

Supervisor-led Studentships Q&A

From SGSSS: Professor Mhairi Mackenzie (Deputy Director) & Dr Anna-Marie Linnell (Knowledge Exchange and Partnerships Manager)

From Skills Development Scotland: Dr Emma Hollywood



What will we cover?



- A brief introduction to DTP2 and its implications for supervisors
- A brief introduction to each of our supervisor led competitions
- Time for Q&A

Supervisor-led Studentships

Key changes as we move into DTP2



- **Major change in ESRC Completion Policy for students commencing from October 2024:** completion within the funded period.
 - **Risk assessment** and **feasibility** key in devising, assessing and implementing research proposals
- **The length of the standard PhD** has increased to 3.5 years in recognition of ESRC expectations that students will undertake a 3ms placement (more later). All studentships must be offered as **1+3.5 or +3.5** awards. (A reminder that all studentships must be offered as **full-time or part-time** opportunities).
- **Eligibility for first supervision:** first supervisors need to have been returned to eligible UoAs (visit [this](#) page for more). We have further guidance for incoming members of staff and ECRs. All other academics can be second/third supervisors.

Supervisor-led Studentships

Key changes as we move into DTP2



- **Move to challenge-led pathways:** each applicant must select a challenge-led pathway within which their student will sit.

Communication, AI, and New Technologies	Environment, Migration, and Demographic Change
Governance and Institutions	Health, Wellbeing and Communities
Securities: Justice, Economies, and Conflict	Social Inequalities

Supervisor-led Studentships

Key notes for new supervisors



- In 2021 we introduced a new element to our marking Framework – the Whole Person Approach – all successful applicants to our supervisor led competitions will be expected to use this in recruiting students – you will receive guidance on this following our panel decisions.
- In 2020 the ESRC changed its recruitment policy on international students – we are now able to recruit international students up to a maximum of 30% of our total allocation. This is complex to implement across competitions and so successful supervisors will receive guidance on recruitment.

Supervisor-led Competitions

There are three separate competitions

Steers Competition

3 awards in each of the following steers

- Advanced Quantitative Methods
- Dataset
- Interdisciplinary

'Open' Collaborative Competition

~14 awards

Skills Development Scotland Collaborative Competition

3 awards



Dates for your diary

- **18th October:** Stage 1 application (expression of interest) deadline for Steers
- **16th November:** Deadline for Collaborative Competition and SDS Collaborative Competition Applications
- **12th December:** Stage 2 application (full) deadline for Steers

Please note institutions may set their own internal deadlines

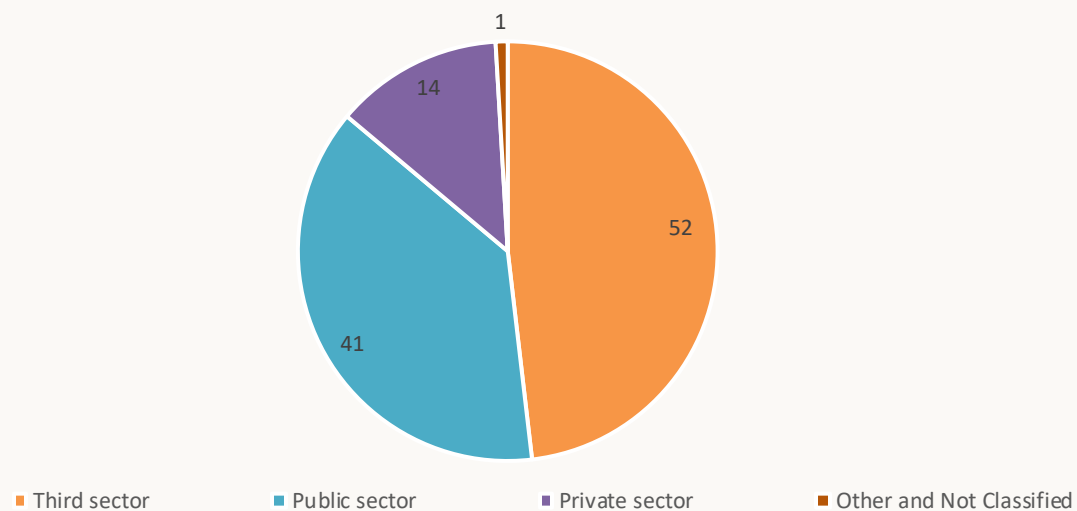


Collaborative Studentships

Partner Organisations

Since 2017, the SGSSS has awarded 108 collaborative studentships with a range of public, private and third sector organisations.

Studentships by sector



Collaborative Studentships

Partner Contributions



Partner organisations are expected to contribute to the studentship financially. As we know not all organisations will be able to contribute the same amount, there is a sliding scale:

Type of Partner Organisation	Partner Contribution	SGSSS Contribution	HEI Contribution
Private sector (micro)	10%	65%	25%
Private sector (small)	25%	50%	25%
Private sector (med)	33%	50%	17%
Private sector (large)	50%	50%	0%
Public sector	33%	50%	17%
Charity sector	10%	65%	25%

Skills Development Scotland

Dr Emma Hollywood



SDS Collaborative PhD Programme



How it works

- SDS works closely with the university, academic supervisors and the student to support successful completion of the PhD.
- Each student has an SDS sponsor who links the student into SDS and the wider skills community.
- **The PhD should have a strong focus on policy and practice outcomes and impact.**

Benefits of the SDS programme

- Engages the academic community in Scotland to support policy-relevant skills research.
- Produces new research aligned to the evolving skills agenda in Scotland.
- Develops a new group of researchers with an in-depth understanding of the unique Scottish skills landscape.
- Find out more in our 2023/24 PhD Brochure

2023/24 SDS PhD topics



- Role of career information, advice and guidance in addressing poverty and socio-economic disadvantage.
- Career information, advice and guidance for adults through the lifecycle
- Diversification of the career information, advice and guidance workforce in Scotland.

