Collaborative PhD & EngD Projects

Guidance for Universities and Industry Sponsors

Introduction

The Data Lab aims to generate significant economic, social and scientific value to Scotland through the application of data science. To help achieve this, we intend to part-fund up to 12 PhD or EngD studentships.

1. What will we fund?

For a PhD Project to be eligible for The Data Lab funding it must meet the following **selection criteria:**

A. Scottish University

The project must be hosted at a Scottish University.

B. Industrial Sponsor based in Scotland

The project must be sponsored by an Industrial Sponsor that has an operational base in Scotland. An Industrial Sponsor can be from the **private, public or third sector**. The Project may consist of any number of Industry collaborators.

We welcome Industry Sponsors from **any applied business domain** and we also welcome projects that are relevant to The Data Lab's sister Innovation Centres.

C. Impact for Scotland

The project must have the potential to contribute to a positive social / economic impact in Scotland. Some examples include, increased revenue, preventing cybercrime, increased number of exports or reduced hospital visits. The project should also contribute to the creation of new high-value jobs in Scotland.

D. Data Science Research

The project must focus on the innovative in or application of data science techniques. Some example areas of data science research that we would consider funding include:

- Advanced automation systems
- Anomaly detection
- Artificial / Machine Intelligence
- Data Ethics

- Deep Learning
- Natural Language Processing
- Predictive analytics
- Real-time data

E. Innovative Research

The project must be innovative. This could include the generation of new ideas, the application of new ideas into useful forms, improving the application of pre-existing ideas or techniques, or the application of pre-existing ideas or techniques to a new domain. Please see the innovation spiral for a range of innovation classifications.

Project proposals would typically be within Technology Readiness Levels 3 to 6 (TRL) (See section G in the link).

2. Funding

The Data Lab contribution

We will provide a maximum of 50% funding for the fees and stipend for PhD or EngD studentship projects for up to four years in duration.

The sponsoring organisations and university partner are responsible for the remaining 50% of funding for the fees and stipend as well as 100% of any additional funding (for training and conferences etc.).

In-kind contributions are expected but they will not count as a contribution to the funding. In-kind contributions could include staff time for mentoring and equipment.

Amount

The exact funding amount for the yearly stipend and any additional funding should be determined by the University and Industry Sponsors. We have made suggestions below.

> Fees: *RCUK Rates* (*per annum*)
>
> Stipend: up to £16,000 *per annum*
>
> Additional Funding (Training & Conferences): up to £1,500 *per annum*

We will only provide funding for fees at the designated EU-level.

The Data Lab will provide additional training for the cohort of funded PhD / EngD students through our MSc cohort-learning programme and our training courses. Students will also be invited to attend all relevant The Data Lab-sponsored events.

Large Companies

The Data Lab will provide up to 30% funding for private sector organisations with over 250 employees.

3. What won't we fund?

We will NOT support projects without co-funding from an Industry Sponsors.

We will NOT support projects with a university based outside of Scotland.

We will NOT support projects with Industry sponsors without a base in Scotland.

We will NOT support projects focused on standard business intelligence or data reporting.

We will NOT support projects that focus solely on data capture.

4. Number of Projects to be awarded

We would like to fund **between seven and twelve** PhD or EngD projects. The number of PhD or EngD projects to be awarded in this call will be determined by the merit *(see 8. Award Criteria)* of the Projects submitted and amount of funding available.

5. How to apply

Please complete and submit our online application form here:

http://datalab.submittable.com/submit/70249/collaborative-phd-engd-projects

You must submit your completed application form by **17:00 on Friday 6th January 2017**.

6. Finding a University / Industry Sponsor

If you have an idea for a PhD or EngD project but you do not yet have a University Partner or an Industry Sponsor you can submit a form that outlines your idea. The Data Lab will use this information to make relevant introductions, but they will not be reviewed by the Reviewing Panel.

University seeking Industry Sponsor

Please complete and submit our Academic-only application form here:

http://datalab.submittable.com/submit/70255/university-seeking-industry-sponsor-phd-engd-projects

Industry seeking University Partner

Please complete and submit our Industry Sponsor-only application form here:

https://datalab.submittable.com/submit/70256/industry-sponsor-seeking-university-partner-phd-engd-projects

Private or Published?

You can choose to have your proposed project details published on The Data Lab website so that prospective partners can view it.

7. Timeline

PROCESS	TIMING
Call opens	26th October 2016
Call closes	6th January 2017 (17:00)
Award winners announced	10th February 2017
Launch of the second call	Late February 2017

8. Award Criteria

Projects will be reviewed against the following criteria:

Impact – The potential to contribute to a positive social and economic impact in Scotland.

Innovation – Projects must focus on the innovative in or application of data science techniques.

Academic Support – The quality of academic guidance and practical support offered by the University Partner.

Industry Support – The quality of guidance and practical support offered by the Industry Sponsor.

Technical Feasibility – The likelihood of technical success.

The projects will be scored and ranked with the highest scoring projects that pass the scoring threshold being offered funding until the available funding pot is fully allocated.

