



IAPETUS2 Studentship Competition 2023

Staff Guidance

03 August 2022 – VI

Background

1. IAPETUS2 NERC Doctoral Training Partnership has been awarded 16 notional studentships per annum as part of the DTP2 award ([Doctoral Training Partnerships 2 – UKRI](#)). We are seeking collaborative PhD project proposals for the 2023 round, of which 25% or more should be CASE awards. Up to 30% of studentships may be awarded to International applicants, but supervisors should check with their own institutions whether there is support for the difference between home and international fees.
2. Within the Partnership's bid for funding and accreditation from NERC it was committed that an annual open competition would be held to award studentships across the Partnership's 9 Host Organizations (HOs). This document outlines how IAPETUS2's annual studentship competition will operate in the 2022/23 academic year to recruit its 2023 intake.

Available Funding & Support

3. IAPETUS2 has at least 16 fully-funded postgraduate studentships available for students commencing their postgraduate research studies in the 2023/24 academic year.
4. HOs may commit to topping-up and adding to the number of IAPETUS2 studentships available with their own institutional funding, following the UKRI's 50% studentship funding rule. These additional awards are formally classified as IAPETUS2 studentships and students are selected in the same way as fully funded IAPETUS2 students via this competition, with the highest-ranked student from the funding HO selected from the rank order following the first 16 award-holders initially selected for funding.
5. Each IAPETUS2 studentship is for 3.5 years in duration, commencing from the start of the 2023/24 academic year, and provides the following financial support:
 - a) A full tuition fee waiver at the UKRI Home rate;
 - b) A tax-free maintenance grant set at the UKRI national rate (which in 2022/23 is £16,062 and guaranteed by UKRI to increase in line with the GDP deflator);
 - c) Considerable project-specific Research Training Support funding (£6,000 to £10,000);
 - d) Provision of IAPETUS2 training events, travel + subsistence; and
 - e) Support for one or two external placements of up to six months in total duration.
6. Funding is available for both full- and part-time students. Part-time awards are for up to 7 years in duration and funded at 50% of the full-time rate.

Eligibility & Requirements for Funding

7. All postgraduate research projects approved by IAPETUS2 must:
 - a) Be within the [NERC disciplinary remit](#).
 - b) Be hosted within one of IAPETUS2's Host Organizations (HOs) **and** within one of the HO's academic units that was part of IAPETUS2's original bid to NERC for DTP funding. (See [Appendix 2](#))

- c) Involve a joint supervisory team consisting of supervisors from two or more of IAPETUS2's HOs, with the supervisor from another HO being classified as the student's second supervisor, and additional supervisors from the first HO named subsequently. Please consider whether the size of the supervisory team is appropriate for a PhD studentship. *It may be more appropriate to include some colleagues in an advisory role rather than as a supervisor.*
8. For a student to be eligible to be considered and receive an IAPETUS2 studentship they must meet [UKRI's student-eligibility criteria](#) (see §5.2).
9. Applicants are categorized as Home students if they meet the following criteria:
- Be a UK National (meeting residency requirements), or
 - Have settled status, or
 - Have pre-settled status (meeting residency requirements), or
 - Have indefinite leave to remain or enter the UK
- Otherwise they are categorized as International Applicants. The DTP is able to award up to 30 % of its studentships as International Studentships BUT the award only covers the Home Fees level and the stipend. Any difference between the Home and International Fees must be met by the HO. The DTP is not allowed to cover the difference, nor may other forms of UKRI funding be used ([see this link for further information](#)). Please contact your HO representative if you are unsure of the implications of this rule for you.
10. All HOs must be aware fully of the rules and regulations governing IAPETUS2's studentships and ensure necessary checks are undertaken. IAPETUS2 will also check that projects and nominations comply with NERC and IAPETUS2 guidelines.

