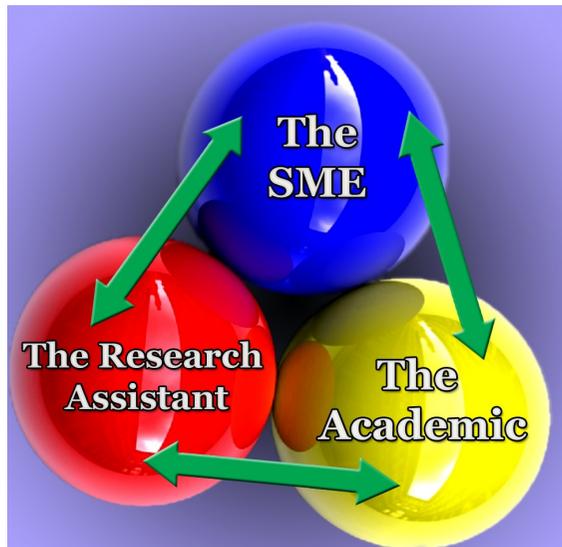


IRSA

Innovation through the Research
Support Accelerator

Do You Have an Idea for an Applied Research Project?



What Is IRSA

The primary objective of IRSA is to help accelerate the development and exploitation of new products, services, technologies, processes and markets for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in the East Midlands through supported collaboration on research and development with the University of Leicester.

So, What Does That Mean?

Do you have an idea for an extended piece of research with the potential for downstream applications but insufficient research student support?

Do you have good links to local companies who would be interested in a collaborative research project to develop an idea, proof of concept or working model?

How Does it Work?

Projects will apply University of Leicester R&D capability to SME-led problems using a graduate research assistant to deliver significant output.

The IRSA collaboration template:

- An East Midlands Small or Medium Company
- Two academic supervisors
- A graduate Research Assistant

Why?

- The Academic — one years full time MPhil researcher on a business facing research project with the potential to increase substance within the research excellence framework.
- The Graduate Assistant — registration for a one year research MPhil and the opportunity to develop a business facing research project gaining employment skills. Will receive a stipend of 15K. The placement will also have access to a small amount of funding to pay for expenses incurred whilst carrying out the research.
- The SME—R&D support/solutions for a targeted problem and one years development support from the research assistant.

Who?

- This project is open to any department in any college that offers MPhil research projects.
- The collaborating East Midlands SME needs to be willing and able to fund the departmental costs of the project research assistant—currently around **£4K** for most departments but some are higher particularly if the project needs additional consumables (e.g. science lab costs).
- The graduate needs to be UK or EU based and is aimed at this years graduating cohort although the best applicant for each project will be appointed.

Eligibility

- Company—must comply with ERDF eligibility rules. Must be based in the East Midlands, have less than 250 employees and less than 46 mill euro turnover. Larger companies could be involved through their supply chain provided the collaborating company is eligible.
- Graduate— must comply with University rules relating to MPhil degrees and be able to start autumn 2013 or up to March 2014. Must have obtained their first degree within the last three years. This project is looking at UK and EU applications only.
- Academic—both need to be core payroll (not paid by another project e.g. research council funding) and able/willing to provide one day a week in time sheeted hours for ERDF match funding for the duration of the project. The project must fulfil the University criteria for an MPhil and be entirely research based.

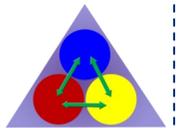
So what's the Process?:

- Academic/department sources the company
- Ensure the project is sufficiently rigorous for a one year MPhil
- Contact IRSA to register interest and provide a summary of the project proposal and the potential business output.
- 2 'core' academics available to supervise
- Completion of ERDF SME checks
- Ensure the company is happy to sign a university collaboration agreement
- Advertise for the project assistant followed by standard University selection and eligibility procedures.
- Completion of final collaboration agreements for both the university and ERDF.
- All processes completed before March 2014 at the latest.

Outcomes

- An opportunity for 18 MPhil graduate placements.
- An opportunity to develop a deep collaboration with business
- Potential seed funding for PhD—BUT if planning to extend the project to a PhD, follow on funding needs to be found by the academic/department from outside the university.

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