



<b>AO Title/Call Name</b>	
<b>Call opens</b>	23 <sup>rd</sup> November 2020
<b>Closing date</b>	15th December 2020
<b>Funding available</b>	<p>UKRI £1.4m – total across four calls</p> <p>Funding can be used to reimburse applicable fees and stipend, research costs, and travel and subsistence costs associated with these visits. Exceptional additional costs (e.g. childcare) will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Individual placements are expected to be in the region of £10,000 – £15,000 including \$3,000 CAD (c. £1,740) in co-funding from Mitacs.</p>
<b>Funding mode/stream</b>	Fund for International Collaboration (FIC)
<b>NERC Core or UKRI/Collective Fund budget</b>	Collective Fund - FIC
<b>Project duration</b>	Grant length is 12 months in length to allow for flexibility. The placements are 12-weeks in duration.
<b>Funding partners (if applicable)</b>	Mitacs (a Canadian national, not-for-profit organisation)
<b>Start date requirements (if applicable)</b>	Placements between April 2021 – March 2022
<b>Call aims and objectives</b>	<p>An opportunity for UKRI and Canadian doctoral students to participate in a UK – Canada research exchange scheme. Supported by UKRI and Mitacs, UKRI-funded doctoral candidates will have the opportunity to develop their intercultural understanding and communication skills as well as expand their research in a diverse and inclusive international environment through networking, collaborations, access to Canadian research infrastructure and mentors, during 12-week research placements in Canadian universities.</p> <p>The principal objective of this scheme is to support the development of excellent UKRI-funded doctoral students. The scheme aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Foster and enhance long-term international research networks;</li> <li>• Establish international research collaborations;</li> <li>• Attract world-class talent to the UK; and</li> <li>• Upskill UK-based researchers in intercultural understanding, communication and collaboration, offering a professional development opportunity which broadens their awareness of the international research and innovation context and opens them to the possibility of interdisciplinary research, and</li> </ul>

	preparing students to work in international environments.
<b>Eligibility criteria</b>	Applicants must be a current registered UKRI-funded doctoral student
<b>Call specific requirements</b>	Hosted at an eligible Canadian university which has endorsed the project
<b>Studentship or Training Opportunities</b>	For doctoral students only
<b>Contact</b>	<a href="mailto:UKRIGlobalink@ukri.org">UKRIGlobalink@ukri.org</a>



# UK Research and Innovation

## **UK – Canada Globalink doctoral exchange scheme: Globalink Research Placement**

### **Announcement of Opportunity**

Issued on: 18<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Full Application deadline: 4pm on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2020

### **1. Summary**

**UK Research and Innovation is fully aware that in the current climate a call for international exchange of students remains logistically challenging. However, in the meantime it is important to maintain the aspiration of the programme and therefore we continue to encourage students to consider this call, and the opportunity within the full bounds of the call timeline. The earliest possible start date for placements funded through this call is April 2021, and grants will be awarded as 12-month research grants to maximise flexibility in when the placement is taken. Therefore, a placement before the end of March 2022 remains a possibility. UKRI will keep this situation under review as the global response to COVID-19 develops, and maintain flexibility accordingly.**

UK Research and Innovation (UKRI), in partnership with Mitacs (a Canadian national, not-for-profit organisation), invites applications to the Fund for International Collaboration (FIC) Wave 2 UK – Canada Globalink Doctoral Exchange Scheme from UKRI-funded doctoral students to take part in 12-week research placements at eligible Canadian universities that have endorsed the students' projects. UKRI funded students are those funded by: Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC), Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC), Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC), Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), Medical Research Council (MRC), Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) and Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC).

This is an exciting opportunity for UKRI and Canadian doctoral students to participate in a UK – Canada research exchange scheme. Supported by UKRI and Mitacs, UKRI-funded doctoral candidates will have the opportunity to develop their intercultural understanding and communication skills as well as expand their doctoral research in a diverse and inclusive

international environment through networking, collaborations and access to Canadian research infrastructure, during 12-week research placements in Canadian universities.

UKRI is investing a total of £1.4M with co-funding from Mitacs of up to \$1.8M CAD (£1.1M) across four calls. The four calls will support up to 200 UKRI funded doctoral students to undertake placements at Canadian universities between 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020 and 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022.