The decision of the Reviewing Panel is final without calls for dispute. The processes followed and decisions taken by the Panel will be minuted.

9. Reviewing Panel

The Reviewing Panel includes independent representatives from The Data Lab, Scottish Industry, Scottish Public Sector organisations and Academia. Members will be selected from existing The Data Lab boards.

The review panel may request further information on the Project or refer the application to other The Data Lab and partner funding opportunities.

If a Reviewing Panel member has a conflict of interest relating to a project they will not be involved in any discussion, scoring or selection decision of that project.
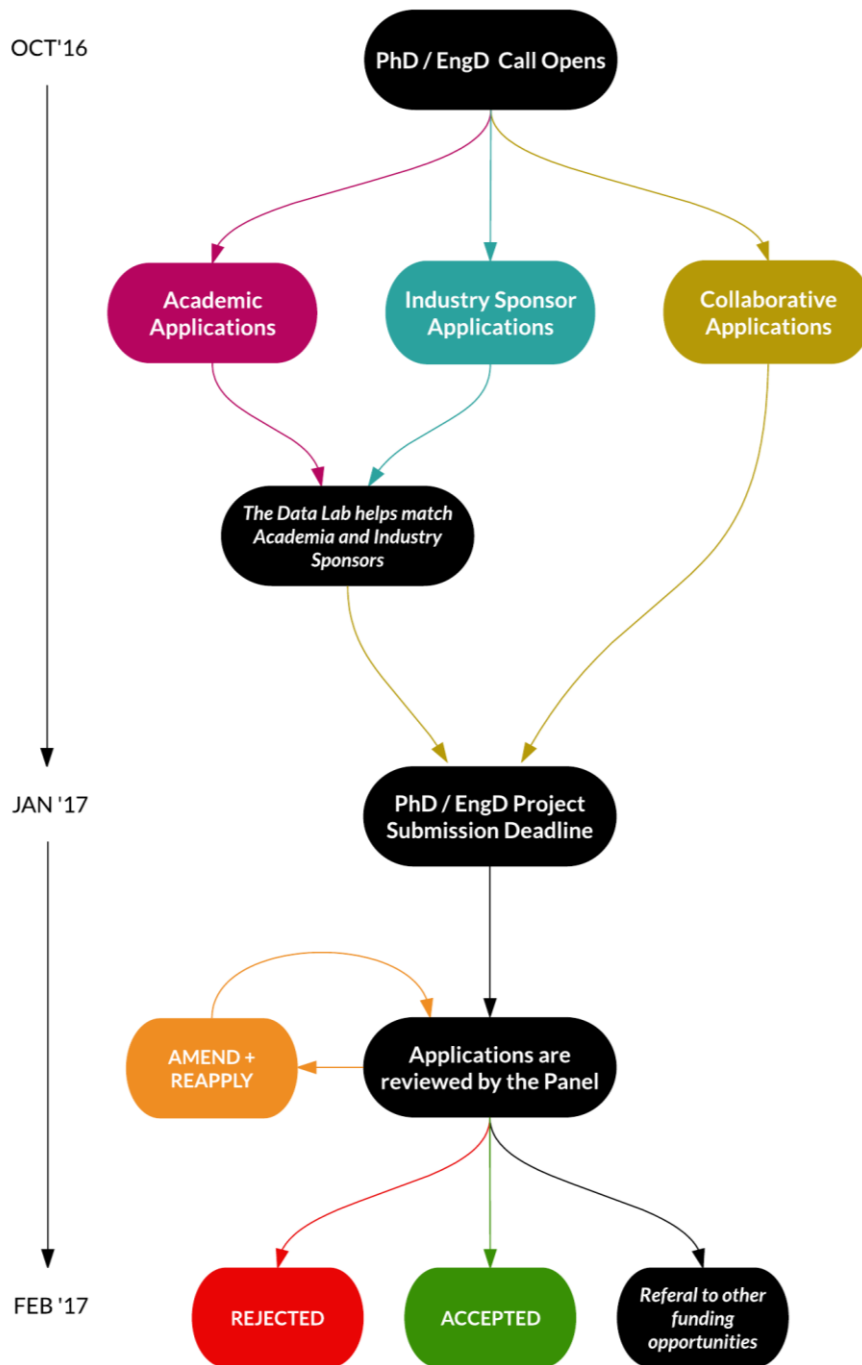
10. Feedback & Re-submission

We will provide feedback to all applicants and where appropriate, we will help promising applications make the necessary changes to their suggested projects to meet the criteria for funding.

The call will be re-opened in February 2017 and amended projects can be re-submitted in the second call.

11. Intellectual Property

Intellectual property arrangements are agreed on a case by case between the University, Industry Sponsor and student.

12. Process

Contact Details

If you have any questions relating to this call please contact The Data Lab at: skills@thedatalab.com. We will get back to you within 48 hours of receiving your email.

For updates regarding the call please visit our website and follow us on LinkedIn and Twitter