

Circulated to Heads of Departments and Departmental and Research Administrators for all Schools; and Coordinators of Interdisciplinary Research Centres, Strategic Initiatives and Networks

Copied to Heads, Secretaries and Directors of Education as well as Assistant Directors and Research Development Teams (ROO) for all Schools

If the Head of Department or Departmental/Research Administrator in your Department/Faculty changes, please let us know so that we can keep our mailing lists up to date

Restricted call: NERC centre for doctoral training: open funding opportunity - internal deadline 17 May 2023, 12 noon

NERC has recently announced the [NERC centre for doctoral training: open funding opportunity](#), which aims to address priority or emerging training needs within the environmental sciences. Applications must be centred within NERC's remit but interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary CDTs extending more widely across the breadth of UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) are welcome. Applications must identify a challenge of focus for the CDT and justify the specific need for doctoral training in this area. Funding is available to support three CDTs each in receipt of 24 notional studentships across three annual intakes.

University internal selection:

Institutions may only be the administrative lead on one application. Therefore, this call will be managed according to the University's [restricted calls](#) procedure.

If you are planning to lead a CDT application, please complete our [online form](#) by 12 noon on 17 May 2023 (NB: if asked to log-in, please use your crsid/Raven details; note that a Form cannot be saved and returned to, it needs to be completed in a single session)

You will need the following documents and information to complete the Form:

- Names or partner institutions and contacts
- A file outlining the proposed CDT (maximum 1000 words), referring to the following key criteria for the outline stage of the competition (<https://www.ukri.org/opportunity/nerc-centre-for-doctoral-training-open-funding-opportunity/>):
 - (i) Articulate a compelling vision for the CDT, the need for the CDT and alignment to NERC and UKRI strategic priorities and the importance, impact and novelty of NERC investment in doctoral level training at this time;
 - (ii) Outline the ability of the team to deliver the proposed doctoral programme, critical mass of relevant researchers, teams and projects, including both individual research projects and cohort-level training in cross-cutting skills relevant to the CDT's challenge area
 - (iii) Provide names of potential collaborative partners: end users and non-HEI partners and outline strategy for engagement with end-users, appropriate to the scope of the CDT, in all aspects of training from the outset of the CDT. A letter from the Head of Department that will host the proposed CDT confirming their support for the bid.

Internal Assessment Criteria:

Please note that the assessment of internal applications will focus on the following funder criteria for the outline applications:

- Justification of the challenge and training need to be addressed by the proposed CDT.
- Capability to deliver.

The internal assessment process is being run in collaboration with the relevant teams in the offices of the Schools of Biological Sciences, Physical Sciences, and Technology and they will be able to provide coordination across the Schools and support for the preparation of applications. Please contact your respective School team to let them know if you are interested in this opportunity, whether you would plan to be the lead academic or contribute to an application.

School of Biological Sciences: Abi.herrmann@admin.cam.ac.uk

School of Physical Sciences: Xavier.Montiel@admin.cam.ac.uk

School of Technology: education@tech.cam.ac.uk

The applicants from other Schools who wish to contribute to the applications may contact any of the three Schools listed above.

Only the application selected by the internal review panel may be submitted to the funder.

Following internal selection, the **application timeline** is as follows:

- Outline application deadline: 13 June 2023, 4pm
- Full application deadline (by invitation): 24 October 2023, 4pm

If you have any queries please don't hesitate to contact us at researchstrategy@admin.cam.ac.uk