Process

Stage I – Project Development & Approval

11. Eligible academic staff from across IAPETUS2's HOs are invited to submit proposed projects that are accredited by IAPETUS2 and available to prospective students to be undertaken whilst receiving an IAPETUS2 studentship. For more on which supervisors are eligible, see [Appendix 3](#).
12. To manage demand for studentships, lead supervisors who appointed an IAPETUS2 student who will start in 2022 are NOT eligible to be a lead supervisor for an IAPETUS2 studentship starting in 2023 see [Appendix 3](#).
13. **Please be aware of the [UKRI statement on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion](#).** In particular, when developing a project please:
- a) strive to have a diverse PhD project supervisory team, for example including academics with a mix of gender, ethnicity and career stage, in the same way that breadth of subject expertise is considered.
 - b) use inclusive language in the PhD project description. The links below provide good advice on this topic and can be used to check the language in project descriptions:
 - [Gender Decoder: find subtle bias in job ads \(katmatfield.com\)](#)
 - [Gender Bias Decoder | Totaljobs](#)
 - c) consider project collaborators to ensure visibility of career opportunities beyond academia, which are a key consideration for some groups of applicants. Remember that our placement schemes can be used to support collaborations in this way if CASE support isn't feasible.
 - d) ensure your training in unconscious bias is up to date in advance of interacting with and selecting applicants.
14. Project proposals must be submitted on to the IAPETUS2 Online Project form between the 1st September and the 28th October 2022 (web link to be circulated). For more on the Studentship Competition Timeline, see [Appendix 1](#). The form asks for the supervisory team to detail various aspects of the project, such as its methodology and timeline. The IAPETUS2 project-code number will be added once the completed form is approved. When completing the timeline, **please ensure that it is clear that funding ceases at the end of 3.5 years.**

15. Once completed forms are submitted online, the IAPETUS2 Director of the lead supervisor's HO, will approve (or otherwise) the proposal and then submit it to the IAPETUS2 Administrator to approve and publish on to the website.
16. Within the Online Form, the supervisory team are also asked to detail:
 - a) The *Principal* IAPETUS2 Research Theme the project falls under. Please see [Appendix 4](#) for guidance in completing this section.
 - b) Which members of the supervisory team are Early Career Researchers (using the NERC definition of PhD + 8 years). Please list the ECR as the first supervisor on the form if this is indeed their role in the project, rather than listing a more senior colleague where the ECR is precluded from formally being first supervisor according to institutional regulations.
 - c) The level of RTSG required to support the project. IAPETUS2 provides a minimum of £6,000 of RTSG to each project and amounts greater than this need to be listed **and justified**. A maximum RTSG of £10,000 will be available to a single project. In accordance with IAPETUS2'S RTSG policy, the final level of RTSG provided for each project will only be confirmed by IAPETUS2 at the end of the competition once the students making up the new cohort are confirmed. Remember to include details of all costs of specialist training that will not be covered by the core IAPETUS2 training programme.
 - d) Whether the project will involve one or more CASE partners and what their contribution will involve. NERC requires all DTPs to make 25% or more awards to CASE studentships, and NERC current CASE requirements are specified in [Appendix 6](#). Where possible, letters of support from CASE partners should be provided at this stage; however, they can be shared with IAPETUS2 at any point through the process. Please remember a CASE partner can be added to a project/studentship at any point during the process until the 24th February 2023.
 - e) Whether any external (end-user) collaborative partners are involved in the project (see [Appendix 7](#) for NERC's definition of an end-user collaboration).
 - f) How the project maps on to NERC's research areas in percentage units, identifying the primary classification from all the areas selected. To see the full list of NERC Research Areas, see [Appendix 8](#).
17. The IAPETUS2 Administrator will check that proposed projects meet IAPETUS2's core requirements, and will then log and publish on IAPETUS2's website. Each project will be allocated an IAPETUS2 project-reference number, which is used to identify projects throughout the process and beyond. This number will be added to the project's web profile and shared with the principal supervisor.
18. Project proposals can be developed and processed at any point up to Friday 28th October 2022; **however, all HOs are strongly advised to submit new projects into the competition as soon as possible, as this will enhance their visibility through advertising on the site.**
19. IAPETUS2 projects that were approved and advertised during the last studentship competition (2021/22) but not recruited to, can be resubmitted into the 2022/23 competition. If you would like to roll over a previously submitted project, please inform the IAPETUS2 Administrator.

Stage 2 – Applications from Prospective Students

20. Applications are made via an online form. A Word template is provided so that applicants may edit their responses in advance, and applicants are strongly encouraged to discuss their applications with supervisors. **The candidate must complete the IAPETUS2 Online Application Form on the IAPETUS2 website by Friday 6th January 2023 at 12 pm (GMT)**. Prospective Students must also complete an EDI form online which is required for NERC quality-control processes, but none of the information from this form is passed on outside the IAPETUS2 administration.
21. The IAPETUS2 administrator will send anonymized applications to the supervisory teams of each project on Wednesday 11th January 2023 (see section 25 below) for initial longlisting for each project. Using the application forms only, supervisors will choose up to three candidates they would like to proceed to the next stage of the competition and then inform IAPETUS2.
The application form requests information from those of underrepresented groups in order to identify applicants who may be guaranteed an interview (up to 30 % of interview places). This information will NOT be passed on to supervisors at the longlisting stage.

