**NDEvR supported Studentships Application Process**

With the aim of continuing to provide doctoral-level training under the RCNDE umbrella, NDEvR, on behalf of the RCNDE membership, commits to supporting two half-studentships, each at a funding level of £70,000 for the 2026-27 intake. These funds are intended to contribute towards the students’ stipends and cover costs associated with the training elements of their studies\*.

This funding is allocated from RCNDE’s Core funds and, as such, the two supported projects will be determined through an electronic vote conducted by the industrial members.

It is anticipated that the remaining half of each studentship will be funded through internal Doctoral Landscape Awards allocated to the RCNDE universities, or through similar or other funding streams dedicated to doctoral training.

By establishing a structured selection process, industrial members will gain visibility of the proposals submitted, allowing them to identify and directly sponsor or co-sponsor projects that align with their strategic objectives. In this case, the company, or companies, commit to providing the full £70,000 funding themselves. Projects sponsored directly in this way will be handled directly between the sponsoring company, or companies, and the hosting university.

**Application process:**

* **Project Submission:** Academics are invited to submit their project proposals by the end of June, using a standard template provided by the RCNDE Management Team (MT).
* **Initial Review:** Submitted projects will undergo a review and approval process aligned with the FIND CDT’s established procedures. This review will be completed by the end of July by the FIND CDT’s Management Board.

**Industrial Member Evaluation:** Approved project proposals will be shared with RCNDE Board members, which will be able to identify and express interest in sponsoring or co-sponsoring specific projects directly. These projects will be removed from the general voting pool. Requesting the removal of a project from the voting pool implies a firm commitment from the requesting company to sponsor the project. This clause is intended to prevent strong projects from being withdrawn from the selection process and ultimately left unfunded.

* For those projects that remain in the voting pool, the industrial members will evaluate each proposal based on relevance and interest to their organisation
[Score system: 0=No interest; 1= Some interest; 3=High interest].

A minimum threshold of 13 points must be achieved to pass to the next stage of the process. This threshold can be reviewed in future to adapt in changes in the voting membership.

To ensure an equitable distribution of RCNDE funds across all universities, only one project per university shall pass to the next stage of the process.

* **Final Selection:** The results of the industrial ranking will be presented at the September Board meeting, where final project approval will take place.
At this point, the original list of studentship proposals will be shared with RCNDE Associate members to allow them to identify projects that they would like to sponsor.
* **Funding Allocation:** The top four projects can proceed to student recruitment. In the event that more than two projects are able to recruit a student, the funding allocated to the following year’s call will be brought forward. The cut off point for recruiting students will be May of the year the studentship is expected to start (i.e., May 2026 for an October 2026 start).
* **Recruitment phase:** from October onwards.
* **Projects start:** October 2026, or earlier if a suitable candidate is recruited.

 \* FIND CDT’s training programme includes the following 20-credits units delivered over six residential weeks:

* Ultrasonic NDT and Data Analysis
* Ultrasonic Transduction & Optical and Thermal Methods
* Electromagnetic Methods and Radiography

Additionally, there is an NDE Practical Training at Lavenders that lasts two weeks.

The students supported via this funding will also be expected to attend the annual FIND CDT conference that takes place alongside the RCNDE Annual Research Review.

**Application Form (2-page total)**

**Title:**

**University:**

**Main academic supervisor:**

**2nd academic supervisor (optional):**

**Project description (include target application(s)), science involved and predicted research path)**:

**Alignment to the 5, 10, 20-year NDEvR Vision**:

**Indication of complementary source of funding (i.e., other 50% of the studentship):**