

# Industrial Ph.D.



The Research Council  
of Norway

Programme  
The Industrial Ph.D. scheme

## Earning doctorates in companies

Under the Industrial Ph.D. scheme companies may apply for support for a three-year period for an employee seeking to pursue an ordinary doctoral degree. The doctoral candidate must be employed by the company and the doctoral research project must be relevant to issues related to the company's long-term challenges.

The Research Council launched the Industrial Ph.D. scheme in 2008 as a trial scheme. It is modelled on the Industrial Ph.D. Programme in Denmark, which was established in 1972.

### Giving companies a boost

Funding for industry-oriented doctoral research fellowships helps many companies to step up their research efforts. The Industrial Ph.D. scheme does not represent a new type of doctoral degree, but is designed to support long-term, industry-oriented basic research that has the same level of scientific merit as the general doctoral degree education.

The Industrial Ph.D. scheme is designed to enhance interaction between companies and research institutions, increase research activity in industry, and equip newly-educated researchers with knowledge of relevance to their company.

The scheme offers substantial benefits to all three involved parties:

- The **company** can acquire new expertise and expand its network of contacts in academia.
- The degree-conferring **research institution** can obtain new, industry-relevant knowledge and connections in the business sector.
- The doctoral **candidate** can complete a doctorate and gain research-related work experience at the same time.

Companies that enter into a collaboration agreement under the Industrial Ph.D. scheme receive an annual grant from the Research Council equal to maximum 50 per cent of the established current rates for doctoral research fellowships for a three-year period. Grants are awarded in the form of project support to the company, not as a personal grant to the doctoral candidate. The candidate must be an employee of the company and formally admitted to an ordinary doctoral degree programme.

The scheme supplements other initiatives at the Research Council, and may be a good alternative for companies that do not have the resources to participate in larger-scale research projects.

For more information, see: [www.rcn.no/naeringsphd](http://www.rcn.no/naeringsphd)

### The Industrial Ph.D. scheme – key facts

#### The company

- is the formal applicant and recipient of the funding;
- must have dedicated staff and other resources for its own R&D activities;
- must have a binding collaboration with a degree-conferring institution;
- must document the relevance of the research project.

#### The doctoral candidate

- is an employee of the company;
- divides his/her time between the company and the degree-conferring institution;
- must have supervisors from both the degree-conferring institution and the company.

#### Funding

- is awarded conditional to the candidate's admission to an organised doctoral degree programme;
- is awarded for a period of 3-4 years;
- is available for projects in all subjects/branches of industry and is not limited to specific fields;
- is awarded upon completion of a simple, efficient application process.

«By employing a doctoral student rather than hiring an expert we gain access to a university research environment – giving us an excellent return on our investment.»

Chris Spaggiari  
CTO of software company  
Miriam AS

“It will be great to work on my doctoral degree in a company after spending years with my head buried in my books.”

Martin Skjelvareid  
doctoral candidate  
at Breivoll Inspection Technologies AS



On 8 May 2008, Martin Skjelvareid (at left) became the first doctoral candidate under the Industrial Ph.D. scheme when his employer, Breivoll Inspection Technologies AS, became the first company to be awarded funding.

## Doctorate on water pipes

On 8 May 2008, Martin Skjelvareid (at left) became the first doctoral candidate under the Industrial Ph.D. scheme when his employer, Breivoll Inspection Technologies AS, became the first company to be awarded.

Martin Skjelvareid from Northern Norway was only 25 years old and had barely completed his master's degree in electronics when he landed a job – and the opportunity to pursue a doctoral degree – in industry.

The Research Council's Industrial Ph.D. scheme makes it possible to combine the two. Martin Skjelvareid – and Breivoll Inspection Technologies – were the first to test the new scheme.

Breivoll specialises in the inspection of water mains. The company has developed a unique robotic inspection device on which it bases its condition assessment services.

Although its current inspection method yields excellent results, Breivoll wishes to generate even more information about the conditions of water pipes and has worked hard to establish a research project to develop a new type of acoustic resonance method.

## Other forms of support for companies

### User-driven Innovation Projects (BIP)

User-driven Innovation Projects are among the Research Council's key funding instruments for stimulating R&D activity in business and industry, particularly activities that promote innovation and sustainable value creation. The companies themselves are free to select their own topic of research. Research projects must be rooted in company strategy.  
[www.rcn.no/applicationtype](http://www.rcn.no/applicationtype)

### Knowledge-building Projects with User Involvement (KMB)

Knowledge-building Projects with User Involvement are designed to contribute to long-term industry-oriented researcher training and competence-building in Norwegian research communities within topics that are crucial to the development of business and industry in Norway. This project type is an important tool in the effort to enhance Norway's ability to meet the challenges of an increasingly competitive global market.  
[www.rcn.no/applicationtypes](http://www.rcn.no/applicationtypes)

### The SkatteFUNN scheme

The SkatteFUNN scheme is a rights-based scheme that is designed to promote research and development (R&D) activity in Norwegian companies. The objective is to make it easier for companies to launch R&D activities and less costly to carry them out. According to the current legislation, approved projects may receive a tax deduction of up to 20 per cent of the eligible costs related to R&D activity.  
[www.rcn.no/skattefunn](http://www.rcn.no/skattefunn)

### IFU/OFU Research and Development Contracts

These schemes are administered by Innovation Norway, and involve cooperation between a company and a customer in either the private or public sector. The IFU scheme is a strategic instrument for developing products that can compete on the international market. The OFU scheme is a strategic instrument for modernising the public sector.

**The Research Council of Norway**  
Stensberggata 26  
P.O. Box 2700 St. Hanshaugen  
NO-0131 Oslo, Norway

Telephone: +47 22 03 70 00  
Telefax: +47 22 03 70 01  
Mail: [post@rcn.no](mailto:post@rcn.no)  
Website : [www.rcn.no](http://www.rcn.no)

**Publisher**  
© The Research Council of Norway  
The Industrial Ph.D. scheme:  
[www.rcn.no/naeringsphd](http://www.rcn.no/naeringsphd)

**Coordinator**  
Annette Linda Vestlund  
Telephone +47 22 03 75 52  
[alv@rcn.no](mailto:alv@rcn.no)

**Design**  
Blanke Ark  
Photo: Sverre Jarild

**Printing**  
Allkopi

**No. of copies**  
500

Oslo, September 2010