

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the difference between this call and the LIDo iCASE call?

There are two streams in LIDo: iCASE and DTP. iCASE projects require an industrial partner and are approved centrally by the LIDo 3I Committee. iCASE students apply directly to these projects and join the PhD lab for 4 years. DTP projects are approved locally in each institution; DTP students do 2 rotations in the first year; after that they join a lab to work on a PhD for the next 3 years. This call is for the DTP projects.

I had a project approved last year. Can you carry it forward for this year?

Projects are not carried forward. For your project to be considered, you will need to resubmit.

Can I submit a project as a primary supervisor if I...

...currently have a LIDo DTP student who is due to submit their PhD thesis in Sep 2019?

Yes, you can. A student starting in autumn 2018 will only choose their PhD thesis lab in mid-2019, so there will be minimal overlap.

...have a LIDo iCASE student?

Yes. LIDo iCASE and LIDo DTP students are treated separately.

...just had a LIDo rotation student and I'm not sure if the student will join my lab?

Yes. If your project is approved, we will remove it from the pool, if the student joins your lab.

...am already a secondary supervisor to a LIDo student?

Yes, but the projects must be substantially different.

Can I submit more than one LIDo project as a primary supervisor?

No.

I am submitting a project as a primary supervisor; can I also be a secondary supervisor on another project?

Yes, but the projects must be substantially different.

Can I get a second supervisor from the University of XXXXX?

Both primary and secondary supervisors must come from a LIDo institution: UCL, KCL, QMUL, RVC, LSHTM, or Birkbeck. Beyond that, it is fine to have additional collaborators from any other institution. However, the centre of gravity should be within the LIDo consortium and the students are expected to spend most of their time and effort within LIDo institutions.

I want to submit an interdisciplinary project. Whom should I contact to be the second supervisor?

Please look through the list of academics and their research in departments complementary to your work; you have six LIDo institutions to choose from. For example, if you are in cell biology, you might consider looking at through the list of PIs in mathematics, physics, or chemistry.

I couldn't submit my project because it was past the deadline. Can you accept it?

Unfortunately, we cannot. Imagine the number of academics who submitted on time who will be upset with us and you if we accept your late submission. Moreover, we will have already passed the documents for the correctly submitted projects to the vetting team, and they already work on a very tight turnaround schedule.

How many projects and students are there?

In 2017, there were ~200 approved projects from all LIDo institutions. Each year, there are ~30 students who can choose any of these projects. There are also ~10 students who are tethered to a specific institution and can only choose projects from that institution.

What is the relationship between the rotation project and the thesis project?

LIDo DTP students do 2 rotations in their first year before choosing a thesis lab. The rotation project is something that can be done in about 4 months that leads into the thesis project. For example, this could be generating reagents that would be used in the thesis or doing a screen for genes that will be analysed in detail in the thesis. Work done in the rotation can be included in the written thesis if the student joins the rotation lab. Making sure that the rotation project contributes to the thesis project compensates for the reduction in lab time caused by the rotations and the later professional placement period (called PIPS – see below).

Can I include a figure in the project submission?

Presently we can't include images online, but we can include them in the PDF booklet provided to students, and direct students online to look at the appropriate page reference to see the figure.

Here's my project; can you tell me if it is OK before I submit?

We encourage you to check against the guidelines that we have distributed. If it fits those guidelines (e.g. genuinely interdisciplinary, fits BBSRC remit), it will have a reasonable chance. We cannot tell beforehand, as projects are ranked for fit to LIDo rather than accepted on an absolute scale. Therefore, we can't promise anything until the people vetting in each institution look at all the submitted projects.

My project was approved. Can I change it?

Major changes in the project will need to be approved by LIDo to ensure that it still fits BBSRC remit and is still interdisciplinary.

My project was approved last year, but when I submitted the same one this year it was rejected. Why?

Projects are approved each year based on their relative ranks as measured against LIDo criteria. Ranks change from year to year, depending on the projects submitted.

My project was not approved even though we were doing bioinformatics on RNAseq (or some other genome-wide) data to get a list of hits. Isn't this interdisciplinary?

To quote our guidelines, LIDo looks for projects that:

“involve NEW ways of working that emphasise quantitative analysis of biological data or development or application of new technologies, not just well-established combinations of wet-dry work.”

In the submission, you would need to explain why your computational analysis went substantially beyond standard approaches for analysing RNAseq data. As a rule of thumb, if one must write an extensive amount of code to do something novel, it would fit the interdisciplinary bill. Do make it clear in the project proposal.

What is the 3-month PIPS?

PIPS is a compulsory 3-month internship required by BBSRC. The intent is that this facilitates skills transfers from PhD training to other sectors, which is important because most PhD students do not end up in research jobs. Supervisors should expect that students will be away from the lab for 3 months, which means that after the first year, the students will be in their thesis labs for 2 years and 9 months. Supervisors may be asked to tell their students to engage with the programme to get their PIPS arranged. The only guideline for what the PIPS internship entails is that it must not be directly related to their PhD work. Other than that, literally any professional position is possible.

I'd like to get a LIDo student but I don't have time to mark rotation reports or shortlist LIDo applicants or any of the other things LIDo requires. Can I get a waiver?

No. The success and growth of LIDo means that we manage more than 50 students each year (>200 students at steady state). With this size and complexity, it is not possible to operate the programme without extensive help. To keep LIDo running minimally, we are forced to only offer studentships to supervisors who can contribute support back to the programme.