

## The INSITE PhD Scholarship Programme

### Description and Guidance

#### Overview

The INSITE Programme was launched in 2014, with the aim of providing stakeholders with the independent scientific evidence-base needed to better understand the influence of man-made structures on the ecosystem of the North Sea. The first Call for Proposals funded by industry, led to a Phase 1 research programme consisting of nine projects that concluded in 2017. In 2018, Phase 2 of INSITE was developed in partnership with NERC. NERC launched its INSITE Call for Proposals in 2019 and in April 2020 awarded around £5Million in grants to seven projects addressing the three *Challenges* in the NERC Announcement of Opportunity<sup>1</sup>.

As part of INSITE's Science partnership, the *INSITE PhD Scholarship Programme* is being established which will award *INSITE Scholarships* for PhD's addressing specific research topics<sup>2</sup>. The *INSITE PhD Scholarship Programme* is led by the *INSITE Programme Advisory Group* (PAG), the group responsible for the scientific direction of INSITE. Up to 12 Studentships will be awarded under the PhD Programme.

#### Timelines

November 2020	Call for Proposals issued
31 January 2021	'Deadline for Proposals': Applications to be received by INSITE
February 2021	PAG review of proposals and make conditional awards
5 March 2021	Successful supervisors will be advised of conditional awards

#### Applications

All applications must be made using the *INSITE PhD Scholarship Programme Application Form*. All requirements within the Application Form must be provided in a single pdf file. Applications must be made on or before the 'Deadline for Proposals' date.

#### Selection

Applications will be reviewed by the INSITE PAG. Projects will be shortlisted, and the final awards made subject to the recruitment of an excellent PhD candidate, that meets the host institutions selection criteria. The PAG review will examine:

- Excellence of project, student, and supervisory team.
- Application to the INSITE Challenges and PhD Research Topics
- Demonstrated access to required additional funding.
- Impact
- Value for money

#### Conditions of Award

The following conditions will apply to any award:

- The award is subject to mutual agreement of the INSITE Scholarship agreement
- Selection of a suitable student meeting the host institution's criteria for admission on a PhD course
- Written confirmation that the institution financial commitments will be met
- Supervisors will produce a report at the end of each academic year for the PAG. This report will be due on 1 August each year and must include a review of challenges and successes, projected goals for the forthcoming year and document related abstracts, papers and grant proposals.

<sup>1</sup> <https://nerc.ukri.org/research/funded/programmes/insite/news/ao-insite/ao/>

<sup>2</sup> Refer to INSITE PhD Scholarship - Scope Statement