22. A combined longlist of applicants will be collated on Friday 20th January 2023, and IAPETUS2 longlisted applicants including those who are part of the widening participation scheme will be invited to put in a full application at the degree-awarding institution. Longlisted applicants will also be asked to email their CVs and transcripts to the primary supervisor. They will be advised not to include a photograph and write their CV without gender specific pronouns to avoid unconscious bias during the application process. Some HO's will request applications from a wider group of applicants, so please confirm with the institutional administrator what is required in each case.
23. Applicants who have been longlisted for multiple projects will be asked to discuss with the supervisory teams which **one** project they wish to be considered for. This decision must be communicated to the IAPETUS2 administrator by **Friday 27th January 2023**.
24. All HO's need to ensure that the correct PhD application documents are provided by prospective students and that they are subject to the HO standard fee status assessment process. This information must be available by **Tuesday 27th February 2023** at the latest for evaluation by the studentship panel.
Note: University HO's have an online application form. If applying for a project hosted by, or with lead supervisor at BAS, BGS or UKCEH then the completed application with all supporting documents should be sent to the lead supervisor by email at BAS BGS or UKCEH.

Stage 3 – Assessing & Nominating Candidates to IAPETUS2

25. The supervisory team for each project is responsible for selecting their preferred candidate for the project. This process has changed compared to previous years and follows four stages:
 - a) On Wednesday 11th January 2023, the IAPETUS2 administrator will circulate anonymized application forms for each project to the supervisory teams (see section 21 above). The lead supervisor should coordinate with their team and provide a longlist of their top **three** candidates by Wednesday 18th January 2023.
 - b) The IAPETUS2 administrator will combine these longlists into an overall longlist and request those applicants who appear more than once to confer with supervisors and choose which project they wish to be considered for (section 23).
 - c) On Monday 23rd January 2023, the IAPETUS2 administrator will circulate non-anonymised application forms for all longlisted candidates. The candidates will send their CVs and transcripts directly to the primary supervisors and the primary supervisor is responsible for requesting references. The internal process for each HO will then be followed to produce a nomination of a maximum of one nominee per supervisor (or two if one applicant meets widening participation criteria – section 21).
 - d) The lead supervisor completes an IAPETUS2 nomination statement and sends this to their Institution IAPETUS2 Director with all of the candidate's application documents and the project description (see section 30).

Each HO is responsible for considering all of the applications that it has received from prospective students across all of their projects. HO's should put in place transparent and robust procedures for identifying and ranking prospective students, which focus on the quality of the applications and their fit to the available projects. As part of this process HO's are strongly advised:

 - a) To utilize IAPETUS2's studentship assessment criteria, which the Partnership uses to grade prospective students (see [Appendix 5](#));
 - b) Interview prospective students, where possible, which could involve the applicant visiting the Department/School or completing it virtually, via Zoom/Skype etc.
26. After student selection the lead project supervisor must complete an IAPETUS2 Studentship Nomination statement at the end of the candidates IAPETUS2 application form). This nomination statement must be sent to their IAPETUS2 institutional representative, together with all of the student documents and project description (see section 30).
27. The HO IAPETUS2 Director will then arrange an internal process to rank the applicants in order of student excellence across all projects.
28. The IAPETUS2 Studentship Committee may demand-manage the number of nominations each HO can make in order to make the interview process practicable.

29. The IAPETUS2 HO Director will then send the nomination forms and all documents from prospective students (with the project proposal document) and the rank order to the IAPETUS2 Office in Durham University, for consideration by the IAPETUS2 Studentships Panel that includes members of all IAPETUS2 institutions.
30. **All completed and approved nominations must be sent electronically to contact.iapetus@durham.ac.uk by Tuesday 14th February 2023 (12 noon GMT).**
The full nomination includes:
- IAPETUS2 Project advertisement
 - IAPETUS2 Application form with supervisor nomination statement
 - Current CV – candidates should not include a photograph and write without using gender -specific pronouns.
 - Two references on the IAPETUS2 form. Candidates must **not** use members from the supervisory team of the PhD project that they are applying for.
 - Full transcripts of qualifications.

