

# **THE DATA LAB INDUSTRIAL DOCTORATE CALL**

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 Industrial Doctorate studentships.

### 1. WHAT WILL WE FUND?

For an Industrial Doctorate 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 any Scottish University. There must be at least one academic supervisor.

#### B. INDUSTRY SPONSOR BASED IN SCOTLAND

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

#### C. IMPACT FOR SCOTLAND

The project must have the **potential** to contribute to positive social / economic impact in Scotland. Some examples of **potential** 'impact' include:

- increased company revenue or market share,
- development of a new product,
- increased number of exports,
- creation of new high-value jobs in Scotland.
- changed practice to achieve greater environmental, economic or social benefit

#### D. DATA SCIENCE / AI RESEARCH

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

- Explainable data science , ML & AI
- Advanced automation systems
- Anomaly detection
- Artificial / Machine Intelligence
- Data ethics / avoiding bias
- Novel and Intuitive Interactions with Data
- Applications of deep Learning
- Natural Language Processing
- Predictive analytics
- Real-time data
- Open data / data sharing

## E. INNOVATIVE RESEARCH

The project must be innovative. This could include the generation of new ideas, the application transformation 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.

For more information you can refer to 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. WHAT WON'T WE FUND?

We will **NOT** support projects without co-funding from at least one Industry Sponsor.

We will **NOT** support projects hosted by 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.

## 3. FUNDING THE DATA LAB CONTRIBUTION

We will provide a **maximum of 50% funding**, contributing to the fees, stipend and additional funding for the Industrial Doctorate studentship, for up to four years in duration. The sponsoring organisations and university partners are responsible for the remaining 50% of funding for the fees, stipend and 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) *as determined by the registering university*

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 successful Data Lab student will be invited to attend all relevant Data Lab-sponsored events.

#### **4. NUMBER OF PROJECTS TO BE AWARDED**

The number of awards in this call will be determined by the merit (see 9. Award Criteria) of the Projects submitted.

#### **5. HOW TO APPLY**

Please complete and submit our online application form here:

<https://datalab.submittable.com/submit/131199/industrial-doctorates-rolling-call-2019>

#### **6. BUDGET BREAKDOWN FORM**

We require every submission to have a completed budget breakdown form which should be uploaded as part of the application. The template can be found in Appendix A of this document.

#### **7. FINDING A UNIVERSITY / INDUSTRY SPONSOR**

If you have an idea for an Industrial Doctorate 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's Business Development Team will use this information to make relevant introductions. This will include a referral to [Interface](#). These applications will be shown to, but not reviewed by, the Reviewing Panel.

##### **UNIVERSITY SEEKING INDUSTRY SPONSOR**

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

<https://datalab.submittable.com/submit/70255/university-seeking-industry-sponsorindustrial-doctorate-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-partnerindustrial-doctorate-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.

## 8. TIMELINE

The closing date for applications to the first call of 2019 is Friday 15<sup>th</sup> February at 17:00hrs. Applicants will be notified of a funding decision by the 28<sup>th</sup> February 2019. **Start dates will be agreed after the review process.** There will be further calls for Industrial Doctorate funding announced later this year.

| PROCESS                                      | DATE                                   |
|----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| Q1 Submission Deadline                       | 17:00 – 15 <sup>th</sup> February 2019 |
| Review and decision                          | 28 <sup>th</sup> February 2019         |
| Further 2019 submission and review deadlines | TBC                                    |

## 9. 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 innovation in or application of data science techniques.

**TECHNICAL FEASIBILITY** – The likelihood of technical success.

**ACADEMIC SUPPORT** – The quality of academic guidance and practical support offered by the University Partner.

**INDUSTRY SUPPORT** – Their commitment to the research project and the quality of practical support they provide.

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 process followed and decisions taken by the Panel will be minuted.

## 10. REVIEWING PANEL

The Reviewing Panel includes independent representatives from The Data Lab and Academia. Members will be selected from existing The Data Lab boards. The review panel may request further information 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. Reviewing Panel members from outside of The Data Lab will sign an NDA prior to reviewing any applications.

## **11. 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.

## **12. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY**

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

## **13. CONTRACT**

For successful applications a legal agreement will be drafted between The Data Lab and the lead institution. On completion of this agreement it is the responsibility of the institution to recruit the student and draft an agreement setting out the terms and conditions of the project (including Intellectual Property arrangements) between the industry partner, student and institution. The Data Lab may provide advice and assistance in setting up the agreement and recruiting a student but will not be responsible for providing these contractual agreements.

## **14. REPORTING**

Funding will be paid to the lead institution on an annual basis subject to the following reporting requirements being met:

The initial payment will be made following a project kick-off meeting involving The Data Lab, student, academic and industrial supervisors.

The student will be requested to provide a written progress report to The Data Lab on a six-monthly basis. The Data Lab will provide a report template and these reports must be approved by both academic and industrial supervisors prior to submission.

Following submission of progress reports, a progress meeting will take place involving The Data Lab, the student, and both academic and industrial supervisors. On an annual basis these meetings will take place face-to-face (where possible) and annual payments will not be made until a meeting has taken place and there is full agreement that the studentship is progressing as expected. Following the interim mid-year reports, progress meetings will be arranged either face-to-face or by call as previously agreed and as necessary.

On completion of the studentship, a completion report will be requested followed by a face-to-face (where possible) project close-out meeting.

## 15. STATE AID

Funding for Industrial Doctorates from The Data Lab is State Aid. The Innovation Centre programme under which The Data Lab is funded has a General Block Exemption Regulation (GBER) which sets out the criteria under which The Data Lab can award State Aid: applications must meet this criteria to be eligible for funding.

<http://www.sfc.ac.uk/innovation/innovation-centres/innovation-centres-state-aid.aspx>

## 16. PRIVACY

Personal information provided in the application form will be processed by The Data Lab [University of Edinburgh] in order to keep the Applicant(s) informed of progress with the Application. This information will not be processed for any other purpose. The form will be shared with third parties for reviewing purposes. They will sign a NDA before receiving the application. Please do not include your address or telephone number in your CV. Information will be retained for 5 years.

## 17. CONTACT DETAILS

If you have any questions relating to this call please contact The Data Lab at [skills@thedatalab.com](mailto:skills@thedatalab.com)





**APPENDIX A - BUDGET BREAKDOWN FORM**

|                        | University Contribution (£) | Company Contribution (£) | The Data Lab Funding (£) | TOTAL |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------|
| Stipend                |                             |                          |                          |       |
| Fees                   |                             |                          |                          |       |
| Training & Conferences |                             |                          |                          |       |
| <i>In-kind support</i> |                             |                          |                          |       |
| Travel                 |                             |                          |                          |       |
| Supervision            |                             |                          |                          |       |
| Overheads              |                             |                          |                          |       |
| <b>TOTAL</b>           |                             |                          |                          |       |