Further Information on Wolfson-Newtecnic Studentships

Regarding the specific method of study, the PhD studentships will follow the method of the Industrial Cooperative Awards in Science & Technology (Industrial CASE) as used by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC). Although no funding is sought from EPSRC, the Industrial CASE model for study provides an opportunity for the student to gain experience of contributing to cutting-edge projects undertaken at Newtecnic. The company is considered to be a leader in building engineering, and undertakes only cutting-edge projects with a high level of associated research and development.

In common with the aims of Industrial CASE, the aim of the studentship awards is to provide PhD students with a first-rate, challenging, research training experience within the context of a research collaboration between the Department of Engineering, University of Cambridge and Newtecnic. The studentships provide opportunities to explore novel research collaborations and strengthen current partnerships between the University and Newtecnic. Wolfson College, Cambridge – with which the students will be affiliated – provides a communal environment for education, learning and research.

For the students, an essential aim of the CASE approach is to provide access to training, facilities and expertise not available in an academic setting alone. Students will benefit from a diversity of experimental approaches with an applied / translational dimension. Students have an opportunity to develop a range of valuable skills and significantly enhance their future careers as potential leaders in the field.

Research will be based on a high-quality project, that is, a challenging, feasible and realistically achievable PhD project which stimulates excellent discovery-oriented research. The project must be approved by the PhD supervisor who is based at the Department of Engineering and proposed by Newtecnic. Through access to distinctive but complementary environments, the Department of Engineering, Wolfson College and Newtecnic will provide a stimulating framework for research training in the proposed field. The PhD supervisor is ultimately responsible for the progress of the student, however, the PhD supervisor and the industrial mentor (identified by Newtecnic) will together give a unique and broadening perspective on the impact of collaborative research. An enriched integrated training experience will allow the students to acquire novel skills and expertise. Up to eight weeks per year might be set aside for each year of the studentship for experience based at Newtecnic, according to the need of the research project for resources or training not available at the University, and subject to the approval of the PhD supervisor. Associated travel and subsistence costs will be met by Newtecnic.

The research project will fall in the area of expertise of Newtecnic, with particular emphasis on novel facade systems, which are being used by Newtecnic in their current form on live projects. It is anticipated that one result of the research could be to develop these systems further for use on the next generation of projects that will be undertaken by the company. Research outputs from the students will be reported in peer-reviewed journals and also developed for presentations at industrial and academic conferences.