



## *Prize Studentship Application Guide*

The SUPA prize studentships support researchers of any nationality to perform postgraduate research within one of the SUPA themes for a PhD at any of the eight participating physics departments, namely Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Heriot-Watt, St Andrews and Strathclyde Universities and the University of the West of Scotland.

The studentships provide support for tuition fees and a maintenance grant of £14000 per year for a three-and-a-half-year period, increasing by £500 per year plus a research training support grant (RSTG) of £1200 per year. There will be no requirement to teach associated with these positions. Prize studentships will be awarded competitively and up to eight awards will be available this year for outstanding candidates.

SUPA is the funding body for the prize studentships. Applicants are advised that they must also apply to their chosen university to undertake a PhD and must meet the minimum requirements of that institution.

Applications must be made online using the web form at: <http://www.supa.ac.uk/studentship/>. At the end of the process, you will be given an application code. Please make a careful note of this code.

You are responsible for completing the form accurately and for ensuring that your two named referees either upload the references or send them directly to SUPA by email or by post before the deadline. Your referees will each need a copy of the SUPA Academic Reference Form. It is very important that both you and your referees quote your unique application reference code and your name on all correspondence and submissions. Our email address for the submission of references is [przrefs@supa.ac.uk](mailto:przrefs@supa.ac.uk).

Our postal address is: SUPA Studentship References  
Scottish Universities Physics Alliance  
James Clerk Maxwell Building  
The King's Buildings  
Mayfield Road  
Edinburgh  
EH9 3JZ

On completion of the online form, you will be invited to upload your CV. Please note that you can only upload one document (500 KB max), preferably in pdf format. Alternatively, you may e-mail your CV to [przcvs@supa.ac.uk](mailto:przcvs@supa.ac.uk). CVs are optional and are not a requirement. A CV is not a substitute for answering the questions on the form.

### ***Requirements***

Please prepare the following before starting the application form:

1. Your contact details, including a valid email address.
2. The contact details of two referees who have agreed to provide references for you. You may not use a potential future supervisor as a referee unless he or she has been your tutor or supervisor during your undergraduate or Masters degree.
3. A summary of your research proposal (max 2500 characters including spaces).
4. A statement of the reasons for your application (max 2500 characters including spaces).
5. Details of your higher education academic record and any English language qualifications (including scores and grades).
6. Optional: a CV in pdf format that is no more than 2 pages in length.

The online application form requires you to use a modern javascript-enabled web browser. The following are examples: Firefox 3.0, Mozilla 1.x, Netscape 8, Internet Explorer 7, Internet Explorer 6, Safari, Opera 8.x. Ensure that the browser settings allow cookies, javascript and popups.



## The Scottish Universities Physics Alliance

You must complete your application in English using a Western European Latin character set (if you are typing the form in English this will most likely be the case).

If you find you cannot answer a question on the form but it insists on a response, type "None" in the field and continue. There is space on the last page of the application form for you to draw our attention to this.

You will be asked to state your first choice of SUPA university and preferred SUPA Theme. You are encouraged to make contact with prospective supervisors and research groups before applying. Many SUPA PhD opportunities can be found on FindaPhD.com by searching for "physics" and "Scotland" (<http://www.findaphd.com/firstmain.asp>).

The SUPA universities are:

- Aberdeen
- Dundee
- Edinburgh
- Glasgow
- Heriot-Watt
- Strathclyde
- St Andrews
- University of the West of Scotland

The SUPA Themes are:

- Astronomy and Space Physics
- Condensed Matter and Materials Physics
- Particle Physics (Theoretical and Experimental)
- Photonics
- Physics and Life Sciences
- Nuclear and Plasma Physics

Many fields on the application form have help text associated with them. Click on the title of the field, or on the yellow question mark button alongside each question, and information to guide you will appear in a popup window.

Applications must be submitted before the closing date of January 31st, 2009. Successful applicants will be contacted within three months of the closing date.

### **A note about CVs**

CVs (résumés) are optional. If you choose to send us your CV, the recommended format is as follows:

- 1. Personal Details**
  - a) The date on which the CV was prepared
  - b) Your name
  - c) Your current educational establishment or employer
- 2. Personal profile/ career objectives**
- 3. Education**
- 4. Experience**
- 5. Skills and achievements**
- 6. Positions of responsibility**
- 7. Personal interests**

CVs in the UK do not usually contain photographs. If your CV already has a photograph, you may submit it but please ensure that the file size is below the limit of 500KB. Your CV should not consist of more than two A4 or US letter pages. Any additional material you send may be ignored. We would prefer to receive your CV as a pdf but you may send Microsoft Word or Open Office documents if necessary. For more advice about writing CVs, please visit <http://www.prospects.ac.uk/>