

NERC Specific Oil & Gas CDT Terms and Conditions



NERC reserves the right to alter these terms and conditions over the lifetime of the CDT programme. All CDT award holders will be notified of changes when they occur.

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Alterations

Paragraph	Change
7.	Inclusion of clause explicitly permitting use of RTSG funds to assist with training administration of the delivery of a NERC CDT

General

1. NERC expects the Oil and Gas CDT to support the notional number of ten students awarded to them by NERC as well as ten match-funded studentships from CDT partners within each annual student cohort. The minimum cohort size should not be fewer than twenty students.
2. Each notional studentship award consists of:
 - Stipend: £55,452
 - Fees: £15,984
 - RTSG: £20,000
 - Management Fee: £1,500
3. Please note, the figures under Stipend and Fees above will be indexed to accommodate rises in the RCUK indicative stipend and fees levels over the lifetime of the studentship.
4. The Administrative Lead Partner must confirm acceptance and this notification will be taken as acceptance of the grant under the Terms and Condition of Research Council Training Grants document and associated guidance as well as the conditions contained within the document.

5. NERC expects the CDT partners involved in the CDT to come to an agreement about the transferring of funding. The DTG will not be amended to accommodate these arrangements. The Administrative Lead Partner is responsible for ensuring the agreed funds are transferred to CDT partners. NERC expects all institutions and individuals involved in the delivery of a studentship to place paramount importance on the interests of the students when making decisions about the transfer of funding.
6. The CDT will have flexibility in how they use the funding provided to them via their training grants as long as the minimum number of notional students are supported and the harmonised Training Grant Terms and Conditions are met.
7. **Costs associated with the administration of training and delivery of a NERC CDT may be taken from the CDT Training Grant (TGC5)**
8. The Research Training Support Grant (RTSG) is a contribution towards costs incurred training research student e.g. consumables, equipment, travel, etc. The RTSG is not intended to relieve a Research Organisation of any part of its normal expenditure.
9. Although the RTSG component of each training grant is calculated on the basis of an amount per notional studentship awarded, there is flexibility regarding the amount of RTSG funding any one student can receive. CDTs are able to allocate funding at their discretion across the studentships they are offering taking into account the different funding requirements between projects but must ensure that all students are supported adequately. Research Organisations must ensure that adequate facilities and resources are made available and students must not be expected to cover costs associated with the provision of their research training.

Training

10. In addition to providing training covering the full range of petroleum-related disciplines, the CDT must provide training to its students under each of the below four areas:
 - i. Effective production of unconventional hydrocarbons
 - ii. Extending the life of mature basins
 - iii. Exploitation in Challenging Environments
 - iv. Environmental Impact and Regulation

Governance Structures

11. The CDT must have one organisation acting as the Administrative Lead Partner. This is the organisation that will receive the Doctoral Training Grant (DTG) funding from NERC, and will be the main point of contact between NERC and the CDT. The position of Administrative Lead Partner does not confer upon itself the position of the dominant partner that will host the majority of studentships.
12. The CDT must have in place a lead operational manager and steering committee comprised of academic and non-academic partners to ensure effective and appropriate management.
13. NERC should be notified in advance of significant management board meetings and NERC reserves the right to attend these meetings as part of its on-going monitoring and strategic engagement activities.
14. Students can start at the CDT at any point in the academic year as long as it is not to the detriment of their training experience at both an individual and cohort level.

Industry Engagement

15. NERC will provide the Oil and Gas CDT with £40,000 p.a. for a minimum of three years to assist with the engagement of industrial project partners with the CDT. This funding is provided to the CDT for staff time to broker partnerships, collaborations and to secure leveraged investment within the CDT.
16. It is expected that the Oil & Gas CDT will leverage significant additional investment from industry.

Reporting

17. The responsibility for completing the Research Councils' requirements for reporting on students through the Je-S Studentship Details Portal (Je-S SDP) lies with the institution hosting the studentship and not the CDT Administrative Lead Partner.
18. The Administrative Lead Partner of the CDT must submit an annual report to NERC on behalf of the partnership. The annual report will not replace the Research Councils' requirement for reporting through the Je-S SDP nor the need to complete the annual Je-S Submission Survey.
19. This annual report will take the form of a pro forma which must be submitted in late August each year with the first required 31st August 2015. Information on the exact deadline date for submission will be circulated by NERC in good time ahead of this date for the years after 2015. These reports must be submitted electronically to stag@nerc.ac.uk and NOT through Je-S or the RCUK SBS Ltd.
20. The CDT will be required to host formal and informal visits from NERC. The CDT will be provided information ahead of these visits in a timely manner by NERC.
21. NERC expect to undertake a mid-term review of the CDT following the start of the third student cohort. The CDT is required to comply with this review and provide information as requested by NERC. Further information regarding the content and format of this review will be circulated in good time by NERC ahead of this process.
22. NERC fully reserves the right to discuss, adjust or terminate the CDT award based on the information provided as part of the reporting process. Prior to any decision of this nature being taken, NERC will discuss all possible outcomes with representatives from the CDT.

Strategic Engagement

23. As part of its strategic engagement and networking activities, NERC may contact CDT students to inform them of opportunities and activities that may be of interest to them.
24. All personal data held by NERC is stored and processed in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998.

FAQs & Guidance

25. Additional guidance and FAQs regarding the NERC CDTs can be found in the relevant section of the NERC website (<http://www.nerc.ac.uk/funding/available/postgrad/focused/cdt/>).

Contact

26. For any queries regarding the NERC CDTs, please contact stag@nerc.ac.uk at 01793 411629