

NERC Open CASE Studentships Competition

CASE Partners – Letters of Support

This document sets out points that should be considered when writing a Letter of Support for a CASE Studentship application

Moderating panels see the role of partners as critical to a proposal's fundability. Panel members look for 'user pull' rather than 'science push', and for evidence that a proposal has been written with partners to address their needs. A letter of support helps provide that evidence.

CASE partners have an input to the process, ideally from the project's inception, in order to maximise the proposal's impact and the student's learning.

Letters of Support

Each application must include a Letter of Support from the CASE partner (or the senior partner if there is more than one). This letter should be a maximum of two pages long, and on headed paper. A supporting letter should contain the following information:

1. How the partner has been involved in formulating the application;
2. A benefit statement from the CASE partner describing how the proposed activity will benefit their organisation (what the organisational drivers are that underpin the partner's involvement in the proposal, what the partner objectives are that the proposed activity will help meet, what the likely outcomes/impacts of the activity will be for the partner, etc.).
3. The nature of the collaboration, how the CASE partner will be involved in the work and provide added value.
4. The Letter of Support should be targeted toward the project; it should not be generic.

Letters of Support will be taken into account in the assessment process. They help moderating panels assess the CASE partner's level of interest, and therefore the potential for the proposal to achieve its aims.

Training and other elements of the partner's support are covered in the main application.