanities Research Centre            University of York            Heslington            YORK            YO10 5DD  <a href="mailto:caryn.douglas@york.ac.uk">caryn.douglas@york.ac.uk</a>            01904 328131</p>