

## **Industrial CASE Accounts**

### **Introduction**

Industrial CASE provides a mechanism for funding industrially relevant PhD studentships that are jointly supervised by the academic and industrial partners. Selected companies (the cooperating body) receive an industrial CASE (iCASE) studentship allocation from EPSRC and take the lead in arranging suitable projects with academic partners (HEI) of their choice. EPSRC will provide funding for these studentships direct to the academic partner through an Industrial CASE Account (ICA). Companies also provide the HEI with a cash top-up to the project of at least a third of the EPSRC funding. Projects must be in the engineering or physical sciences.

**Basis for ICA Value:** An Industrial CASE Account is a Training Grant that provides HEIs with the finance associated with each cohort of students starting their Industrial CASE training programmes with a specified set of company partners, usually from October onwards. The ICA grant will detail the individual studentships of which it is comprised. ICAs are intended to be flexible, such that departmental allocations may be operated independently, or combined to maximise the use of available funds.

**Collection of Information:** EPSRC will maintain a database of contact, financial and project information on students whom it supports on Industrial CASE Accounts. The information will be provided (by the host University) to EPSRC on an electronic form accessed via the web site as soon as the student is appointed or by October 31st the year following the date of issue of the award.

### **Industrial Case Account - Additional Conditions**

Notwithstanding Training Grant Condition TGC3, the following additional Terms and Conditions are specifically applicable / relevant to EPSRC Industrial CASE Accounts:

#### **GAC 1. Use of Funds**

Industrial CASE Account funding may only be used to support industrial CASE PhD studentships. Each iCASE award is a fully-funded studentship that is to be used in support of the specific student / project. HEIs are able to decide on the level of stipend (at or above the national minimum).

EPSRC expects that each iCASE student will undertake a full-time PhD. In exceptional circumstances, with the agreement of the university and cooperating body, a student may be registered on a part-time basis (minimum 50%). EPSRC will normally not increase the duration of the relevant ICA to cover the full duration of a specific studentship.

Should a student drop-out before completion of the project, EPSRC expects the Research Organisation to approach the original industrial partner in the first instance with a view to identifying a suitable replacement student.

Should the industrial partner withdraw, another cooperating body should be sought to maintain the industrial dimension of the iCASE award. If the event that this proves impractical, a student already registered may continue to be supported from the ICA.

#### **GAC 2. Visits to Cooperating Body**

Students are expected to spend at least three months of a three and a half year award on the premises of the cooperating body, pro-rata for shorter periods, subject to a minimum of two months. Students can spend longer periods with the company, subject to the HEI's minimum attendance requirements for students to remain registered for the higher degree.

#### **GAC 3. Responsibility of Cooperating Body Supervisor**

Contact should be maintained between the cooperating body (project partner) supervisor and student throughout the duration of the award as appropriate.

#### **GAC 4 Financial Contribution of Cooperating Body**

As a measure of its interest and involvement the Cooperating Body (project partner) must make a financial contribution to the project. Such a contribution should cover:

- a. expenses (e.g. travel and accommodation costs) incurred by the student as a result of periods spent with the project partner. The student should not be out of pocket as a result of undertaking the project.
  
- b. an annual cash contribution, to the HEI research organisation, towards the cost of the project and support of the student. The value of this contribution will be at least 1/3rd of the funding provided by EPSRC. There is an expectation that the stipend of an Industrial CASE student will be increased above the minimum payment using the industrial top-up.