



MSc Petroleum Geoscience Scholarship FAQ

FAQs

These 'Frequently Asked Questions' notes are intended as guidance for applicants. Please note that the CASP Trustees are not in a position to provide individual assistance to applicants.

The Application Process

1. **Who is eligible to apply?** If you qualify for Home Fees ('HEU') at a UK University then you can apply for this scholarship. The CASP MSc Scholarship has been set up in recognition of the fact that Research Council Funding is no longer available for UK students to study for MSc programmes in Petroleum Geoscience, and is specifically designed to help these students.
2. **Which MSc programmes can I apply for in 2012?** There are MSc programmes in Petroleum Geoscience offered at the following universities in the UK:
University of Aberdeen (*MSc Integrated Petroleum Geoscience*)
University of Derby (*MSc Applied Petroleum Geoscience*)
University of Edinburgh/Heriot Watt University/University of Newcastle (*MSc Petroleum Geoscience*)
Imperial College London (*MSc Petroleum Geoscience*)
University of Manchester (*MSc Petroleum Geoscience for Exploration*)
University of Newcastle (*MSc Petroleum Geochemistry*)
Royal Holloway University of London (*MSc Petroleum Geoscience (Basin Evolution and Dynamics)*, *MSc Petroleum Geoscience (Tectonics)*).
3. **Can I apply for a different MSc programme at a different university?** For 2013 applicants, only taught MSc degree programmes in the field of petroleum geoscience at the universities listed will be considered.
4. **Can I apply to more than one University?** Yes, but you should only make one application for a scholarship.
5. **Are some MSc courses more suitable than others?** It is for you to judge which is the best programme for you. When the panel of CASP trustees assesses the applications they will not know which university you have applied to. This is because we want to make judgments based on the qualities of the applicant and the project proposed.
6. **What BSc degree will I need to have?** 1st/2.1 in a geosciences subject.
7. **Can I send in my application in a different format?** No. You must send the three separate pdf documents as requested, correctly named with your surname. The reference must come directly from the

referee. Failure to submit an application in the correct format and/or after the submission deadline may invalidate your application.

8. **Why is CASP being so specific about the format of the application?** If all applicants sent in files named 'my cv' then just think how difficult it is for us to sort out which documents refer to which applicant.
9. **What happens if I do not get a 1st/2.1 degree?** You will not qualify to receive the scholarship.
10. **How many scholarships will CASP award?** One for 2013-14, but CASP reserves the right to make no award if there are no suitable applicants.
11. **What if I am not offered a place at the university I have chosen?** Your application should include at least a provisional offer of a place, or an indication of when an offer of a place will be made.
12. **Can I change my mind about the university I go to?** Only with a very good reason and CASP reserves the right to rescind the award if the trustees do not approve the change.
13. **Am I committed to taking up the scholarship if it is offered to me?** If you are the successful applicant, you will be sent a letter offering you the scholarship with terms and conditions specified: you will be asked to sign that you accept these terms and conditions.
14. **What if I decide to take up a different scholarship?** Please let CASP know as soon as possible so that we can offer the CASP Scholarship to another applicant.
The CASP scholarship cannot be combined with any other award and it will not be awarded to anyone who has already accepted a full or partial scholarship from any other source.
15. **How will my application be judged?** Your suitability for support with a scholarship will be based on your academic and other credentials as detailed in your c.v. and our assessment of the project proposal. CASP is a field-based research organisation and we are interested in seeing well-designed, innovative projects proposed by applicants.
16. **Is there any particular format for the c.v. or the statement of research interests and project proposal?** No, but good applications are clear, concise and well-written.
17. **What is the selection process?** The trustees of CASP will assess all applications and the scholarship awarded to the person ranked highest. The other applicants may be offered a scholarship if others decline it.
18. **When will I know the results?** It is hoped to inform the applicants of the results in mid April 2013.
19. **How will the scholarship money be awarded?** Payments will be made to the university in three tranches in September, January and April. The September and January payments will cover fees and stipend for the following period; the April payment will also include the field project costs. CASP reserves the right to suspend payments if a satisfactory progress report is not received from the Programme Director. The university will administer all payments to the student.

- 20. What is required at the end?** CASP requires a pdf copy of your project dissertation and you will be asked to make a presentation (c. 30 mins) to the trustees and staff of CASP in Cambridge in October 2014 after you have finished your MSc.

The Project

- 21. I am not sure if the project I am thinking of is suitable. Who can I ask for further guidance?** Part of the application process is that you design the project yourself and consider carefully whether it is logistically and scientifically reasonable. For this reason CASP will not provide any further guidance about the nature, scope, logistics or budget of the project.
- 22. Is there a limit to the amount of financial support for the project?** We are primarily looking for high quality, field-based projects and will assess the applications accordingly. Value for money will also be taken into consideration.
- 23. Do I need to provide a budget?** A good project plan would always include a budget: it does not have to be highly detailed, but it must be realistic.
- 24. Can the field project be overseas?** You can propose a project anywhere in the world, provided it is logistically reasonable and there is a good scientific case.
- 25. How long should the field work be?** This is largely a matter for discussion with the programme director: only an outline field plan is needed at the application stage. A period of at least three weeks in the field is recommended.
- 26. Do I need to have an agreement with a supervisor at the relevant university?** This would be useful but not essential – you may make arrangements with another organisation with respect to the field project.
- 27. Do I have to follow my proposal exactly when I do the project?** You will be starting the project over a year after the application, in the summer of 2014, and many things could have changed in the meantime. Almost inevitably your project plan will need to be revised. You should start discussions with staff at the university as soon as you commence the course, and have a finalised plan for the project ready for approval by CASP by the end of March 2014.
- 28. What if it becomes impossible to do the project for reasons outside my control?** You would be asked to devise an alternative but similar project in consultation with the programme director and CASP Trustees.
- 29. What if I change my mind about the nature of the project?** This would be a sign of bad planning and CASP reserves the right to rescind or terminate the award in such a case.
- 30. Can there be an element of laboratory or other analytical work carried out after the fieldwork?** Yes, where appropriate.

- 31. Can analytical costs be included in the project budget?** Yes, but the bulk of the costs should be related to fieldwork
- 32. Can I do the project in collaboration with CASP staff?** This is not permitted at the planning and application stage, but once the award has been made the recipient may consult with CASP staff.

Finally

- 33. What if I have any further questions?** The staff in the office at CASP cannot provide any information over the telephone. It is hoped that these FAQs cover most questions, but in the unlikely event that there is anything else that is not clear, e-mail the contact address.