Stage 4 – Selecting Nominations for Funding

31. All nominated applicants and their application documents will be considered and scored on set criteria by the IAPETUS2 studentship panel. The Studentships Panel members will review and grade nominations using IAPETUS2's assessment criteria (see [Appendix 5](#)).
32. The Studentships Panel strongly encourages all project supervisors and HOs to provide contextual information on candidates in the nomination form, such as observations drawn from prior knowledge of the applicant, interviews and other forms of assessment, to complement the nominee's personal and academic details.
33. Nominated candidates (section 31) will be interviewed on Zoom on Tuesday 28th February and Wednesday 1st March 2023.
34. The IAPETUS2 Studentships Panel, which will meet on Wednesday 1st March 2023, will use the collated scores from the nomination evaluation and from the interview process (weighted 60:40) to produce a ranked list and thereby confirm which candidates have been successful. It will also produce a reserve list of candidates, which will be called upon should selected candidates subsequently decline the offer of a studentship. There is provision to ensure that each HO receives at least a minimum number of studentships, and to ensure that ECRs have access to studentships.
35. NERC requires IAPETUS2 to ensure that, over the lifetime of the DTP, 25% of the total notional studentships awarded to the DTP are CASE. The Studentship Panel will therefore make its final decisions on the award of studentships in such a manner as to ensure that a minimum of **30%** of the studentships it awards will be CASE studentships. Please note that unlike in previous rounds, NERC Research Institutes and certain Independent Research Organizations are **NOT** eligible CASE partners (organisations on [this list](#) are **NOT** eligible CASE partners as they are able to apply directly to NERC for funding).
36. The ranked list and reserve list will also be managed to ensure that no more than 30 % of studentships go to International applicants.

Stage 5 – Offering Studentships to Selected Candidates

37. Following the meeting of the Studentships Panel, IAPETUS2 will process and issue award notifications directly to selected candidates, whilst also informing all other nominees of the status of their application, which includes candidates placed on IAPETUS2's reserve list and those that have not been successful at this juncture.
38. Prior to the issuing of award notifications to successful candidates, a memorandum will be circulated to all HOs confirming the candidates that have been successful and those that are on the reserve list. If there are any specific issues and/or questions affecting candidates following the deliberations of the Studentships Panel, these will be followed up in the run-up to the issuing of this memorandum and any further contact with candidates.

39. In cases where a successful candidate decides not to accept the offer of an IAPETUS2 studentship, the next highest-ranked candidate on IAPETUS2's reserve list will be contacted and made an offer. This process will be conducted in such a manner as to ensure that a minimum of 30% of the studentships awarded are CASE studentships and that no more than allowed of the studentships awarded are to International Applicants. Where the HO is aware that a selected candidate has decided to withdraw from the competition they should report this to IAPETUS2 immediately to ensure such decisions are communicated and appropriate action taken.
40. **Decisions regarding awards and the issuing of award notifications will take place by Friday 3rd March 2023, with the selected candidates having until 15th March 2023 at 12 pm (GMT) to decide whether to accept or decline their offer**, a date which has been agreed for candidate decisions across the national NERC DTP2 network (the NERC "Universal Acceptance Date").
41. After being awarded and accepting an IAPETUS2 studentship, the applicant must then apply to Durham to be enrolled on the Postgraduate Certificate in Environmental Methods course. Further details of this in late spring 2022, after the studentship has been accepted.