Funding can be used to reimburse applicable fees and stipend, research costs, and travel and subsistence costs associated with these visits. Exceptional additional costs (e.g. childcare) will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Individual placements are expected to be in the region of £10,000 – £15,000 including \$3,000 CAD (c. £1740) in co-funding from Mitacs. Please see section 4.1 for further information.

As a collaborative scheme between the UK and Canada, an equal number of Canadian doctoral students will have the opportunity to undertake research placements at UK universities. The application process for Canadian students applying to undertake placements in the UK is coordinated by Mitacs. Please see the [Mitacs website](#) for further information.

## **2. Background**

Economic growth and reaching the UK Government's target of 2.4% GDP spend in research and development (R&D) by 2027 depends, increasingly, on knowledge. In addition, the UK must globalise research and innovation in an increasingly competitive international environment. As such, the UK must do more to make the most of its world-class research and support its researchers to stay at the cutting edge, forge international collaborations and encourage international talent to work in the UK.

The UK is already an attractive place for researchers to work with 76% of UK research at higher education institutions considered as 'world-leading' or 'internationally excellent' in 2014<sup>1</sup>, despite representing only 4.7% of global researchers. The UK also attracts international talent with 43% of postgraduate research students and 29% of academic staff being from overseas in the 2015-16 academic year<sup>1</sup>. The UK research community and its outputs are enhanced further by the international collaborations that are in place.

It is imperative that the next generation of researchers have the opportunity to build international relationships and access professional development opportunities, including training and research projects abroad. This will help ensure the UK's long-term ability to attract international talent and form wide-reaching collaborations. Future researchers and sector leaders must not only have the opportunity to undertake challenging, novel and interdisciplinary research, but also to gain the skills, knowledge and experience to deliver impact internationally, where many challenges exist. To be effective and world-class, our researchers must form part of a connected, sustainable, inclusive and collaborative research community, which spans disciplines and borders. These Globalink Research Placements will contribute to this as they will support the movement of doctoral students between the UK

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<sup>1</sup> Higher education in research in facts and figures, Universities UK (2018), available at <https://www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/facts-and-stats/data-and-analysis/Pages/research-facts-and-figures.aspx>

and Canada, fostering long-term research networks, and establishing collaborations that will ultimately attract talent to the UK.

The UK and Canada have the joint aspiration to intensify and strengthen cooperation between the two countries in the fields of science, engineering, research and innovation. This will take the form of joint research projects, industrial engagement in technology innovation projects, the sharing of best practice and the organisation of meetings to encourage interaction between relevant research groups.

Mitacs seeks to support innovation and growth through advanced research and training programmes across Canada and beyond. It is a Canadian national, not-for profit organisation, which currently runs the scheme with funding received from Canadian provincial and federal government, and in partnership with other countries. The addition of the UK represents an expansion of this existing scheme and is a pilot scheme for UKRI. This competition is now open to all UKRI-funded doctoral students across the full breadth of UKRI's remit. It will support successful applicants to undertake a 12-week research placement in one of 76 Canadian member universities in a variety of academic disciplines.

Canada has excellent universities, internationally recognised researchers, outstanding research facilities and cutting-edge industry innovation. The scheme therefore provides students with the opportunity to spend time in Canadian high-quality research environments. During these placements, doctoral students participate in research projects under the supervision of outstanding faculty members, work with graduate students and research associates, and have the opportunity to experience the many unique educational, social, and recreational opportunities Canada has to offer.

This is the third of four calls for UKRI-funded students to apply and approximately 50 awards are expected to be made this round. Applicants are encouraged to apply to this round rather than wait for future rounds. UKRI reserves the right to amend or cancel future calls.

### **3. Scope**

#### *3.1 Programme objectives*

The principal objective of this scheme is to support the development of excellent UKRI-funded doctoral students. The scheme aims to:

- Foster and enhance long-term international research networks
- Establish international research collaborations;
- Attract world-class talent to the UK; and
- Upskill UK-based researchers, equipping them with international competencies.

#### *3.2 Proposal requirements*

All successful applicants will undertake a 12-week research project<sup>2</sup> that they develop with their host supervisor(s) in Canada. Students should lead the application and make contact with potential Canadian host supervisors to discuss and design a research project and work out costings for the placement with their home and host supervisors in advance of submitting

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<sup>2</sup> Exceptions may be made for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (ED&I) reasons.

an application. Applicants should make clear what benefit the research placement will have on their development and for Canada and the UK.

