



**THE
DATA LAB**
value from data

Industrial Doctorate Call Guidance for Universities and Industry Sponsors

Rolling Call 2019/20

thedatalab.com

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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 co-fund Industrial Doctorate studentships, in collaboration with academic institutions and industry, public or third sector partners.

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 a 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 '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 and AI techniques. Some example areas of data science research that we would consider funding include:

- Explainable data science, ML and AI
- Advanced automation systems
- Applications of deep learning
- Natural language processing
- Anomaly detection

- Predictive analytics
- Artificial/Machine intelligence
- Data ethics/avoiding bias
- Real-time data
- Open data/data sharing
- Novel and intuitive interactions with data

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*).

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.

THE DATA LAB CONTRIBUTION

We will provide a **maximum of 50% funding**, dependent on eligibility criteria as set out in the table below.

Applicant	TDL funding	Industry partner/University contribution
Scottish University in partnership with public or third sector organisation	Up to 50%	Up to a maximum of 20% from the University with the Industry partner contributing the remainder (min 30% up to 50%).
Scottish University in partnership with a private SME	Up to 50%	Up to a maximum of 20% from the University with the Industry partner contributing the remainder (min 30% up to 50%).
Scottish University in partnership with a large private sector organisation (non-SME)	Up to 30%	Up to a maximum of 20% from the University with the Industry partner contributing the remainder (min 50% up to 70%).

Funding may contribute to the fees, stipend and additional funding to attend training and conferences for the Industrial Doctorate studentship, for up to four years in duration. The sponsoring organisations and university partners are responsible for the remaining funding.

In-kind contributions are expected but they will not count as a contribution to the funding. In-kind contributions may 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 with guidelines 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.

NUMBER OF PROJECTS TO BE AWARDED

The number of awards in this call will be determined by the merit of the projects submitted.

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>

FINDING A UNIVERSITY/INDUSTRY PARTNER

If you are an organisation or a University and 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 submissions will not be reviewed under this call without a formal application being submitted with both academic and industry partners in place.

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.

TIMELINE

Submission:	Closing Date:	Shortlisted Applicants notified and invited for interview:	Final outcome communicated:
Summer submission	30 th August 2019	9 th September 2019	30 th September 2019
Autumn submission	31 st October 2019	18 th November 2019	6 th December 2019
Winter submission	31 st January 2020	17 th February 2020	6 th March 2020

The next submission date for applications is Friday 31st October at 17:00hrs. Applications received by this date will be reviewed by a panel and shortlisted applicants contacted by 18th November 2019 to arrange a second stage interview. Final outcomes will be communicated no later than 6th December 2019 at which point successful applicants will be required to complete legal agreements. Students should not be recruited or commence their studies until the legal process is complete. The time to complete this process is variable based on a number of factors including response time from the relevant parties in the sponsoring University but you should allow at least one month following notification of award to completion.

APPLICATION PROCESS

HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION

All applications must be made through submission of an online application with the required accompanying documents.

[Application form](#)

You must submit your completed application form by 17:00 on 31st October 2019.

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

The commitment to the research project from the industry sponsor and the quality of practical support they provide.

BUDGET BREAKDOWN

Every submission must include a completed budget breakdown form. The template in Appendix A of this document should be completed and uploaded as part of the application.

SHORTLISTING

Applications will be scored and ranked with the highest scoring projects being shortlisted for interview. Shortlisted applicants will be invited to attend The Data Lab for interview with the review panel, to discuss their application in detail prior to final selection.

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

REVIEWING PANEL

The Reviewing Panel will include independent representatives from The Data Lab, Scottish Industry, Scottish organisations and Academia.

The Review Panel may request further information from applicants as part of the process.

If a Review Panel member has a conflict of interest relating to the course, they will not be involved in any discussion, scoring or selection decision of the course.

The decision of the Review Panel is final without calls for dispute. The processes followed and decisions taken by the Panel will be minuted. Feedback will be provided if you are unsuccessful.

All members of the review panel will be required to sign a non-disclosure/privacy agreement prior to obtaining access to application forms.

POST-AWARD

CONTRACT

For successful applications The Data Lab will draft a legal agreement 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.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY (IP)

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

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.

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

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.

CONTACT DETAILS

If you have any questions relating to this call please contact The Data Lab at cheryl.stewart@thedatalab.com. We will get back to you within three working days of receiving your email.