Further Information

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Appendix I – Timeline

Dates	Activity / Milestone
Thursday 1 st September 2022	Project Form on the IAPETUS2 website opened for supervisors to submit projects.
Friday 28 th October 2022, 4pm	Last date for new projects to be submitted by supervisors on to the IAPETUS2 website using the Project submission form.
From 1 st September to 31 st October 2022	IAPETUS2 Leads check and approve projects for their institution / department on the website. IAPETUS2 administrator checks and publishes projects on the website.
Tuesday 1 st November 2022	Application form and EDI form on to the website.
Late November / Early December	Online workshops / Q and A for applicants.
Friday 6 th January 2023 12pm	Deadline for applicants to apply for a studentship.
Wednesday 11 th January 2023 5pm	IAPETUS2 administrator sends anonymized application forms to primary supervisors.
Wednesday 18 th January 2023 12pm	Primary supervisor for each project submits top three applicants for each project to IAPETUS2 administrator.
Friday 20 th January 2023 10am	IAPETUS2 administrator emails applicants notifying them that they have been longlisted and need to apply for a PhD at Awarding University (if not already requested by the Awarding University), applicants are requested to send CVs and transcripts to the Primary Supervisor by Monday 23 rd January 2023. Applicants who have been longlisted for more than one project will be informed and asked to select one project to go forward with.
Monday 23 rd January 2023 5pm	IAPETUS2 administrator sends non-anonymized application forms to primary supervisors. Supervisors follow up with applicants for supporting documentation. Supervisors request references from shortlisted applicants' referees.
Friday 27 th January 2023 12pm	Deadline for applicants who have applied to more than one IAPETUS2 project to decide which project to be considered for.
Friday 27 th January 2023 5pm	IAPETUS2 administrator confirms longlists now the multiple project applicants have been removed. Ready for supervisor and institutional shortlisting.
Friday 10 th February 2023 5pm	Deadline for applicant to submit a PhD application to Awarding university
Tuesday 14 th February 2023 12 noon	Deadline for Host Organizations to submit ranked complete nominations to the IAPETUS2 Administrator.
Thursday 16 th February 2023 4pm	IAPETUS2 administrator circulates Nominations and Scoring spreadsheet to IAPETUS2 panel for scoring.
Tuesday 21 st February 2023 4pm	IAPETUS2 administrator circulates Nominations and schedule to the IAPETUS2 Interview Panels.
Tuesday 21 st February 2023 4pm	IAPETUS2 administrator sends out Invitation to Interview to applicants.
Monday 27 th February 2023	Deadline for Academic leads to submit paper nomination scores.
Monday 27 th February 2023	Academic Leads to confirm Home or Overseas for each shortlisted applicant.

Tuesday 28 th February 2023	Interviews of nominated candidates.
Wednesday 1 st March 2023	Interviews of nominated candidates.
Wednesday 1 st March 2023	IAPETUS2 Studentships Panel convenes.
Friday 3 rd March 2023	IAPETUS2 administrator notifies all nominated candidates of award decisions.
Wednesday 15 th March 2023 12 noon	Deadline for selected candidates to accept or decline their award offer. (NERC Universal Acceptance Date).
Thursday 16 th March 2023 onwards	Reserve offers made (where required).

Appendix 2 – IAPETUS2 DTP Host Organizations

Partner Organization	Departments/Schools
British Antarctic Survey	All staff active within NERC's disciplinary remit.
British Geological Survey	All staff active within NERC's disciplinary remit.
UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology	All staff active within NERC's disciplinary remit.
Durham University	All staff active within NERC's disciplinary remit.
Glasgow University	Engineering Geography & Earth Sciences Mathematics & Statistics Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre Institute of Biodiversity, Animal Health & Comparative Medicine
Heriot-Watt University	School of Energy, Geoscience, Infrastructure and Society except those part of the Oil and Gas CDT and SUPER DTP
Newcastle University	All staff active within NERC's disciplinary remit except those part of the One Planet DTP
St Andrews University	Earth & Environmental Sciences Centre for Biological Diversity, and relevant parts of the Biomedical Sciences Research Complex (and not those part of the SUPER DTP) Geography & Sustainable Development
Stirling University	Biological and Environmental Sciences

Appendix 3 – IAPETUS2 Supervisor Eligibility

In the following table, “Primary Supervisor” is the lead supervisor at the institution where the student is based, and “IAPETUS2 co-supervisor” specifically refers to the next-named supervisor on the project, i.e. at the IAPETUS2 partner institution. Additional supervisors on the project team are not constrained by these criteria.

NERC Research Centre partners are not constrained other than by internal rules wherein they cannot have the same project submitted in multiple DTPs.