This scheme will support UKRI-funded doctoral students in all areas of the UKRI research remit. Successful applicants will be required to deliver a programme of collaborative research that will further their studies and enhance their research career prospects. Placement projects can be on a topic unrelated to the student's studies, helping to create multi- and inter-disciplinary researchers. In addition, successful applicants will be expected to undertake network-building activities to enhance and establish collaboration and links between their UK research community and their Canadian counterparts. These activities may be restricted to their area of expertise or be broad in nature, helping to create multidisciplinary connections. Networking could include, but is not limited to, formal (e.g. conference attendance) and/or informal (e.g. involvement in department events) activities. Placement projects should not include activities that are part of the applicant's planned PhD.

All applicants must evidence within their application commitment from the hosting supervisor(s) and university. They must demonstrate appropriate mentorship from the host supervisor(s) with details of how the host supervisor(s) will be involved in supporting the student intellectually and technically. It must be clear how the host supervisor(s) will contribute to, and support, the research project and the student's learning, training, and networking opportunities. Details should be provided of other supervisors, researchers, or students who will supplement the student's learning, training and networking opportunities and outline what benefit these will bring.

Applicants must evidence commitment from their UK PhD supervisor to be able to undertake the placement, as well as support from other UK parties. These parties will include the UKRI grant holder but could also include Directors of cohort training programmes such as Doctoral Training Partnerships (DTPs) and Centres for Doctoral Training (CDTs), and non-HEI supervisors.

Further details can be found in the 'Application Process' section. A joint UKRI and Mitacs panel will assess applications based on the criteria outlined in the 'Assessment Criteria' section below.

#### **4. Programme requirements**

##### *4.1 Programme funding*

Funding in the region of £10,000 - £15,000 can be requested per placement which includes \$3,000 (CAD) (c. £1,740) from Mitacs<sup>2</sup>. Research costs are limited to a maximum of \$1,500 CAD (c. £870) and must be sourced from the Mitacs funding. No additional research costs can be requested from the UKRI funds and this includes costs for fieldwork and consumables. There is no upper limit for the other cost headings but all costs must be broken down and justified in the "Justification of Resources" and be in line with the [UKRI Travel, Subsistence and Expenses policy](#). These awards will be made at 100% of direct costs; no other indirect costs will be paid. The Justification of Resources (JoR) will assist the panel when assessing proposals so that they can make an informed judgement on whether the resources requested are appropriate for the research proposed. All UKRI and Mitacs costs need to be justified in the JoR and applicants should provide a description of what has been requested and why that request is being made.

Mitacs will award \$3,000 CAD (c. £1,740) to the Canadian host university (via the Canadian host supervisor) which will be made available to the student within one week of arriving in Canada (providing all required documents are returned in a timely manner). The student may be required to open a Canadian bank account to access these funds and applicants should discuss how they should access funds with their host supervisor.

The Mitacs funds should be used for in-Canada expenses; for example, research costs, host university administration fees (tuition fees are expected to be waived), in-Canada travel, networking events, and training. Research costs are limited to a maximum of \$1,500 CAD (c. £870), but there are no other restrictions on how funds can be spent. Remaining funds may be used to pay for any outstanding accommodation or travel costs and these must be justified in the JoR.

The UKRI funds will be awarded by NERC, on behalf of UKRI, to the home Research Organisation as a 12-month research grant starting in April 2021; this will allow maximum flexibility on when the placement is taken.

UKRI funds will cover the student's standard stipend and fees level, including London Weighting where applicable, for the three month duration of the placement. This includes provision for stipend costs for UKRI fees-only students where funding is not available from an alternative source. Students who receive a higher stipend than the UKRI standard will continue to receive this enhanced stipend for the duration of the placement, this should be made clear in the costings by the applicant.

Students should retain their student status at their home university during their placement. Students should continue to receive stipend and fees from their normal training grant with funds transferred from this award to cover these costs. Research Organisations may be required to cover costs upfront before the full funding is received.

No funds are available for home or host supervisor expenses. Funds can be used to pay for all directly incurred costs; for example, travel, accommodation, medical and travel insurance, visas and entry permits, networking events and training. All other living expenses (e.g. food, utilities and phone bills) are not eligible costs and should be paid for from the students' stipend.

On a case-by-case basis, exceptional additional costs (e.g. additional caring costs arising from the placement) will be considered. For example, childcare costs beyond that required to meet the normal contracted requirements of the job, and that are directly related to the project may be requested. However, childcare costs associated with normal working patterns may not be sought.

