

BMS Signature PhDs FAQ

Question	Response
Do all supervisors need to be UT employees?	Not necessarily. If it concerns 2 supervisors they both need to be from BMS. If it concerns 3 supervisors, two need to be from BMS, a third can be from another faculty/university/abroad. Please note that TGS only accepts a maximum of 3 supervisors.
What about the rule on the regular appointment in case of retirement during the project period?	You are still an eligible promotor/supervisor for this initiative. However, note that a main objective is that the topic/work continues to spread within BMS and beyond after the project has finished.
Can the promotor be of another faculty, while you as main applicant/supervisor are from BMS?	No, because the grant is primarily meant to stimulate BMS research(ers).
Is it ok to share the info with students (potential candidates)?	Off course you can share it with students, but note that the application conditions are quite strict, so probably it is better to reach out to the most potential/excellent ones instead of spreading the news to all.
What should be the size and nature of the co-financing?	Co-financing is not obliged, but it is a pre. Only cash co-financing counts.
Can you supervise only one candidate as supervisor and/or promotor?	Yes. You can apply for more, but only one project per person is granted. Please note that you need a unique and confirmed candidate for each proposal.
Can the group of the theme leader, hosting a multidisciplinary position, still apply for another one?	Yes, limitations of candidates only apply to individual supervisors, not to topics/groups.
What do you mean by 'innovative aspects of collaborating supervisors'?	We are looking for <i>all</i> aspects/arguments that make the supervision innovative, in terms of the topic chosen (e.g. bridging disciplines/groups/themes), the collaboration of new pairs of supervisors within the faculty and beyond (1 out of max 3 supervisors can be from another faculty/university/abroad), innovative use of BMS Lab facilities.
Can external (paid) BMS professors act as promotors?	Yes, as long as they have <i>ius promovendi</i> at UT.
Co-funding (in cash) from outside BMS is a pre . What does pre mean in this context? Prerequisite or a plus?	A plus.
Can the co-funding come from other UT faculties?	Yes, as long as it is in cash.
What about word counts/limits and references?	Scientific references do not count as full text.
How many candidates will be awarded?	10 BMS Signature PhDs will be awarded in 2 rounds (2019 & 2020).
Who will take the decisions?	It is a two-round evaluation: at first you submit your application to the theme chair of the theme

	that fits your research topic best. The theme chair organizes a selection procedure (e.g. with advisors) and selects the 3 best applications per theme and submits them to the Faculty Board. For this second round no additional input is required (besides the pitch by the candidate)
How is the quality of the student checked?	They submit their cv (together with the application form) and they pitch the research topic for the Faculty Board on one of the two designated dates. We realize that they are all Early Stage Researchers.
How do you expect us to find a candidate over summer?	We want to start this trajectory as soon as possible, hence the short time frame for the first round. We have also learned it is difficult to retain good candidates for longer periods. If we don't have sufficient (good) candidates for this round, there is the possibility to postpone to the second round.
Do all supervisors have to have a permanent contract at the UT?	No, this is not applicable for a 3 rd supervisor
Is there flexibility in the graduation date of the candidate?	Only students who finished their Master are eligible candidates.
Is only the salary of the PhD funded or is a bench fee included as well?	Only the (complete) salary is funded. A contribution to additional (BMS) Lab services is negotiable (80 hrs of support are included per project).
How do we link to the BMS Lab?	Main services/facilities of the Lab are on the website. Consult Jan Willem van 't Klooster for specific opportunities. At this stage it is not necessary to calculate the hours of Lab services required.
To what extend should there be a connection to the BMS Lab?	It is a major plus.
Can I use existing research proposals?	Given the specific focus on novel aspects/innovative collaboration, we prefer new plans and ideas.
How do you proof it is a new collaboration?	By convincingly explaining it in the template. Theme chairs are the first evaluators. They know you/your research and can assess the novelties involved.
How important is it that a project covers more than 1 BMS theme and how can you indicate that?	It is not necessary, but we are looking for unique crossovers, either in themes or disciplines/departments.