Situation	Primary Supervisor on IAPETUS2 project	IAPETUS2 co-supervisor	Eligible as Primary Supervisor
1	Only bidding into IAPETUS2	Only bidding into IAPETUS2	Eligible
2	Only bidding into IAPETUS2	Also bidding into any other NERC DTP (including One Planet/SUPER) as <u>primary supervisor</u>	Ineligible
3	Only bidding into IAPETUS2	Also bidding into any other NERC DTP (including One Planet/SUPER) as <u>co-supervisor</u>	Ineligible
4	Also bidding into any other NERC DTP (including One Planet/SUPER) as <u>primary supervisor</u>	Any	Ineligible
5	Also bidding into any other NERC DTP (including One Planet/SUPER) as <u>co-supervisor</u>	Any	Ineligible
6	Won an IAPETUS2 PhD studentship last year as primary supervisor	Any	Not eligible this year
7	Won an IAPETUS2 PhD studentship last year as co supervisor	Any	Eligible
8	Won an IAPETUS2 PhD studentship last year as primary supervisor, and this year bids into another NERC DTP (One Planet/SUPER) as <u>primary supervisor</u>	Any	Normally shouldn't happen but on the assumption of a major change of research area – discuss with academic lead locally to make a sufficient case.
9	Won an IAPETUS2 PhD studentship last year as primary supervisor, and this year bids into another NERC DTP (One Planet/SUPER) as <u>co supervisor</u>	Any	Normally shouldn't happen but on the assumption of a major change of research area – discuss with academic lead locally to make a sufficient case.

Appendix 4 – IAPETUS2 Research Themes

In the IAPETUS2 Proposal, our research themes were broadly defined under five headings. The descriptors are outlined below, but note that they are descriptions of past and ongoing research excellence rather than being exclusive descriptions of future research. Please use the following descriptors to define which of the themes your project principally falls under, and note that it would be unusual to specify more than two themes. It is entirely possible that NERC-facing research carried out within the partnership does not fall under any of these themes, and projects that fall outwith these themes will be assessed in exactly the same way as all other proposals. We aim to support research across the NERC remit, and there are no quotas for each theme, but we will seek to attain a balance of projects under different themes over the lifetime of IAPETUS2.

1 Global Environmental Change documents and interrogates the proxy records archiving the patterns, rates, durations and timing of past climate and environmental change. It has two foci:

- Ice-Sheet Dynamics and Sea-Level Change researches the mechanisms that drive melting of polar ice sheets via quantifying rates and modelling of ice loss and ice-sheet evolution under changing climate and the subsequent impact of sea-level change.
- Changing Environments and their Reconstruction creates the timescales, geochemical proxies and instruments used for monitoring, calibrating and reconstructing environmental change, including in extreme environments, and its impact on human activities and evolution.

2 Geodynamics-Geochemistry-Resources investigates the structure and processes governing the solid and deep Earth, volatile cycling, formation and evolution of continental crust, plate tectonic mechanisms and natural resources. It has three foci:

- Deep-Earth Processes studies mantle rheology, plate-mantle interactions, element cycling, Earth's thermal and compositional evolution and its geodynamo.
- Crustal Processes focusses on the geochemical and geophysical characterization of the interactions between Earth's surface and deep Earth, subduction processes and the genesis of continental crust.
- Geenergy and Mineral Resources determines the availability and environmentally sustainable extraction of conventional and unconventional hydrocarbon-based resources, low carbon alternatives, recycling of energy by-products and discovery of rare earth elements and ore formation.

3 Biogeochemical Cycles determines the rates and durations of elemental cycling and stable isotope geochemistry, particularly carbon, nitrogen, sulphur and phosphorus, through the Earth System from the Archaean to the present. It addresses biospheric evolution, planetary habitability, changing ocean-atmosphere compositions and long-term climate and ecosystem productivity through two foci:

Modern Carbon and Sulphur Cycles studies determine the physical, chemical and microbial processes influencing the natural and anthropogenic fluxes through Earth's surface environments via three research strands: *Soil*, *Headwaters-to-Coastal* and *Marine Carbon and Sulphur*.

Biogeochemical Cycle Evolution studies the key biogeochemical cycles and Earth's redox chemistry and how those have transformed and influenced the diversification of life and prehistorical composition of the atmosphere through geological time.

4 Hazards: Processes-Risk-Resilience focusses on hazards via novel technology for real-time monitoring and modelling and providing hazard advice to the UK government and stakeholders. There are three research foci:

Volcanoes, Earthquakes, Landslides and Avalanches documents and studies those phenomena in real time and analysis of the archives of past events.

Fluvial and Urban Processes focusses on developing physical and statistical models to better quantify risk from and prediction of extreme rainfall, groundwater flooding and pollution.

Marine and Coastal Geohazards focusses on those phenomena that affect the coastal regions through the offshore to the deep marine.