Student Placements

Introducing “Research in Practice”



Through Research in Practice, SGSSS seeks to equip ESRC funded students to be confident collaborating across sectors and disciplinary boundaries.

- From 2024, all ESRC funded students are strongly encouraged to undertake a placement as part of their studentship.
- The placement should be 3 months (full time students) or 6 months (part time students) and is included as part of the standard 3.5 year award.
- Placements can take place within academia or out with academia. If taking place within academia, they need to be in a new discipline and Research Organisation for the student.
- We are not asking collaborative supervisors or partners to ‘pre-design’ a placement: this needs to be guided by the student’s Development Needs Analysis. However, you are invited to consider potential options for a placement as part of the application.

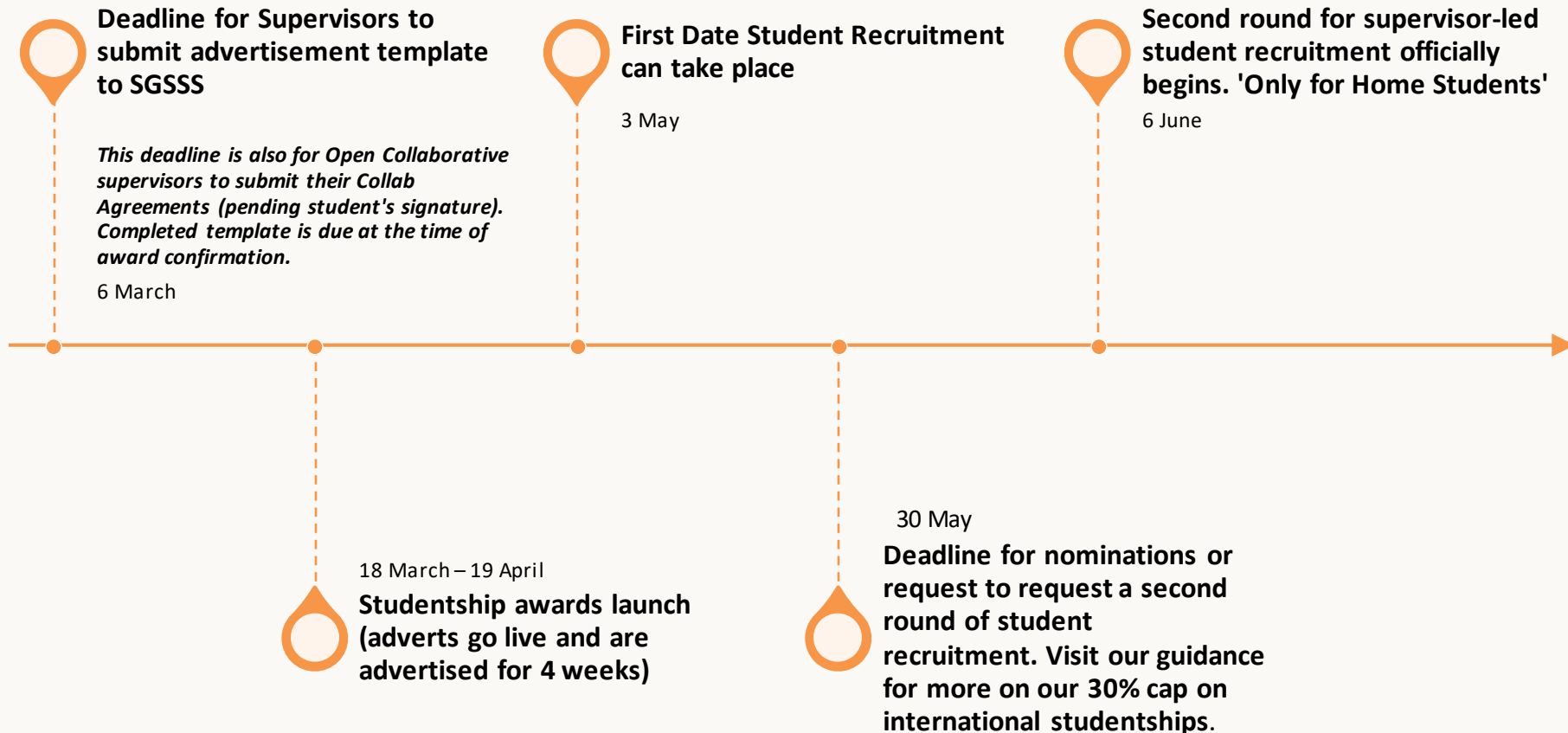
Timeline



Competitions Timeline



Student Recruitment Timeline (all competitions)



Next Steps

- To find out more about the collaborative studentships competition and see examples of current projects, check out the case studies and introductory video at:
www.sgsss.ac.uk/studentships/collaborative-competition/
- For more detailed guidance on how to apply to the various steers (AQM, Datasets or ID) within the Steers Competition, please see the videos recorded by Professor Lydia Plowman and Dr Alan Marshall, available on our website here:
www.sgsss.ac.uk/studentships/steers-competition/
- If you have any additional queries, please email us on team@sgsss.ac.uk

