

BMS Signature PhDs FAQ 2020

Topic	Question	Response
Supervising team	Is it possible to have both applicants from the same group?	We are looking for multidisciplinary projects and novel collaborations so we strongly advise you to involve supervisors from different groups or even clusters.
	On the set of supervisors: is it preferred to have all of them from BMS or UT? Will it weaken the proposal if one is from another university?	You are free to have a non-BMS/UT 3 rd supervisor as long as you can assure the project is firmly embedded in the BMS research focus. If you include an external partner ensure this partner is of strategic relevance for BMS as a whole, advancing the BMS vision of social sciences meeting technology. In that case it will not weaken your chances. Please remember that formally and in the TGS administration the project has a maximum of 3 supervisors (maybe an external partner could be regarded as an advisor on the project).
	Does one of the supervisors has to be the promotor or can we leave the promotor out?	It is possible to leave the promotor out (so apply with two supervisors, e.g. two assistant professors). The Faculty Board (FB), the candidate and main applicant will jointly discuss and approach the best suiting promotor for the project once it is awarded.
	Is it possible to have the support of researchers from other faculties not as part of the supervisory team but as external advisors?	Yes, but note that max one of them can act as formal supervisor in the project.
	To what extent do you look at the number of supervisors? So, is 3 supervisors evaluated better than 2? Is collaboration between 3 departments evaluated better than collaboration between 2 departments..?	We are looking for a broad focus and new collaborations that strengthen our BMS under steam strategy so the main applicant + promotor from the same department plus someone from outside UT is not a team composition we favor.
	Can a promotor be involved in more than one proposal?	No, a person can only participate in one submission. This also counts for the promotors involved. Please note that people who are formal supervisor on a project awarded in the first round are excluded from participation this year.
Themes	How many proposals will be selected in the 1 st evaluation round per theme?	The theme chairs will select a maximum of two proposals per theme and then together another 5 (or more if they rank the

		same proposals). 15 proposals will be selected for a pitch to the Faculty Board + advisors in the 2 nd evaluation round.
	How many proposals will be funded per theme?	There is no fixed number of projects assigned per theme, however the evaluators will look for strategic relevance and a balanced spread over relevant research topics, also taking into account the honored projects of last year's round.
	What happens when for example both learning and health pick the same proposal in their top 2? Does either theme pick another proposal for the top 2, or do then the group of theme chairs pick 6 proposals instead of 5?	The latter applies: the theme chairs will pick (an) extra proposal(s) in their joint evaluation round. However, this would mean a stronger support basis for the double ranked proposal, which we will take into account.
	If the proposal fit a couple of themes, both themes must be addressed in the same proposal?	Yes, address all relevant themes in the proposal but keep in mind you can only submit the proposal to 2 themes max. The proposal will only be evaluated in the first round by experts of those 2 themes.
	If the proposal fits only 1 theme it means that it has less chances to be selected for the second round or not?	Not necessarily, projects at the core of a theme are also valued. And note that evaluation of your proposal would not benefit from artificially re-directing it towards an extra theme. Ensure anyway that the proposal has a multidisciplinary approach.
	About sending your application to two research themes. Does this also mean that it will be possible to send two applications to the same theme but with different research lines?	This is not applicable since you can only participate in one proposal.
BMSLab	How strong is the weight of "using technology from the BMS lab"?	Incorporating a focus on technology is a must, preferably linked to BMSLab. It is highly recommendable to discuss your equipment/service requirements upfront with the Lab so you come up with concrete, feasible ideas.
	Can the BMS lab participate in the development of software, next to provisioning of IT hardware and software?	BMSLab assigns 80hrs of support per project. Even some more hrs to Signature projects. Purchase of additional equipment or software engineering services are possible, only if the investment is beneficial to multiple projects at the same time.
	About the use of BMSLab facilities in your project: I would like to know how the Shimmer works and what the possibilities are using Shimmer.	Shimmer and Empatica E4 are bluetooth based physiological sign sensors. It measures HRV, GSR and temperature. See this movie for an introduction: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U8ZDs9i6RkA
Candidate	Is it possible to have a PhD candidate who is not yet done with their Master programme? When would they need to be done	A candidate should have graduated before the start of the PhD project. If the student is still enrolled in his/her master

	with their master in order to be eligible for this year's proposals? Is there any difference if they want to work during their master thesis on the same topic as the Signature PhD proposal?	programme at the submission dead line, it is required to have a confirmation of the Master thesis supervisor that the student will graduate in time. If selected, the PhD project will start as soon as possible but no later than 1 December 2020 .
	Is it possible to have a PhD candidate who already graduated over a year ago? Or is it mainly intended for master students who just graduated (or who will graduate before September)?	Yes, that is not a problem. The call has no specific preference to include last year's graduates.
Other	If the candidate has currently a TGS bridging grant (which is for 6 months to find a PhD position), does it count as a co-finance?	No, it does not.
	How important is co-financing from the industry?	It is welcome but we expect it not to play an important role as an explicit evaluation criterium; last year showed there were no definite financial commitments made so then it is difficult to estimate whether they are going to be materialized.
	Is there a specific format for the support letters from societal partners?	No, those letters are not compulsory (but definitely a valuable addition) and therefore we do not provide a template.
	Is a topic which is a continuation of an existing line of research equally valuable as a fully new research problem/idea?	No, it isn't. We prefer novel directions/projects.