

Thank you to everyone who was able to attend the recent INSPIRE Webinar and we hope this has given you more insight into the INSPIRE Doctoral Training Partnership.

Here are some of the frequently asked questions that came from the Webinar, if you have a question that has not been answered by the resources on the INSPIRE Website or in the FAQ's below then please contact the INSPIRE Recruitment Team at [fels-pgr-apply@soton.ac.uk](mailto:fels-pgr-apply@soton.ac.uk)

Thank you and good luck with your application.

Question	Answer
<b>Application Questions</b>	
<p>Can I apply using my degree transcript as I won't complete my degree until September?</p>	<p>Yes, you can apply if you haven't received your degree certificate at the point of submitting your application.</p> <p>If you were successful at the interview stage then you would be made a conditional offer, subject to you providing evidence of successful completion.</p> <p>If you are doing and MSc or MRes, then you would need to provide your certification and transcript of your undergraduate degree. If you were successful at the interview stage, you would be made a condition offer subject to providing evidence of successful completion of your Masters.</p>
<p>If I want to apply for multiple projects, do I send in an application for each project or a single application noting all the projects I would like to apply for?</p>	<p>If you are interested in multiple INSPIRE DTP projects, then you make a single application and note all the projects that you would like to be considered for.</p> <p>You can apply up to 3 projects.</p> <p>Please put the projects in order of preference.</p> <p>We do encourage you to reach out to the supervisors listed on each project to find out more about what is involved so you can focus on your core interests.</p>
<p>I have already submitted my application, but I need to update some information. Am I able to do this?</p>	<p>If you have submitted your application and need to make a change or give an update, then please contact the Recruitment Admin Team on <a href="mailto:fels-pgr-apply@soton.ac.uk">fels-pgr-</a></p>

	<p><a href="mailto:apply@soton.ac.uk">apply@soton.ac.uk</a> to explain what changes you would like to make.</p> <p>We would encourage you to take the time to work through your application, we have resources on <a href="#">How To Apply which can be found here.</a></p>
<p><b>International application questions</b></p>	
<p>Do international students come in on an equal basis?</p>	<p>International Students are treated equally in the INSPIRE DTP recruitment process.</p> <p><a href="#">As set by NERC</a>, up to 30% of the INSPIRE Studentships can be granted to International Students.</p>
<p>As an International Student, do show my English Language proficiency?</p>	<p>If you have a IELTS/TOEFL certificate or please see the link below for suitable alternatives.</p> <p>For more information, please see the University of Southampton's <a href="#">English Language Proficiency</a> page</p>
<p>As an International Student, how am I interviewed?</p>	<p>We appreciate that not all invited candidates are able to attend an in-person interview due to geographical location.</p> <p>For those invited candidates unable to attend an in-person interview, we can conduct an online interview.</p> <p>There is also a condensed programme of events for online candidates which includes a presentation from The Head of INSPIRE Recruitment and a Q&amp;A session from current INSPIRE Students.</p>
<p>As an International Student, what would a UK PhD Award look like, so it is recognised by other countries?</p>	<p>All the PhD's within INSPIRE are awarded by The University of Southampton and the standard format is that you would declare your PhD title.</p> <p>On your certificate, it would state the title of the PhD.</p>
<p><b>Who to contact for help</b></p>	

<p>Who do I contact for more details about the project I am looking to apply for or have already applied for?</p>	<p>If you have any project specific questions about one of the projects advertised, then please contact the Lead Supervisor linked to that project.</p> <p>You can find the contact details by clicking the linked name of The Lead Supervisor <a href="#">on the advertised project</a>.</p>
<p>Who do I contact if I have a general question about my INSPIRE Application or about the recruitment process?</p>	<p>If you have any general enquiries about how to apply for an advertised project, then please email The Recruitment Admin Team at <a href="mailto:fels-pgr-apply@soton.ac.uk">fels-pgr-apply@soton.ac.uk</a></p> <p>Please allow for up to 3-5 working days for The Recruitment Admin Team to reply to you.</p> <p>You can also find useful information on <a href="#">How To Apply which can be found here</a>.</p>
<p><b>Interview Day questions</b></p>	
<p>Will I be interviewed in person?</p>	<p>The INSPIRE Recruitment process has two options for invited candidates.</p> <p>There is the option to attend an in-person interview at <a href="#">The National Oceanography Centre, Southampton</a>.</p> <p>To help invited candidates attend their interview in-person, The INSPIRE DTP will reimburse up to £150 towards travel and accommodation expenses.</p> <p>The INSPIRE In-person Interview Day comprises a full day of events which includes a presentation from The Head of INSPIRE Recruitment, a tour of The National Oceanography Centre, Southampton, Q&amp;A session with current INSPIRE Students. You will also get the opportunity to meet the Lead Supervisor of your selected project.</p> <p>As this is a full day, we also provide hot beverages and a light lunch.</p> <p>For those invited candidates unable to attend an in-person interview, we can conduct an online interview.</p>

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<p><b>INSPIRE Recruitment questions</b></p>	
<p>How does INSPIRE actively promote EDI (Equity, Diversity &amp; Inclusion) within the recruitment process?</p>	<p>INSPIRE has a strong focus on EDI and there is also a big international initiative. NERC (<a href="#">Natural Environment Research Council</a>), have been supportive by creating ways to encourage further initiatives across the entire Doctoral Training Partnership provision.</p> <p>An example of that is looking at students who come through non-traditional application routes, so if you had any difficulties during your educational career or alternative experiences, we encourage you to bring these forward at the interview stage. If you require reasonable adjustments (such as additional time) for interviews, please let us know by emailing <a href="mailto:fels-pgr-apply@soton.ac.uk">fels-pgr-apply@soton.ac.uk</a>.</p> <p>We have <a href="#">resources for all applicants</a> to help, <a href="#">demystify the PhD recruitment process</a> and we encourage you to leverage that <a href="#">knowledge bank</a>. We are in the process of extending these resources and more content will be added over time.</p> <p>We recognise structural and long-standing issues with under-representation in postgraduate study at national and international levels. Here at Southampton we are taking action to increase the representation of our intake, to embed understanding of the needs of a diverse research community and to create a supportive and inclusive environment in all of our activities. Further details can be found in <a href="#">our EDI statement</a>.</p>
<p>How are INSPIRE applications assessed?</p>	<p>All INSPIRE applications are assessed by the project supervisors and by the INSPIRE Recruitment Panel to ensure fairness.</p>

<p>One of the referees I put on my application has not responded, do I need to supply another one?</p>	<p>If your referee has not yet replied to The INSPIRE Recruitment Team, then we would encourage you to reach out to your referee to check if there is a reason for a delay in responding to the referee request.</p> <p>It could be that your referee is away, not yet seen the email request or a number of other reasons they have not replied. You may wish to let them know the deadline so that they are able to plan ahead.</p> <p>If The INSPIRE Recruitment Team do not get any response after you have followed up on your referee, they may ask you to supply another reference for your application.</p>
<p>What period does the funding cover?</p>	<p><a href="#">The INSPIRE Programme funds 3.5 years of your PhD journey</a> – this includes your stipend, your tuition fees, and your Research and Training Support Grant.</p>