5 Evolution-Biodiversity-Ecosystems evaluates the function, behaviour and evolution of biodiversity in natural systems through integration of knowledge from molecular to landscape scales using genomics, modelling, Earth observation and GIS via two foci:

Evolution and Systematics study the environmental and evolutionary processes that determine behaviour,

population structure, speciation and overall ecosystem function, including disease epidemics and responses to environmental change.

Conservation Ecology and Environmental Change Biology uses field monitoring (long-term and large-scale), Earth observation, lab- and field mesocosm experiments and statistical and process-based modelling to integrate and analyse scientific, social and economic data.

Appendix 5 – Student Assessment Criteria

Marking Scheme for selection of applicants for IAPETUS2 interview based upon documents received including CV, nomination form and references.

Each criterion is marked out of 10 by Panel Reviewers and is then weighted to reflect their respective importance to the total score for each application.

Description	Scoring
Very High Priority for Funding	9 to 10
High Priority for Funding	8
Should be Funded if Possible	7
Suitable for Funding in Principal, but in a Competitive Context is Not a Priority	6
Not Recommended for Funding	1 to 5
Not Sufficient Evidence to Judge Proposal	0

Criteria

All eligible nominations for studentships will be assessed by the IAPETUS2 Studentships Panel against all of the following criteria. Sections indicated below refer to the nomination form filled in by the student and potential supervisors. Potential supervisors should be aware of issues of unconscious bias when filling out forms, and be appropriately considerate of a candidate's background and career trajectory.

Criterion	Weighting
<p>1. Background</p> <p>This criterion focusses on the candidate's ability to conduct high-quality doctoral research in the environmental sciences. Reviewers should look for evidence of the candidate's interest in the research topic, and demonstration that the candidate has a clear interest in the project itself. Supporting information for example might come from section 3.2 of the nomination form, in relation to past research experience and from section 3.3, and in relation to evidence of research into the topic area beyond what is available in the advertised project description. Evidence of a demonstration of initiative in proactively seeking information about the project and research topic and the DTP (in section 3.3 of the nomination form) is also useful.</p> <p>Evidence from sections 3.2-3.4 of an ability to take on responsibilities (not necessarily directly relating to research) and meet deadlines is useful. Evidence of written communication skills from these sections should also be considered when evaluating this criterion.</p> <p>Although at least a 2:1 at undergraduate level is generally required by HOs, other contextual information should be considered in relation to academic qualifications to avoid the potential for unconscious bias. Other evidence of 'research experience' in section 3.2 should be used, for example, for candidates seeking to embark on a research project after graduating some time ago.</p> <p>Contextual information from section 5 of the nomination form can also be used for supporting evidence that the candidate has an appropriate background for carrying out the research project.</p>	50
<p>2. Project Fit</p> <p>Candidates need to demonstrate clearly how their skills, qualifications, experience and interests fit to, and support the project they intend to study. Section 4 provides a specific statement on this criterion. However, reviewers should be careful to assess contextual information (for example in section 3.4 of the form) and to balance past specific experience in relation to the project with more generic research skills. Demonstrations of a candidate's abilities to pick up new approaches and take initiatives in developing skills should also be considered, for example as illustrated in sections 3.2 and 3.3.</p> <p>A strong application will clearly articulate the candidate's interests and experience relevant to the project, whilst also outlining their anticipated training and development needs during their studies. Demonstration of a strong motivation to develop new skills may be used to support the</p>	40

Criterion	Weighting
<p>assessment of a candidates fit to the project. As the purpose of the DTP is to train students in appropriate skills, it should not be assumed that existing experience in a particular method or past activities should outweigh the demonstration of the motivation to find out about new topics, not least because applicants from different backgrounds may have had limited access to facilities or opportunities. Candidates may also be hoping to change career paths based upon new or recent interests and activities. Further information from sections 3.4 and 5 of the nomination form may be useful in evaluating these aspects.</p>	
<p>3. Future Potential</p> <p>Reviewers should consider the profile of a candidate relative to their current career stage and access to past opportunities.</p> <p>Reviewers will also consider the candidate's future potential to deliver their specific research project, for example, based on statements in relation to personal skills such as self-discipline and time management. Statements in the nomination form demonstrating confidence in a candidate's abilities should be balanced in relation to how realistic these statements might be.</p> <p>A candidate's future career aspirations should be considered, but as the DTP contributes to training in relation to the broader environmental science sector, no preference is given to those wanting to develop an academic or a non-academic career pathway. The key element to consider is a demonstration of a keen interest in the topic and a wish to pursue activities related to this research topic in the future.</p> <p>A strong candidate will demonstrate that they are well equipped to deliver their proposed research project and also able to engage in other related activities and initiatives that will not only support their individual research, but the wider IAPETUS2 and/or disciplinary community.</p> <p>Contextual information arising from interviews and other forms of interaction/assessment (section 5 of the form) may provide Reviewers with further useful evidence as to the future trajectory of the candidate.</p>	10

