



Ruminant Sector organisations (EBLEX, HCC and QMS)

Postgraduate Research Studentships Programme

Introduction

The ruminant sector levy bodies jointly provide support to a number of postgraduate students who are engaged on research projects relevant to the livestock and meat industry. This note invites applications for PhD studentships to commence in October 2011. The invitation is open to all UK universities, colleges and research institutes, although it is expected that organisations will be able to demonstrate a record of excellence in the specific area of research as well as a record in providing high-quality and well-managed research degree programmes.

The ruminant sector levy bodies are responsible for developing and delivering the levy-funded strategies in their own areas and for providing the funds for the studentship programme. You are advised to ensure that all project proposals are relevant to the research and development priorities of these bodies and a summary of the current priorities of the ruminant sector is enclosed for your guidance. More details can be found on the relevant websites:

<http://www.eblex.org.uk/>

<http://www.hccmpw.org.uk/>

<http://www.qmscotland.co.uk/>

Terms of the studentships

It is a condition of the award that the funding of the studentship by EBLEX, HCC and QMS is acknowledged on all documents, publications, presentations and other media, and that all such materials are submitted to the funding bodies prior to publication. It is the responsibility of the supervisors to ensure students are aware of the sources of their funding.

The current annual value of the award includes provision for a personal grant of £12,500pa, an amount to cover the standard (i.e. BBSRC maximum) university registration fee, and a contribution of £1,500 towards bench fees, project costs and conference expenses. The award is payable to the research institute on a quarterly basis. Registration fees must be notified in the application.

Appointed students will normally be expected to commence their studentship on 1 October 2011. Awards are made for three years and will not, other than in exceptional circumstances, be extended beyond this period. The joint levy bodies may appoint a Project Manager who will monitor the progress of the project and will contribute towards its satisfactory development. The Project Manager will hold regular review meetings with the student and supervisor. Regular updates on the progress of the project will be required, and the student should provide the joint levy bodies with copies of any papers to be presented or published and an annual progress report. The timely submission of a PhD thesis (in both electronic and printed form) will be required and reasonable expenses incurred in its printing and binding will be reimbursed.

Selection of the student and all further administrative and academic activities, requirements and duties will be the sole responsibility of the institution. While the institution will be primarily responsible for the student selection process, levy board staff or representatives may wish to participate in the final interviews. Awards for all studentships will be made direct to the institution on receipt of an invoice.



Students will be expected to attend and participate in an annual postgraduate seminar day when they will be given the opportunity to present details of their research to board staff, other students and supervisors.

At the conclusion of the studentship the institution will provide a report which sets out the industry applications arising from the completed project and the appropriate knowledge transfer actions.

Application Procedure

Applications from universities, colleges and research institutes should be submitted in the following format:

- Title of project
- Details of applicant (i.e. principal investigator): Name, Position, Organisation, Address, Telephone, Fax, Email
- Names and organisations of proposed supervisors
- Brief description of the project (no more than 2 A4 sides) to include background, objectives, value to industry, methods, programme of work, and communication of outcomes
- Brief details of research training provided
- Research facilities available
- Statement of the total cost of the studentship including registration fees.
- Any other supporting information

Applications should be sent by email to karen.morris@eblex.org.uk on or before 4 February 2011. All proposals received before the deadline will be reviewed by scientists from the joint levy bodies. The selection criteria will include the scientific merit and innovative quality of the project, its relevance to the stated research priorities of the joint bodies, and the organisation's record of achievement in the specific area of research. All organisations should be informed of the results of the selection process by the end of April 2011.

If you need further information please contact Karen Morris by telephone on 02476 478 828 or in writing to the address given below:

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