



THE UNIVERSITY
of EDINBURGH

How to apply for a PGR degree at the School of Informatics

Sophie Ramette & Ruth Cusack, 12 November 2024

EDINBURGH
extraordinary futures await

Key points BEFORE applying

- Have you decided what programme is best for you (duration, format, subject, etc.)
- Have you found a supervisor?
- Do you know how you are going to **fund** your studies?
- Have you gathered all the documents you need for an application?



What programme is best for you?

■ Master by Research:

- 1 year (full-time), or 2 years (part-time, Home students only)
- Independent supervised research only (no courses)
- Institute-led programmes (6 Institutes in the School) + Cyber Security, Privacy and Trust
- You apply to the Institute where your proposed supervisor is based
- Usually self-funded

Start here: <https://informatics.ed.ac.uk/study-with-us/our-degrees/postgraduate-research-and-cdts/research-degrees>



THE UNIVERSITY
of EDINBURGH

EDINBURGH
xtraordinary futures await

What programme is best for you?

■ ‘Standard’ PhD:

- 3 years (full-time), or 6 years (part-time, Home students only)
- Independent supervised research only (no courses)
- Institute-led programmes (6 Institutes in the School) + Cyber Security, Privacy and Trust
- You apply to the Institute where your proposed supervisor is based
- Funding available from EPSRC, the School, and other sources

Start here: <https://informatics.ed.ac.uk/study-with-us/our-degrees/postgraduate-research-and-cdts/research-degrees>



What programme is best for you?

■ PhD with Integrated Study (Centres for Doctoral Training):

- 4 years (full-time), or 6 to 8 years (part-time, Home students only)
- 180 credits of taught courses (compulsory) + 3 years' worth of independent research (thesis).
- Compulsory cohort activities
- 5 CDTs recruiting in our School for 2025
- You apply to a programme, application requirements vary
- All offers include funding

Start here: <https://informatics.ed.ac.uk/study-with-us/our-degrees/postgraduate-research-and-cdts/centres-doctoral-training-cdts>



Have you found a supervisor?

- All Institute-led MScRs and standard PhDs, and most CDTs, require you to identify a supervisor BEFORE submitting an application (*please attend specific CDT info sessions for further details on those*).
- This requires research to ascertain who is a suitable supervisor for your research interests, and making contact with them.
- There is guidance on this page: <https://informatics.ed.ac.uk/study-with-us/our-degrees/postgraduate-research-and-cdts/application-guidance-postgraduate-research-1>
- Applications to MScRs and standard PhDs with no named supervisors are **almost always unsuccessful**.



How will you fund your studies?

- Adding up CDT places, EPSRC and School studentships and various supervisor-led funding opportunities, we estimate that we will have about 55 funded places for PhD and PhD with Integrated Study new students for September 2025.
- Most of our PhD researchers are studentship recipients. Typically supervisors only accept students who have been awarded funding.
- Self-funded studies are ok on a short programme (MScR) but not recommended on PhDs.



School /EPSRC DTP funding

All **complete** PhD applications to any standard PhD degree for a start in September 2025 submitted by the deadlines indicated below will be considered for funding, regardless of their fee status.

25 November 2024

17 February 2025

Not eligible: CDT applications, start dates other than September 2025, incomplete applications (missing documents or supervisor)

Read more: <https://informatics.ed.ac.uk/study-with-us/our-degrees/postgraduate-research-and-cdts/postgraduate-research-funding-opportunities-0>



THE UNIVERSITY
of EDINBURGH

EDINBURGH
extraordinary futures await

CDT Funding - find out more:

- **Quantum Informatics** CDT introduction: Tue 12 Nov, 14:00-15:00
- **CDT in AI for Biomedical Innovation** introduction: Tue 12 Nov, 15:00-16:00
- **CDT in Machine Learning Systems** introduction: Wed 13 Nov, 15:00-16:00
- **CDT in Designing Responsible NLP** introduction: Thu 14 Nov, 12:30-13:30

Register at <https://www.ed.ac.uk/studying/postgraduate/open-days-events-visits/open-days/postgraduate-virtual-open-days>



THE UNIVERSITY
of EDINBURGH

EDINBURGH
extraordinary futures await

Other funding

- One-off opportunities for funded PhDs on specific projects are regularly advertised on our website, keep checking
- We also welcome students who secure external funding (from your home government for instance)
- You should discuss funding in your initial conversations with your future supervisor

Read more: <https://informatics.ed.ac.uk/study-with-us/our-degrees/postgraduate-research-and-cdts/postgraduate-research-funding-opportunities>



Submitting your application

- Must be submitted online via Degree Finder
- Must include all transcripts and certificates of all completed studies to date (and English translations where applicable)
- Must include supervisor name
- Must include the professional email contacts of two referees
- If applying for a specific project, must state this clearly
- You can provide your English certificate (if applicable) later on 😊

More info: <https://informatics.ed.ac.uk/study-with-us/our-degrees/postgraduate-research-and-cdts/application-guidance-postgraduate-research-0>



THE UNIVERSITY
of EDINBURGH

EDINBURGH
extraordinary futures await

You submitted your application – now what?

- Check your spam folder for an email with your login credentials
- Keep an eye on your Applicant Hub for updates and requests for additional documents
- There is no need to email us if you need a little time to get documents, just upload them whenever they become available
- All applicants who are eventually offered a place are interviewed
- If you have been waiting for a long time, contact your supervisor in the first place to enquire about the delay.

More info: <https://informatics.ed.ac.uk/study-with-us/our-degrees/postgraduate-research-and-cdts/application-guidance-postgraduate-research-2>



THE UNIVERSITY
of EDINBURGH

EDINBURGH
extraordinary futures await



THE UNIVERSITY
of EDINBURGH

Thank you

Sophie Ramette & Ruth Cusack

Phd-admissions@inf.ed.ac.uk