University of Leeds BBSRC White Rose DTP PhD scheme
Guidelines for applicants in the Faculty of Biological Sciences

The University of Leeds forms part of the White Rose Universities Doctoral Training Programme. The programme, funded by BBSRC, will fund interdisciplinary studentships in three priority areas, Agriculture and Food Security, Industrial Biotechnology and Bioenergy, and World Class Bioscience.

It is competitive and the application process can be confusing. To help you to make the best application you can, we have produced the following guide. We hope that it will answer your questions and help you to succeed!

Before you apply:

Check if you are eligible to apply:

1) Candidates must have or be expecting the equivalent of a UK undergraduate degree at 2.1 or above. A Masters level qualification is not a requirement.

2) UK applicants will be eligible for a full award; European Union applicants will be eligible for tuition fees only, except where residency has been established for more than 3 years prior to the start of the course. Non-UK/EU candidates are not eligible.

If English is not your first language you need to meet our language requirements before starting the degree (but not before applying).

Preparing your application

You can choose to apply for up to three projects.

Available projects

Supervisor keyword search  http://www.fbs.leeds.ac.uk/gradschool/keywords/mnuSubjects.php
Research in FBS  http://www.fbs.leeds.ac.uk/research/
Staff pages  http://www.fbs.leeds.ac.uk/staff/
http://www.astbury.leeds.ac.uk/people/people.php

Completing your application

There are two forms to complete

1) Online PhD application.
2) White Rose application form

Both forms must be completed by the deadline of 5th Jan 2018

When applying for the PhD place, please select PhD in Biological Sciences. In the funding section please indicate that you are applying for the BBSRC DTP. You do not need to upload any documents to the online application or provide a research proposal.
After you complete the Online PhD application you will receive an ID number (also referred to as a Banner ID). This is usually a 9 digit number in the format 20xxxxxxx. This is required for the White Rose form.

Please complete the White Rose application form and email to fbsgrad@leeds.ac.uk

Please include the following documents in your email:

1) Transcripts. If you have not yet graduated, please provide details of marks to date.
2) CV
3) If English is not your first language and you have a valid test, please include your IELTS/TOEFL Certificate (or alternative proof of language)

The White Rose form is one of the key ways we assess your application, so please take care in your responses and do not exceed the word limits.

References

Please send the reference form to your referees and ask them to complete and return to us by the 17th Jan 2018. All references must be emailed to fbsgrad@leeds.ac.uk

FAQS

If I am applying for three DTP projects, do I need to complete the online application three times?
No, you only need to complete one online PhD application, and ensure you have listed the projects on the White Rose form. If you are applying for non-DTP projects as well, you should make a separate application for those.

My referee won’t be able to return the reference in time, will I be rejected?
No you will not be rejected on this basis. However references are very useful so you may wish to contact an alternative reference if possible. Please let us know of any problems and we will try to help.

I have also applied to the Wellcome Trust at Leeds and they have my references – do I need to ask them again?
No, we can access the references from the Wellcome Trust application.

Should I contact the supervisor/s before applying?
We recommend contacting potential supervisors to discuss the project before applying. You can find staff email addresses on our website. However you do not need a supervisor’s permission or acceptance before making an application.

I am an EU candidate and I have been studying/living in the UK for the last three years – am I eligible?
Yes, you would be eligible to apply, and if successful would receive a full studentship (fees and stipend).

I am an EU candidate and I have not lived in the UK / have lived in the UK for less than three years – am I eligible?
You can still apply. However if you do not have at least three years of residency in the UK you are eligible for a fees-only studentship, i.e. your academic fees would be paid for you but you would not receive a stipend.

When will I find out the decision on my application?
We will shortlist after the deadline and will invite selected candidates to interview. Interviews are planned for the 7th and 8th Feb. If you have been selected for interview we will email you with more details. If you have not had an email by the 2nd of Feb you have not been selected for the interviews. We will contact all applicants by the end of Feb.