



**THE  
DATA LAB**  
value from data

# Industrial Doctorate Call Guidance for Universities and Industry Sponsors

Funding Call 2020/21

[thedatalab.com](https://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 and AI. To help achieve this, we co-fund Industrial Doctorate studentships (PhD/EngD), 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. We will consider applications to fund studentships that are 3, 3.5 and 4 years in duration.

### 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.

Start-up businesses and SMEs will only be considered eligible as industry sponsors on the programme where they demonstrate in the application that they have:

- Consistent revenue generation
- Established and stable customer base
- The ability to provide development, support and guidance to the student.

Potential risks to the programme should be clearly detailed in the application with mitigation processes identified.

### C. IMPACT FOR SCOTLAND

The project must detail evidence of **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.

In addition to standard reviewing criteria, The Data Lab also reviews the eligibility of applications using **Scottish Government policies and priorities on the use of public money**. Please contact [skills@thedatalab.com](mailto:skills@thedatalab.com) if you have any further questions in relation to this.

## 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 or start-up business where SME is considered to be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Staff headcount &lt;250</li> <li>- Turnover &lt; £40m or Balance Sheet total &lt; £34m.</li> </ul>	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 from both academic and industry partners.

A detailed budget breakdown **must be** included with the application **using the template provided**. The value and breakdown of all in-kind contributions is required in addition to cash values.

## 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):** The Data Lab will contribute up to a maximum of £500 per annum with at least match-funding to be provided by the University and/or University sponsor.

We will only provide funding at the designated Home/EU- level. International students may be recruited to a studentship where the remainder of the costs are met by another party (e.g Industry partner, University).

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

## 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 will contact you to discuss the project idea in more detail and where appropriate use this information to reach out to our network for potential partners.. Where appropriate this may include a referral to [Interface](#). These form submissions will not be reviewed under the call. To apply for funding a formal application should be submitted to a call once both academic and industry partners are 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

**There is no submission deadline for applications.** The call is open to receive submissions at any time and we aim to respond to applications within 3 weeks of receipt. Applications will be reviewed by a panel and shortlisted applicants contacted to arrange a second stage interview. We aim to communicate final outcomes no later than six weeks following initial submission at which point successful applicants will be required to complete legal agreements following acceptance of the award. 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 plan to 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](#)

### 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, evidence of consistent revenue, an established and stable customer base, and the quality of practical support, guidance and development they are able to provide to the student.

### CULTURE AND VALUES

The Data Lab's mission is to help Scotland maximise value from data and lead the world to a data powered future. We believe that how we do this is equally as important as the mission itself and this is why our culture and values are the heart of everything we do and we ask collaborators to follow these too. Read more on our website:

<https://www.thedatalab.com/about-us/our-culture-and-values/>

### BUDGET BREAKDOWN

Every submission must include a completed budget breakdown form **using the template provided in Appendix A of this document**. The completed template can be attached to the application form. Applications which do not provide a detailed budget breakdown in this format will not be accepted.

### SHORTLISTING

Applications will be reviewed by a panel of TDL employees and external partners from academia and industry. 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.

### 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 basis between the University, Industry Sponsor and student. The Data Lab will not be involved in discussions relating to IP. However evidence that an IO agreement is in place will be required prior to any award being finalised.

### 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, industry and academic supervisors 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..
- Progress meetings will be scheduled on an annual basis at which The Data Lab, student, academic and industry partners are required to attend. 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 submission of mid-term progress reports, The Data Lab may request a progress meeting be scheduled between The Data Lab, the student, and both academic and industrial supervisors to discuss progress in more detail. A mid-term progress meeting may also be requested by the student, academic or industrial supervisor if deemed necessary.
- On completion of the studentship, a completion report will be requested followed by a project close-out meeting.
- The Data Lab will be made aware of any change in circumstance to the project involving any party (student, academic or industry supervision). For example, student or partner withdrawal, delay or extension to project, change of supervisor.

## 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 [skills@thedatalab.com](mailto:skills@thedatalab.com). We will get back to you within three working days of receiving your email.



## APPENDIX A - BUDGET BREAKDOWN FORM

Please detail the value and breakdown of both cash and in-kind contributions. Please refer to the call guidance document for details of the funding available and requirements for co-funding.

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