Interviews and Overall Evaluation

All nominees will be interviewed in a single set of panels (see Appendix I) using a set of common questions about their application and PhD. Nominees are requested to ensure that they are available in person (usually in Durham) or by Skype/Zoom on the advertised dates. These interviews are weighted 40 % in the overall evaluation of the studentships panel, with 60 % coming from the evaluation of the initial nomination.

Appendix 6 – CASE Studentships

1. NERC defines CASE studentships as collaborative training studentships where students interact and engage with external organizations in the private, public or third sectors during the completion of their research and training.
2. A standard NERC CASE studentship must meet the following requirements:
 - a) The external CASE partner must be a non-HEI organization. Additionally, university spin-off companies where the HEI owns less than 50% of the controlling interest can also act as CASE partners. NERC Centres and certain IROs (see list at <https://www.ukri.org/funding/how-to-apply/eligibility/>) are NO LONGER eligible as CASE partners on a DTP2 studentship.
 - b) The CASE Partner must host the student for at least 3 months or more during their studentship.
 - c) The CASE partner must contribute at least £1,000 per annum for 3 years as an addition to the student's RTSG. This payment should be made to the Host Organization and not paid directly to the student.
3. The day-to-day management of CASE studentships, encompassing entering into the relevant legal agreements and contracts is handled by the host HO. A dedicated CASE collaborative agreement, which covers the financial support being provided, the liabilities and obligations of the respective parties and the management of intellectual property, must be entered into for each IAPETUS2 CASE studentship.

Appendix 7 – Collaborative Studentships

The DTP2 Announcement of Opportunity document defines Collaborative Studentships as follows:

In addition to CASE studentships, any number of DTP studentships may be ‘collaborative’ (i.e. no formal partnership requirements and/or project partners **not** eligible to be CASE partners). These collaborative studentships will also be monitored and recorded through reporting processes and will be formally recognised by NERC as a success metric as part of its ongoing monitoring of DTP performance. Proposals must describe how such collaborative relationships will be developed and maintained, and the benefits they will provide to students’ training.

Appendix 8 – NERC Research Areas

NERC require information about advertised and funded projects to see how they align to the breadth of NERC topics, as well as to evaluate whether there is any bias in topics supported. This form is based on the NERC Research Areas (see <https://nerc.ukri.org/funding/application/howtoapply/topics/> for further details).

On the form, you will be asked to select all the categories that most align with this project. The total category weight for all categories must be 100%.

- Palaeobiology
- Science-based archaeology
- Atmospheric kinetics
- Boundary layer meteorology
- Land-atmosphere interactions
- Large scale atmospheric dynamics and transport
- Ocean-atmosphere interactions
- Radiative processes and effects
- Stratospheric processes
- Tropospheric processes
- Upper atmosphere processes and geospace
- Water in the atmosphere
- Climate and climate change
- Palaeoenvironments Regional weather and extreme events
- Behavioural ecology Community ecology
- Conservation ecology
- Population ecology
- Systematics and taxonomy
- Population genetics and evolution
- Earth engineering
- Earth resources
- Geohazards
- Glacial and cryospheric systems
- Hydrogeology
- Hydrological processes
- Mantle and core processes
- Physics & chemistry of earth materials
- Quaternary science
- Sediments and sedimentary processes
- Tectonic processes
- Volcanic processes
- Environment and health
- Environmental microbiology
- Environmental genomics
- Planetary surfaces and geology
- Environmental physiology
- Ecotoxicology
- Pollution
- Biogeochemical cycles
- Ecosystem-scale processes and land use
- Land-ocean interactions
- Ocean circulation
- Earth surface processes
- Soil science Water quality
- Environmental biotechnology
- Environmental informatics
- Survey and monitoring
- Technology for environmental applications