

STUDENT-LED STUDENTSHIP COMPETITION: GUIDANCE FOR SUPERVISORS

Contents

1. Eligibility	2
2. Brief summary of the supervisor's role in the application process	2
3. Using FluidReview	2
4. The application process	2
5. Additional notes on completing your supervisor's statement	2
6. The SeNSS studentship competition selection criteria	3
7. The studentship selection process	3
8. General information about the SeNSS Doctoral Training Partnership	4
9. Any queries	4

This guidance is aimed at supervisors whose prospective students are entering the student-led studentship competition, which opens each October.

SeNSS requires that all applicants discuss their application for a studentship with their proposed primary supervisor. In addition, the proposed primary supervisor is required to complete a supervisor's statement as part of the application process.

Please note that applicants will not be considered for an award unless their proposed primary supervisors' supporting statement has been completed and submitted by the relevant deadline.

1. Eligibility

To be eligible to supervise a SeNSS-funded student, you must meet two conditions:

- Experience: either the primary or the second supervisor must be experienced, i.e. one of the supervisors must have supervised more than two students to completion.
- Supervisor training: both the primary and second supervisor must either have attended supervisor training or supervisory best practice events in the past three years, or must complete this training or attend an event within six months of the SeNSS student starting their studies.

2. Brief summary of the supervisor's role in the application process

There are three things you are asked to do:

- Talk to your applicant about whether they meet both the academic and residential eligibility for a SeNSS studentship. Please note that [UKRI has changed its residential eligibility criteria](#): international applicants are now allowed to apply for fully-funded studentships across all Pathways. Please read the detailed [guidance](#) on the SeNSS website.
- If your applicant meets these criteria, provide them with outline guidance on drafting their research proposal; and,
- Provide a supporting statement for your applicant.

3. Using FluidReview

- You will receive an automated email from FluidReview, SeNSS's online application platform, asking you to provide a supporting statement for your applicant. If you don't receive an email in your inbox, please check your junk/spam box, as it may be delivered there.
- Please click on the link provided in the email, create your FluidReview account, and fill out the "Supervisor Statement" form.
- You can save your work, exit FluidReview, and return to it as many times as you like before the application deadline. Once you are content with your statement, please submit it.

4. The application process

- If your applicant meets the eligibility criteria, they must first apply to your university for a place to study. **The deadline for doing so is 12.00 GMT on Monday 18 January 2021.**
- Next, your applicant must apply for a SeNSS studentship. **The deadline for doing so is 12.00 GMT on Monday 1 February 2021.**
- Please note that your applicant will be interviewed in respect of their application for a place at your university and their SeNSS application.

5. Additional notes on completing your supervisor's statement

- All SeNSS students must have two supervisors: a primary supervisor, based at the same institution as the applicant, and a second supervisor. The second supervisor can be based either at the same university, or at any of the other SeNSS member institutions.
- Please provide information about any supervisor training or best practice sessions you have attended in the past three years.
- Please write a **maximum 800 word supporting statement**. In doing so, please refer to our selection criteria, outlined below, and address the following points:
 - the quality and feasibility of your applicant's research proposal;
 - how prepared your applicant is to conduct this research; and

- how well this research proposal “fits” in relation to your expertise, how relevant your research area is to the proposed area of study, and how your expertise and research will enhance this research project. In addressing this point, please also comment on the fit of the secondary supervisor, as well as the strengths you bring to this project as a team.

6. The SeNSS studentship competition selection criteria

The following criteria will be used to assess applications across all pathways and degree formats.

Evidence of the quality and feasibility of the proposal (40%)

This will be based on your outline of your proposed research project, your reasons for pursuing it, and its wider significance. It will also be based on the information supplied by your proposed primary supervisor. SeNSS assessors will be looking for evidence of your ability to design and conduct a strong research project, a coherent and well thought-out research plan, a strong awareness of the place of your research within the current field, and potential impact. Reference will be made to your personal statement, as contained in your application, as well as your supervisor’s supporting statement.

Evidence that you are well-prepared for your proposed research and future career (40%)

This will be based on your description of how your previous experience (academic and/or professional) has prepared you for postgraduate study and research. Reference will be made to the degree transcripts and module marks you have provided, as well as your supervisor’s supporting statement.

Evidence of the suitability of the proposed supervision and training (20%)

This will be based on your proposed supervisors’ research areas, knowledge and expertise in relation to your proposed project, the individual roles of the proposed supervisory team, your identified training needs and suggested ways of meeting those training needs. Reference will primarily be made to the information provided by your proposed primary supervisor which should, in turn, reflect on the expertise brought to your project by your second supervisor.

All 4-year award applications (1+3, 2+2, +4) will be assessed in a way that recognises that applicants are likely to have had less training and fewer opportunities to develop a detailed proposed research project than an applicant for a +3 studentship.

7. The studentship selection process

- The applications are reviewed internally by your university, which will submit three applications per pathway it is involved in to the next round of the competition.
- Applications are then considered by the disciplinary-based Pathway Groups, which nominate their best applicants to the SeNSS Management Board for awards.
- The SeNSS Management Board makes the final award decisions.
- Applicants will be told the outcome of their applications by mid-April.

8. General information about the SeNSS Doctoral Training Partnership

For information about SeNSS, please go to the [SeNSS website](#).

9. Any queries

If you have any queries, please contact your university's [SeNSS administrative lead](#) in the first instance.