

# Memo C16/34

To At: Heads of School/Directors of Postgraduate Research / Directors of Research / Directors of International

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From *Oddi wrth*: Professor Nora de Leeuw, PVC International & Europe

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Date *Dyddiad*: 4 April 2017

Ref *Cyf*:

Subject *Pwnc*: Vice-Chancellor's International Scholarships for Research Excellence

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**Purpose:** Raise awareness of the Vice-Chancellor's International Scholarships for Research Excellence and encourage the Schools to put appropriate internal processes in place to identify and shortlist their strongest candidates for the Scholarships

**For the attention of:** Heads of School/Directors of Postgraduate Research/Directors of Research / Directors of International

**Action Required:** Please disseminate as appropriate to potential PhD supervisors and PGR administrators

**Response needed by:** 31 May 2017

**Contact for enquiries:** Katie Fisher, Doctoral Academy: [FisherK1@cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:FisherK1@cardiff.ac.uk)

Dear Colleague,

I am pleased to announce that the University has committed funds to launch the Vice-Chancellor's International Scholarships for Research Excellence, with the call currently open for the 2017/18 intake at: <http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/study/international/funding-and-fees/international-scholarships/vice-chancellors-international-scholarships-for-research-excellence>

The scholarships have been made available for the highest achieving international postgraduate research (PGR) students from low and middle income countries without well-established government sponsored scholarship schemes to support PhD study.

There are up to seven scholarships available across all disciplines and successful candidates will receive a full waiver of their overseas tuition fee and will be paid an annual stipend at the UK Research Council level for up to three years, subject to satisfactory progress. Please see the internal **Guidance for Schools** below for more details.

Given the limited number of scholarships the University is able to offer, each School is invited to shortlist up to two candidates for the consideration of a central University selection panel. I would therefore like to ask all Schools to establish an appropriate internal processes in the first instance to identify their strongest eligible candidates for the scheme.

Kind regards

Professor Nora de Leeuw  
Pro Vice-Chancellor, International & Europe

# Cardiff University Vice-Chancellor's International Scholarships for Research Excellence



## Guidance for Schools for the 2017/18 call

- The University has committed central funds for **up to seven** *Vice-Chancellor's International Scholarships for Research Excellence*, to be awarded to the highest quality international candidates starting their PhD study in 2017/18.
- Successful candidates will receive a full waiver of their overseas tuition fee and will be paid an annual stipend at the UK Research Council level for up to three years, subject to satisfactory progress.
- Schools/research groups are expected to cover the research and training costs of the students in receipt of these scholarships.
- Self-funded candidates applying for PhD study on a pre-defined project and those with their own thesis proposal are both eligible to apply for these scholarships.
- Applicants must be nationals of (or permanently domiciled in) a country on the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) list of countries:  
<http://www.oecd.org/dac/stats/documentupload/DAC%20List%20of%20ODA%20Recipients%202014%20final.pdf>
- Applicants from DAC-listed countries with Government-funded or other well-established scholarships schemes to support PhD study (such as China Scholarship Council, CONACYT etc) should be recommended to apply through their national schemes. Please consult the relevant country/regional manager in the International Office about the availability of national schemes, if in doubt.
- Applicants need to specify in their application form for PhD study their wish to be considered for the *Vice-Chancellor's International Scholarships for Research Excellence*. Applicants who fulfill the eligibility criteria for these scholarships and already hold an offer for PhD study at Cardiff University starting in 2017/18 can request via the School Admissions Tutor to be considered for the *Vice-Chancellor's International Scholarships for Research Excellence*.
- The Schools are asked to **shortlist up to two applications** each to be considered by a central University Selection Panel, using the '*School Statement of Support*' form provided in **Annex I**, together with the student's application for a PhD (incl. CV and references).

- The shortlisted applicants put forward by the Schools must already hold **an offer for PhD study at Cardiff**. The Panel will not consider applications from candidates who have not been made an offer by the University.
- The Selection Panel will rank the shortlisted applications across the University and confirm an offer of a *Vice-Chancellor's International Scholarships for Research Excellence* to up to seven most highly ranked applications.