Funding cannot be used for support activities outside the 12-week placement.

Funds will be held by the submitting Research Organisation, not the student.

All requested funds must be clearly justified within the Justification of Resources and be in line with the [UKRI Travel, Subsistence and Expenses policy](#). Applicants should include requested funds from both UKRI and Mitacs in the Justification of Resources. Only UKRI funds should be entered in Je-S.

#### *4.2 Implementation and delivery*

All placements will be 12-weeks in duration, must start after 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 and be completed by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022. A timetable of the call process is available at the end of this document.

Mitacs has recently instituted a new Globalink allocation system with its Canadian university members, meaning that all new placements must now be endorsed by the Canadian host university. By agreeing to endorse a placement, the Canadian host university validates that the project aligns with the institution's strategic research priorities, and also agrees to provide funding to Mitacs for the Canadian contribution to the project. The Canadian host supervisor must seek prior approval for the placement to be supported by the Mitacs Globalink Research Award (GRA) allocation awarded to the host university. Please contact Mitacs (using the details in section 8) to discuss this requirement.

Placements should be undertaken full-time<sup>3</sup> wherever possible. UKRI welcomes applications from part-time students. Part-time students are encouraged to undertake the placement on a full-time basis, but part-time working arrangements will be considered on a case-by-case basis where an equality, diversity and inclusion (ED&I) case is made. However, it should be noted that not all host supervisors or universities may be able to accommodate part-time placements. Applicants should discuss their desire to undertake a placement on a part-time basis with their host supervisor to explore the options available before applying. It should be made clear in the application that there is a request to undertake the placement on a part-time basis, the reason for this request, and how support will be put in place to ensure a comparable experience and a successful research project. UKRI will not support part-time placements where there is no justification.

The student must ensure the placement is not detrimental to their studies or progress, and that they are still compliant with all terms and conditions of their award. For example, some students are required to spend a minimum percentage of their time with an industry partner and undertaking this placement should not override this commitment.

Successful applicants will have their UKRI studentship and submission date extended for the three month duration of the placement. However, please note the Research Council specific requirements and exceptions in the paragraphs below. If successful, part-time students who are eligible for studentship extensions will have these applied on a part-time basis.

For AHRC-funded students, UKRI provides additional funding to extend the studentship but it is not possible to extend the submission date. This is in line with AHRC policy for similar opportunities, for example the International Placement Scheme.

BBSRC students who undertake the placement as their Professional Internships for PhD Students (PIPS) will not be granted an extension, fees or stipend from this award, as this is already accounted for in their studentship. BBSRC students who undertake this placement in addition to their PIPS will be eligible for an extension, fees and stipend from this award.

MRC students on a Clinical Research Training Fellowship (CRTF) should contact MRC or [UKRIGlobalink@ukri.org](mailto:UKRIGlobalink@ukri.org) before submitting an application to discuss their circumstances and ensure funding is available.

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<sup>3</sup> Exceptions can be made for ED&I reasons.

Applicants can contact UKRI (on the details in section 8) to discuss their circumstances before submitting an application.

#### *4.3 Reporting requirements*

As with all UKRI grant holders, there will be a requirement to report to UKRI. Please note that as the PI of the grant, the home supervisor is responsible for ensuring all reporting requirements have been submitted to UKRI. At the end of the placement, students will be required to submit feedback detailing their work and the outcomes achieved during their placement to UKRI and Mitacs. UKRI and Mitacs may also require funded projects to respond to specific ad hoc queries for information as required, and to follow up with selected students after their projects' completion to gather more evidence of the impact of the scheme.

Data will be shared between UKRI and Mitacs to allow assessment and monitoring of the scheme. All data will be handled securely and in accordance with all legal requirements including GDPR. Please see the [UKRI Privacy Notice](#) for further information.

### **5. Application process**

#### *5.1 Eligibility*

This scheme is only open to doctoral students currently funded by the Research Councils of UKRI (AHRC, BBSRC, EPSRC, ESRC, MRC, NERC, STFC and including the UKRI CDTs in Artificial Intelligence). Applicants must state on their application form which Research Council(s) issued the training grant from which they are supported. Applicants should contact their training grant administrator with any queries relating to their funding status.

Applications must be submitted by their home supervisor on the student's behalf. UKRI expects the student to be responsible for developing and writing the application.

