

## *1.2 Non-academic partner responsibilities*

Whilst the MRC appreciates that it may sometimes be difficult to ensure the financial stability of a company three or four years hence, at the time of commitment to the studentship, companies should have strong regulatory, supervisory and other policies in place to ensure the continuity of the studentship. Changes during the studentship should be notified to the MRC immediately.

As a measure of its interest and commitment, the non-academic/company partner must make a specific, identifiable contribution to the research training of the student.

In addition to the contribution to the research training of the student, the company's contribution must include:

1. An annual cash contribution to the academic partner towards the cost of the project of at least £1400 per annum, for the period during which research data are being collected and analysed – a minimum of 80% of the approved length of the studentship;
2. A mandatory cash payment of at least £2500 per annum as a supplement to the stipend for the entire length of the studentship award.
3. A cumulative period of no less than three months spent working in the facilities of the industrial collaborator. This 3 month period can be at any point during the studentship and may consist of a number of shorter visits if appropriate.
4. The company's costs while the student is working at the premises of the company.
5. All additional expenses, such as the cost of travel and accommodation incurred by the student as a direct result of attendance at the premises of the cooperating body.

MRC may agree to vary any of the above stipulations provided that the case is made in the application.

Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) are NOT required to make the contributions under bullet 1 and 2 above as these will be met by the MRC via increased levels of stipend and Research Training Support Grant payments to the academic partner.

SMEs are companies that meet the definition included in Recommendation 1996/280/EC of a small to medium size enterprise (SME) i.e.

- The enterprise must have a staff headcount of <250
- The enterprise must have a turnover not exceeding €50m AND/OR a balance sheet total not exceeding €43m