

# Five Additional Fully Funded NERC QUADRAT-DTP Studentships: Interdisciplinarity

## The Good News

In addition to the 20 FTE studentships commencing in October 2023 to constitute Cohort 5, NERC have given five more. These posts will be UK only, 42 FTE month posts and the QUADRAT-Board has focused these on opportunities for interdisciplinary opportunities. The application form can be found [here](#).

## The Plan

Project selection will be rapid, agile and transparent. The projects need to be within the remit of QUADRAT and those of NERC. The timing of the project selection and the recruitment will also need to be effective to recruit strong students that match our needs and expectations, and conform to our DEI aspirations.

## Ideas, networking and partnerships

Successful projects will be led by an existing QUADRAT School PI and must include at least one additional non-QUADRAT school. There is no need to have a QUB and a UoA presence. There will be a formal networking event but we would expect ideas to be developing from receipt of this infographic.

## What qualifies ?

- Led by staff member from core QUADRAT school;
- Fall within NERC remit but address a question/problem that is important, significant, and relevant to multiple fields or disciplines;
- Make a significant contribution to the relevant fields and advance knowledge and have impact;
- Articulate the problem which necessitates an interdisciplinary approach;
- Demonstrate creativity and originality in bringing together disciplines to address the research question or problem.
- Proposal should demonstrate how interdisciplinary approach will establish new ways of working- away from established/traditional patterns of working.
- Project should articulate clearly the different methodologies that will be used to address the question and how.
- Proposal must demonstrate that the team has the necessary expertise in the relevant disciplines and can effectively collaborate to achieve the project's objectives.

## The project selection stage

A light touch application form will be reviewed and the strongest proposals will be presented to a "Dragons' Den" style panel. 5 projects (and 2 reserves) will then be chosen by the panel and advertised for studentships. This will allow rapid decision making.

## Studentship advertising and applications

With assistance from the QUADRAT Team, the successful projects will be advertised for a period of one month. The recruitment process will be under the auspices of QUADRAT DEI guidance. International fee waivers will be restricted as per guidance and school budgets.

## Studentship shortlisting, interview and appointments

The successful supervisors will be expected to have oversight of this stage within the auspices of QUADRAT DEI guidance. This process will be as currently used by SUPER-DTP with a QUADRAT Board member being engaged.

## Welcome to Cohort 5

The five successful interdisciplinary students will join Cohort 5 and undertake induction, training and the annual science meeting with this group. There may be additional interdisciplinary events rolled out for this group.

## Act now to make the most of this unique opportunity

This is a unique opportunity and we look forward to many applications offering new collaborative ventures. A timeline will soon be released as will general guidance but now is the time to develop networks and establish ideas and partnerships. This is a one off transformative change in studentship opportunities so we are looking for innovative and disruptive opportunities. There is no exclusion for recent successful supervisors.