The Canadian host supervisor must ensure that the endorsement of the Canadian university is secured in advance of the development of the application. The Canadian university endorsement process is part of new initiative that Mitacs has introduced to ensure that Canadian universities are able to optimize placements to support their strategic research priorities and co-fund the initiative with Mitacs as part of the Canadian contribution to the projects (please refer to section 8 for more details).

All placements must start before the end of a student's funded period of study and must be completed by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022. Applicants must be the legal age of majority in Canada (18 years or older) at the start of the placement.

All placements must be 12-weeks in duration and be undertaken in a single continuous period.

Students are required to ensure that they are legally able to undertake a placement in Canada including passing any security checks and obtaining any relevant visas. Applicants should view Canadian immigration documentation for information on security and visa requirements in advance of submitting an application. Applicants are encouraged to discuss with their host supervisor the entry requirement and paperwork which must be complete to undertake this placement. Information about entry requirements can be found on the UK

Government [website](#). Students on Tier 4 visas must check their eligibility to undertake a studentship placement, particularly where this requires an extension to the studentship period. For further information, applicants should contact the relevant staff at their Research Organisation.

Students cannot undertake a placement at an institution where they have previously completed a degree.

Applicants are only eligible to hold one Globalink Research Award in their lifetime; therefore, any person who has been in receipt of an award before is not eligible to apply.

The home supervisor on the proposal must be employed by an organisation eligible for UKRI research grant funding i.e. UK Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), approved Research Council Institutes (RCIs) and approved Independent Research Organisations (IROs). Further information can be found on the [UKRI website](#).

The host supervisor must hold a faculty position at a Canadian university, must be eligible to hold Tri-Council funding and to supervise graduate students.

The topic of the research project carried out during the placement should be developed by the student in collaboration with the home and host university supervisors and be within the remit of UKRI. The topic can be related or unrelated to the student's doctoral research.

## *5.2 How to apply*

*Closing Date: 16:00 Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2020*

By submitting an application, you are confirming support from the home supervisor (including non-HEI supervisors where applicable), and, where relevant, the wider supervisory partnership (e.g. industrial supervisor) or training programme (e.g. DTP or CDT). It is the responsibility of the student and home supervisor to ensure that all relevant parties are aware of, and have approved, their participation in the scheme including the potential need to cover costs upfront.

Applications must be submitted using the Research Councils' Joint Electronic Submission system (Je-S) **by the student's home supervisor on behalf of the student**. Applicants should follow the process outlined below.

1. Select Documents
2. Select New Document
3. Select Council – NERC
4. Select Document Type – Standard Proposal
5. Select Scheme – NC&C
6. Select Call/Type/Mode – Globalink Research Placement Dec 2020

To use the Je-S system, the Research Organisation must be registered as a Je-S user. Full details are available on the [Je-S website](#). Further information can also be obtained by contacting the Je-S Helpdesk by email.

The call will close on Je-S at 4pm on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2020 and it will not be possible to submit to the call after this time. Applicants should leave enough time for their proposal to pass through their organisation's Je-S submission route before this date. Any proposal that is

incomplete or does not meet the eligibility criteria or submission rules outlined in this Announcement of Opportunity, will be rejected and will not be considered.

All attachments submitted through the Je-S system, with the exception of letters of support, must be completed in single-spaced typescript of minimum font size 11 point (Arial or other sans serif typeface of equivalent size to Arial 11), with margins of at least 2cm. Please note that Arial narrow, Calibri and Times New Roman are not allowable font types and any proposal which has used either of these font types within their submission will be rejected. References and footnotes should also be at least 11 point font and should be in the same font type as the rest of the document. Headers and footers should not be used for references or information relating to the project case. Embedded diagrams or pictures or numerical formulae may contain text that is smaller than 11 point but applicants should ensure that the font is legible. Text in tables and figure labels not within embedded diagrams should be at least 11 point. If applicants are not able to use Arial font and are unsure whether the font type they plan to use will meet the NERC guidelines, then they should contact the NERC Grants Team at [researchgrants@nerc.ukri.org](mailto:researchgrants@nerc.ukri.org) before submitting their proposal for confirmation whether or not the font type they plan to use is acceptable. Applicants referring to websites should note that referees will not use them.