**SCHEDULE of the 2017/18 call for *Vice-Chancellor's International Scholarships for Research Excellence*:**

Deadline for applications for admission to PhD study at Cardiff	26 April 2017
<b>Schools:</b> Deadline for submission of maximum two shortlisted applications and supporting documents, incl. the School Statement of Support and the PhD application, to the Doctoral Academy (Katie Fisher, email: <a href="mailto:FisherK1@cardiff.ac.uk">FisherK1@cardiff.ac.uk</a> )	31 May 2017
Applications sent out to members of the Selection Panel	2 June 2017
Deadline for returns of the assessment sheets by Selection Panel members	14 June 2017
Meeting of the Selection Panel	w/b 19 June 2017
Outcome of the central ranking communicated to the Schools	26 June 2017
<b>Schools:</b> Communicate the outcome to applicants	By 30 June 2017

# Annex I



## Cardiff University Vice-Chancellor's International Scholarships for Research Excellence 2017/18

### School Statement of Support

Student's name	<input type="text"/>
Main Supervisor	<input type="text"/>
2 <sup>nd</sup> Supervisor(s)	<input type="text"/>
Home School	<input type="text"/>

#### Supervisor's statement (no more than 250 words)

1. Please give your assessment of the quality of the application
2. Please outline the particular merits of the proposed project (In the case of candidate applying for a pre-defined project, please focus on the particular merits of the candidate for successfully carrying out the project.)

#### Head of School (or nominee) statement of alignment (no more than 250 words)

1. Please describe how the proposed PhD project aligns with current research priorities
2. Briefly outline the immediate research environment/infrastructure in which the project will be undertaken

Please confirm that the School will support the running/research costs of the project

Please confirm that the following have been given proper consideration:

- Availability of a supervisory team with appropriate expertise and experience
- Feasibility of the project as a 3-year PhD
- Ethical and IP considerations as appropriate

**Outcome of the School assessment of this application**

The short-listing process and the University-wide Selection Panel will use a common set of assessment criteria<sup>i</sup>. Each application will be scored on the basis of three components:

- Proven academic quality;
- Research potential;
- Personal motivation and commitment.

Num. of applications considered by the School for shortlisting:

Ranked position of this application if more than one is shortlisted:

Name:	
Position: e.g. HoS/Dir of Research/Dir of PGR	

**PLEASE ENSURE THAT THE APPLICANT HOLDS AN OFFER OF ADMISSION TO THE UNIVERSITY FOR FULL-TIME PhD STUDY COMMENCING IN 2017/18. SHORT-LISTED APPLICATIONS FOR THE VICE-CHANCELLOR'S INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS FOR RESEARCH EXCELLENCE, ALONG WITH ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTS (SCHOOL STATEMENT OF SUPPORT AND PhD APPLICATION) MUST BE SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY TO [FisherK1@cardiff.ac.uk](mailto:FisherK1@cardiff.ac.uk), BY 31 MAY 2017. PLEASE INFORM SHORT-LISTED CANDIDATES THAT THEIR APPLICATIONS WILL BE CONSIDERED BY THE UNIVERSITY'S SELECTION PANEL. EACH SCHOOL CAN SHORT-LIST A MAXIMUM OF TWO APPLICATIONS.**

<sup>i</sup> Extract from Selection Panel guidance notes: reviewers will look for evidence of [total score of max 50]:

1. **Proven academic quality:** normally evidenced by an excellent performance to first degree and/or Master's level but may also be demonstrated by a record of relevant professional practice.
  - 1.1. Education [15]
  - 1.2. Awards [5]
2. **Research potential:** evidenced through their supporting statement and supported by performance in research projects at first degree and/or Master's level, or another form of dedicated preparation for research.
  - 2.1. Research Experience [10]
  - 2.2. Publications and Presentations [5]
3. **Personal motivation and commitment:** evidenced through their supporting statement, by their enthusiasm for the project area and how they see it relating to their career goals.
  - 3.1. To a PhD [5]
  - 3.2. To the project(s) [10]