

GUIDELINES FOR APPLICANTS – PhD Studentships in Railway Research

Rail Research UK (RRUK) invites well qualified graduates who meet the relevant eligibility criteria to apply for a limited number of **fully funded studentships** that will allow them to pursue research leading to the award of a PhD.

RRUK, the universities' centre for railway systems research, is a virtual centre established by EPSRC in May 2003. It consists of a core of thirteen research groups from nine universities who support the UK railway industry by providing a focal point for university based world-class research.

Each project is based at one of the consortium's member institutions. Applications should be made to the relevant university; successful applicants will become registered students of that university. An application form from that university must be requested, and submitted in the usual manner. For each project, contact details are given for the supervisor(s), and applicants may find it helpful to discuss the project with the supervisor(s) before making an application. Studentships will be awarded on a competitive basis.

If you make an application, please send a covering letter explaining why you think you would be suitable for the position in question along with a CV.

Applicants who are offered a place by one of the consortium universities are **NOT** guaranteed a funded studentship. Acceptance by a university only means that the applicant will be eligible to be considered for a studentship.

The studentships on offer are part-funded from EPSRC DTG funds, and as such the following rules apply with respect to eligibility:

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Existing criteria on residence and qualifications, based on the Education (Fees and Awards) Regulations 1997, and subsequent amendments continue to apply. An equivalent set of regulations exist for Scotland. This means that a student must demonstrate a relevant connection with the UK (usually established by being ordinarily resident for a period of 3 years immediately prior to the date of application for an award) to be eligible for stipend from a DTG.

Students with a relevant connection to an EU country other than the UK continue to be eligible for fees only. Since no stipend is payable, all the fees must be paid from the DTA. However, an EU candidate may be eligible for a full award if a relevant connection with the UK has been established. A relevant connection may be established if an EU national has been in full time education in the UK throughout the three years preceding the start date of the course.

If a student does not have a relevant connection with an EU country they will not be eligible for funding from a DTG. Nationality or country of origin is not a criterion for eligibility. Meeting the residence requirement as set out in the Education (Fees and Awards) Regulations 1997 is the test of eligibility.

In each case, please contact the institution to which you would like to apply to establish your eligibility and fees status.

Closing date: Monday 14th April 2008