



Ysgoloriaethau Sgiliau Economi Gwybodaeth
Knowledge Economy Skills Scholarships

KESS II FACTSHEET

FOR BUSINESSES, COMPANIES & ORGANISATIONS



Cronfa Gymdeithasol Ewrop
European Social Fund

Knowledge Economy Skills Scholarships (KESS II) is a major pan-Wales operation supported by European Social Funds (ESF) through the Welsh Government which links companies and organisations with academic expertise in the Higher Education sector in Wales to undertake collaborative research projects. Following the highly successful KESS project between 2009 and 2014, KESS II is now in the second round of funding and will provide 645 scholarships over the course of six years.

A range of companies and organisations can participate in KESS II, including Micro companies, SMEs, Large companies, Third Sector and Social Enterprises. To be eligible you must have an operational presence in the Convergence region (West Wales and the Valleys). All KESS scholarships are integrated with a high-level skills training programme for the participating student, leading to a Postgraduate Skills Development Award, which will address any knowledge or skills gaps.

WHY CHOOSE KESS II

Each project is specifically designed to meet your company's needs. The project is then carried out by a dedicated student at Research Masters or PhD level, who is supported by both the company and the relevant University. Here are just some of the benefits of participating in KESS II:

- The opportunity to test claims, perceptions and experiences regarding your product, service or brand.
- Research that you can shape, with the support of an academic, to suit your company needs.
- Position your organisation as a voice of authority and market leader in your sector
- A dedicated student, supervised by an academic, to work on an area specific to your business.
- Very low entry cost for the potential return your project could bring.

COMPANY CASH CONTRIBUTIONS

Organisation Type	No. of Employees	Year 1 Cohort (Oct. 2015 start) PhD x3 MRes x1	Year 2 Cohort (Oct. 2016 start) PhD x3 MRes x1	Year 3 Cohort (Oct. 2017 start) PhD x3 MRes x1	Year 4 Cohort (Oct. 2018 start) PhD x3 MRes x1	Year 5 Cohort (Oct. 2019 start) MRes x1	Year 6 Cohort (Oct. 2020 start) No project allocations
Micro	<10	£3,000	£3,500	£3,500	£3,750	£3,750	£3,750
Small	<50	£3,000	£3,500	£3,500	£3,750	£3,750	£3,750
Medium	<250	£3,500	£4,000	£4,000	£4,250	£4,250	£4,250
Large	>250	£4,000	£4,500	£4,500	£4,750	£4,750	£4,750
Third Sector	-	Dependent on size	Dependent on size	Dependent on size	Dependent on size	Dependent on size	Dependent on size
Social Enterprise	-	Dependent on size	Dependent on size	Dependent on size	Dependent on size	Dependent on size	Dependent on size
Public Sector	-	Dependent on size	Dependent on size	Dependent on size	Dependent on size	Dependent on size	Dependent on size

All Cash Contributions are subject to VAT (Company Partners should seek advice from their Finance Department)

The research undertaken through a KESS II project must fit with one of the Welsh Assembly Government's four Grand Challenge Areas which are:

LIFE SCIENCES & HEALTH

Example project: Development of innovative technologies in women's health for clinical diagnosis of infertility and gynaecological cancer

ADVANCED ENGINEERING & MATERIALS

Example project: Development of products for controlled releasing topical and transdermal drugs using nano/micro-encapsulation and micro-needles

LOWCARBON, ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

Example project: Breeding blight resistant potatoes

ICT & THE DIGITAL ECONOMY

Example project: Global digital tourism practice and economic development for UNESCO World Heritage Sites

WHAT IS EXPECTED OF A KESS II COMPANY PARTNER?

- That you have a base within the Convergence area of Wales
- That you can supervise your student whilst on placement within your company for a minimum of 30 days per year (flexible depending on the project)
- That you are able to participate in quarterly progress meetings and complete progress reports

THE VIEW FROM BUSINESS

KESS gives us access to people and resources that we wouldn't normally have access to. We would definitely work with KESS again. We've had two very good PhD students who have made a real difference to the business. We've certainly learned a lot working with them, and we hope that they've learned a lot from working with us, too.

Ian Cameron, Micropharm - Pharmaceutical sector

The quality and the variety of the research that KESS offers is way beyond what we would be able to do in-house. For us, this isn't just about one project – it's about our research portfolio moving into the future. It's been given real focus by the academic partners' ability to understand the water industry's challenges.

Philippa Pearson, Dŵr Cymru / Welsh Water – Utility sector

Because we're a small company we need to allocate resources efficiently – which means research is usually beyond our means. So KESS has helped us do something we wouldn't otherwise have been able to do. The KESS students' thirst for knowledge is immense. They lift our knowledge base, and they're willing to ask tough questions. You forget that kind of questioning mindset if you've been out of academia for a while – so while we've trained them, they've trained us, too. Working with these immensely enthusiastic students challenges you to think about things you take for granted.

Richard Price, Catnic – Engineering sector

For companies like us, KESS offers a low-cost entry to large-scale research. The biggest benefit for us is the access KESS offers to academic resources and expertise.

Ian Owen, Scanwel – Manufacturing sector

Project IPR results and any Intellectual Property arising from a KESS II project will be owned by the relevant University. Background Information used in connection with the KESS II project will remain the property of the party introducing it and will be subject to confidentiality obligations. The relevant University will grant the company partner the first option for either an exclusive or non-exclusive licence to use the Intellectual Property or other Project IPR Results as negotiated between the parties involved.

We're always interested to hear from new partners!

For more details please contact:

Gwern Hywel
KESS II Project Manager
gwh5@aber.ac.uk
01970 628579

For financial queries:

Linda Cook
KESS II Finance Officer
fic9@aber.ac.uk
01970 621879



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