Letters of support must be on headed paper and signed and dated. Attachments must not exceed the page limits specified for the attachment type (see below). Attachments should be converted to PDF and checked prior to attaching to the proposal in Je-S as PDF conversion of documents with any non-standard fonts (scientific notation, diagrams etc.) can result in changes, such as missing data or increased document length. It is the responsibility of the student applicant to ensure that font size and margins remain the same when documents are converted to a pdf.

Only costs being awarded by UKRI should be entered in Je-S, and **all costs applied for should be entered as 'DI – Other'**. **Applicants need to tick the exceptions box to ensure costs are allocated at 100% rather than 80%**. The Justification of Resources should detail a breakdown of all project costs, including those that will be funded by the Mitacs co-funding and these should be labelled to make clear which costs would be attributed to each funder. The Canadian host university should be added as a project partner with the Mitacs \$3,000 CAD (c. £1,740) added as an 'in kind' contribution.

Applicants should ensure that their proposal conforms to all eligibility and submission rules, otherwise their proposal may be rejected prior to the panel assessment. More details on NERC's submission rules can be found in the [NERC research grant and fellowships handbook](#) and in the [submission rules](#) on the NERC website.

Please note that on submission to council ALL non-PDF documents are converted to PDF; the use of non-standard fonts may result in errors or font conversion, which could affect the overall length of the document.

Additionally, where non-standard fonts are present, and even if the converted PDF document may look unaffected in the Je-S System, when it is imported into the Research Councils Grants System some information may be removed. We therefore recommend that where a document contains any non-standard fonts (scientific notation, diagrams etc), the document should be converted to PDF prior to attaching it to the proposal.

The expected start date for projects funded under this Announcement of Opportunity is any date from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 to 6<sup>th</sup> January 2022. Please enter 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 as the start date for the grant. Students can undertake their placement any time within the 12-month duration of the grant.

The title of the project on the application form must be the same as the title on Je-S as this will be used as the unique identifier.

**\*\*\*\*\*IMPORTANT\*\*\*\*\***

In the summary section on Je-S the following details should be added at the start, with a colon (":") used as a separator. Any application that does not follow this format in the summary section may be rejected or returned for amendment.

- Research council that the student is funded by
- The student's name
- Training Grant Reference Number

For example: "NERC : Student Name : NE/L123456/1"

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Applicants will be required to submit the following documents for assessment in addition to the Je-S Proforma. Some information is requested in multiple places, please ensure that the data is duplicated and does not reference other sections or documents.

Document / attachment	Requirements
Application form	The official application form template must be used and fully completed. This can be found on the <a href="#">UKRI website</a> . The document should be added as an ' <b>Other</b> ' type attachment.
Placement proposal	This can be up to five (5) sides of A4 and must be on the template found on the <a href="#">UKRI website</a> . This needs to be added as the ' <b>Case for support</b> ' attachment. It is our expectation that the student is responsible for developing and writing the application.
Student CV	CV for the doctoral student should be attached and the CV template on the <a href="#">UKRI website</a> should be used; this can be up to two (2) sides of A4.
Home supervisor letter of support	Only one (1) letter from the student's home HEI supervisor(s) is required. This letter must cover approval from other supervisors (e.g. industrial supervisors) where relevant or a separate letter of support from non-HEI supervisor(s) must be included. Each letter can be up to two (2) sides of A4.
Host supervisor letter of support	One (1) letter from each host supervisor named on the application form is required. Each letter can be up to two (2) sides of A4. This should be added as the ' <b>Project Partner Letter of Support</b> ',

Justification of resources	This should detail and justify all costs being applied for and which will be paid for from the Mitacs and UKRI contributions Up to two (2) sides A4
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**If successful, applicants will be required to complete a pre-departure pack before placements commence.**

As part of the research proposal, the student is expected to outline how a placement will:

- Allow them to develop as a researcher;
- Enhance their career prospects;
- Establish or enhance international collaboration;
- Benefit both the UK and Canada.

The host supervisor letter(s) of support will be required to demonstrate:

- To what extent the host supervisor will be actively involved in, intellectually and technically, supporting the student for the project;
- The availability of support to the student, including supervision from the host supervisor and / or others, is sufficient to achieve the project objectives; and
- Support for personal development of the student, including mentoring, and training courses.

The home supervisor letter(s) of support will be required to demonstrate:

- That the student has the support of, and approval from, all supervisors and other relevant parties (as detailed in section 3.2);
- The level of confidence that the student will successfully complete the project;
- The benefit this will have on the student and their future career; and
- The student's qualities, strengths, merits and achievements in conducting research activities.

