

GW4 Joint Innovative PGR Teaching for Cohorts scheme (JIPCO) – Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is a Doctoral Training Entity (DTE)

DTEs include all funded Doctoral Training Programmes, including Doctoral Training Partnerships/Centres (DTPs/DTCs), Centres for Doctoral Training (CDTs), Industrial Doctorate Centres (IDCs), Engineering Doctorates (EngD), Wellcome Trust PhD Programmes (WT-PhDs) and Wellcome Trust Clinical Academic Training Programmes (CATs).

[Click here for a list of GW4 DTEs](#)

2. What is a PGR Research Community of Scale (RCS)?

For the purposes of this scheme we define a PGR Research Community of Scale (RCS) as a cohort of postgraduate researchers being trained together as part of a research centre/unit/institute, etc.

3. Who can apply to JIPCO?

You are eligible to apply if you fall under one or more of the following:

See definition of 'DTEs' and 'Research Communities of Scale (RCSs)' above.

- a) If you are a Doctoral Training Entity (DTE) involving two or more GW4 partner universities (e.g. NERC GW4+ DTP, ESRC SWDTC, EPSRC WISE CDT, etc.);
- b) If you are a DTE involving two or more GW4 universities, plus additional university partners (e.g. AHRC South, West and Wales DTP; EPSRC CDT in Diamond Science and Technology; etc.);
- c) If you are a single institution DTE at a GW4 university and apply jointly with one or more other DTEs which have GW4 universities as partners or GW4-based RCS(s) (e.g. many EPSRC CDTs);
- d) If you are a collaborative DTE (i.e. more than one partner university) involving one GW4 university and apply jointly with one or more other DTEs which have GW4 universities as partners (e.g. FARSCOPE CDT, ESRC Wales DTC) or one or more GW4-based RCSs;
- e) If you are a GW4-based Research Community of Scale (RCS) and apply jointly with one or more DTEs and/or with RCS(s) at other GW4 universities.

4. Why might a DTE or RCS consider applying jointly with others?

- Two or more DTEs and/or RCSs may have a shared PGR teaching need or interest.
- In any given year it may be difficult for one DTE or RCS to achieve adequate student numbers to justify the proposed teaching programme.
- Inter-DTE/RCS interactions/collaboration can in itself be highly beneficial.

- Collaborating on a pilot is a good way to test new teaching approaches/material, which may then subsequently be run for individual cohorts if this makes more sense.

5. Will preference be given to applications involving more than two GW4 institutions?

Applications will be scored according to quality ([click here for a list of evaluation criteria](#)) first and then the number of GW4 partners will be taken into consideration. For example, in cases where two applications are scored equally for quality the number of GW4 universities that will benefit from the proposed teaching will be used to prioritise.

6. Can doctoral students who are not based at a GW4 institution attend the teaching, if the application is successful?

If the recipient of a JIPCO award is a DTE/RCS which includes non-GW4 partner institutions the students who are not based at a GW4 university may participate in the proposed teaching programme.

As a general rule, however, there should at least be a balance between GW4-based and non-GW4 based doctoral students participating in the teaching programme.

7. Can doctoral student travel to the proposed teaching venue be included in the costing?

Applicants will be expected to provide evidence that they have explored alternative sources of funding for doctoral student travel wherever possible.

Advice should be sought from the GW4 PGR Coordinator, Dr Conny Lippert (gw4-pgr@bristol.ac.uk).

8. What makes an activity cohort-building?

Cohort-building activities would seek to enhance support for research students, improve the research environment, and aid learning. Furthermore would be designed to develop peer support and networks to help doctoral students navigate the methodological, organisational and psychological challenges of a PhD.

9. How do you demonstrate the sustainability of your proposed teaching?

Explain how the pilot joint teaching will be incorporated into your DTE or other programme(s) if successful.

10. Do I need to make the teaching available to non-DTE students?

- a) Showing how the teaching is applicable/relevant to other non-DTE students at GW4 universities will strengthen your application.
- b) Showing how the teaching could be shared with, or made available to, other non-DTE students at GW4 universities will also strengthen your application.