## **6. Assessment Process**

Applications will be reviewed, and final funding recommendations made by a panel consisting of staff from UKRI and Mitacs and led by a Chair external to UKRI. Applicants should note that applications will not be reviewed by an academic expert in their field of study. Applications will be assessed against the following.

### *Assessment criteria*

<b>Assessment area (weighting)</b>	<b>Summary</b>	<b>Detailed explanation</b>
Quality of Placement Proposal (33%)	Evidence that a high quality, defined research project will take place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An original, innovative research question which is relevant and important to the field of study as demonstrated through a critical and balanced appraisal of the literature.</li> <li>• Demonstration that the vision and defined outcomes are achievable for the length of time available and the costs requested.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evidence of the student's ability to effectively complete the project and of a realistic project plan including a well thought through Justification of Resources.</li> </ul>
Student support and development (33%)	Evidence that the placement will develop and enhance the academic learning and career of the student who has experience of conducting doctoral-level research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The student will benefit from the placement with evidence that it maximises engagement with the host institution and the training opportunities available. The student will be embedded in a high-quality research environment with a critical mass of researchers. The student will engage in host institution activities and training specific for the individual (including transferable skills), foster long-term research networks, and have access to the facilities and equipment appropriate to the field of study.</li> <li>Demonstration of a suitable level and type of training for a doctoral student with appropriate support and mentoring from both the host and home supervisors, the wider host research team, and host institution. Evidence indicates host supervisor commitment and co-development of the placement with the student.</li> </ul>
Benefit to the UK and Canada (33%)	Evidence that the placement will generate societal, economic and industrial benefits to both the UK and Canada and enhance international collaboration.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The project will have the ability to impact positively on the UK and Canada. The project will generate benefits that have near or long-term relevance to society or the economy and complement existing research activity and/or national strategies as appropriate.</li> <li>The expected outcomes of the research will generate original expertise which can be exchanged and utilised by both the UK and Canada. The project provides unique research opportunities not available through collaborations solely within the UK or within Canada. The placement forges wide-reaching networks and collaborations of internationally renowned experts in the field(s) of study that will be sustainable beyond its lifetime.</li> <li>Demonstration of the opportunity for knowledge and skills enhancement for the host and home research groups. Evidence that the skills, techniques, and expertise that will be developed in the proposed partnership will provide innovative perspectives to help address current and future challenges facing the UK and Canada.</li> </ul>

### Score definitions

Each assessment criterion will be assigned a 0-10 score based on the definitions below.

Assessment definitions		Score	Remit banding
<b>Full coverage</b>	Highly appropriate and fully meets the criterion	10	A
	Highly appropriate and meets the criterion but with a minor issue	9	
<b>Effective coverage</b>	Effectively meets the criterion	8	B
	Effectively meets the criterion but with minor gaps	7	
	Effectively meets the criterion but with a major gap	6	
<b>Adequate coverage</b>	Adequately meets the criterion	5	C
<b>Partial coverage</b>	Partially meets the criterion but with minor gaps throughout	4	
	Partially meets the criterion but with a number of major gaps	3	D
<b>Minimal Coverage</b>	Minimally meets the criterion	2	
<b>Inappropriate</b>	Inappropriate	1	

Unsuccessful applicants will receive feedback and will be allowed to apply to a later call.

The assessment of individual applications as well as the balance of research areas across applications will be taken into account when making decisions. UKRI will use the recommendations of the panel along with the overall call requirements and the available budget when making the final funding decisions.

## 7. Timetable

Summary of key dates:

- Announcement published: 18<sup>th</sup> September 2020
- Call opens on Je-S: **23<sup>rd</sup> November 2020**
- Deadline for submission of proposals: **15<sup>th</sup> December 2020**
- Assessment panel meets: January 2021
- Outcomes communicated to applicants: w/c 5<sup>th</sup> March 2021
- Earliest start date for placements: 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021
- Latest end date for placements: 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022

## 8. Contact

For all enquiries, please contact [UKRIGlobalink@ukri.org](mailto:UKRIGlobalink@ukri.org)

For general inquiries pertaining to Mitacs program requirements please contact [international@mitacs.ca](mailto:international@mitacs.ca)

For information pertaining to the university endorsement (as per sections 4.2 and 5.1) the Canadian academic supervisor should liaise with their local Mitacs Business Development representative – which can be found [here](#).