School of Informatics: FAQs
Frequently Asked Questions: Funding

www.inf.ed.ac.uk

1. How much does it cost?
Up to date information can be found on our website at:
www.ed.ac.uk/student-funding/tuition-fees/postgraduate

Please note: We do not charge a fee for you to apply for admission. However, applicants receiving an offer of admission for a taught MSc programme, either unconditional or conditional, will be asked to pay a non-refundable tuition fee deposit to secure their place on the programme. For further information, contact admissions.

2. I can't pay that. What do I do?
For most research postgraduates we expect that their study will be supported by some form of funding or scholarship. There are many possible sources. Some are directly awarded by us; others require a separate application by you but we are involved in the decision process; some might be directly obtained by you (e.g. funding from your own country). Some will cover the entire cost of your studies, including a stipend for living costs; others may cover partial costs, such as fees only, costs for one year only, or the difference between home and international fees.

We provide a guide to the main sources of funding for Informatics students here:
www.ed.ac.uk/informatics/postgraduate/fees

The University also has a page on postgraduate funding here:
www.ed.ac.uk/student-funding/postgraduate

3. What can I do to increase my chances of getting funding?
Find out the funding sources for which you are eligible, and make sure you meet their requirements and application deadlines. Study hard, get good grades and give the people who are writing your references reasons to be impressed with your abilities.

If you are applying for a research degree, devote serious thought to your research proposal and get in touch with potential supervisors. Submit your application as soon as you possibly can, including all supporting material (degree certificates and transcripts for degrees you have completed, interim transcripts for degrees in progress, etc.)

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4. What are the deadlines for funding?

Each funding scheme has its own application deadline, so you will need to check:

www.ed.ac.uk/informatics/postgraduate/fees
www.ed.ac.uk/student-funding/postgraduate

For 2020/2021 entry, potential research students are advised to apply as early as possible. For some funding sources, you can indicate directly on your application that you wish to be considered. However, for most funding schemes, applying is a two stage process, as you would need to submit both a programme application and a scholarship application by specific deadlines. You need to check the requirements and the specific deadlines of the opportunities for which you are eligible.

- Informatics Global PhD Scholarships - www.ed.ac.uk/student-funding/postgraduate/international/science-engineering/informatics/informatics-global-phd-scholarships
- Edinburgh Global Research Scholarship - www.ed.ac.uk/student-funding/postgraduate/international/global/research
- Principal's Career Development PhD Scholarships - www.ed.ac.uk/student-funding/postgraduate/uk-eu/university-scholarships/development

Successful applicants will be notified by the Informatics Graduate School about admission decisions from the first round of applications from mid-February 2020. Successful applicants will be notified by the Informatics Graduate School about admission decisions from the second round of applications from end March 2020.

Please note: The School of Informatics is involved with five Centres of Doctoral Training (CDTs), three out of which are accepting applications for the academic year 2020/2021. These are the Biomedical Artificial Intelligence (BioMed AI), Natural Language Processing (NLP) and Robotics and Autonomous Systems (RAS). As these programmes may have specific requirements and deadlines, please check:
www.ed.ac.uk/informatics/postgraduate/cdts

5. Does submitting an application mean I am automatically considered for funding /scholarships?

No. You need to check possible sources of funding through the links available here:

www.ed.ac.uk/informatics/postgraduate/fees
www.ed.ac.uk/student-funding/postgraduate

For some funding sources you can indicate directly on our online application form that you wish to be considered for these awards. For many other funding

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sources you will need to make a separate application. Sometimes these will have different deadlines to our application deadlines.

6. Can I be considered for funding before making a formal application?
No. Only applicants who have already been assessed as academically suitable, and who fall within an appropriate research area, can be considered for funding, which requires a formal online application.

7. I have been offered admission to a research degree but the letter says you cannot yet offer funding. What does that mean?
Many funding sources require candidates to have already received a formal offer of admission. Therefore, we often accept a candidate for admission long before it is clear how funding will be handled. This should not be interpreted as a decision not to offer funding unless the offer makes it clear that no funding is available - you should hear later about the funding decision. You might be able to use this letter to apply for funding yourself.

However, if you do not receive a further, funded offer, acceptance of this offer means you are intending to come as a self-funding student (see section 11).

8. When will I hear whether I have obtained funding?
Again, this depends on the funding scheme. In general we should be able to inform you about funding by May; wherever possible, earlier information will be provided. Often we have a reserve list for funding in case some applicants do not accept our offer, in which case the final funding decision may be in July or August.

9. I have received a funding offer from another University. What should I do?
We are sometimes able to make early offers to exceptional candidates, particularly those who have received an offer from elsewhere and need to respond before our decision is due. Please contact us if you are in that position. Our contact details may be found at the end of this factsheet.

10. My potential supervisor has told me I will get funding. Is that official?
No. Your supervisor may be able to advise you about what to expect, but only the formal offer letter from the University outlining your funding is official. You should ask your supervisor to contact the graduate school to request that this letter is issued.

School of Informatics: Entry Requirements

11. Can I come as a self-funded student and assume I will find funding?

No. When you accept a self-funded place, you are agreeing to fully cover the costs of your study, which are clearly set out in advance, from your own resources.

Please note that only in very exceptional circumstances does the Informatics Graduate School make Postgraduate Research (PGR) offers to applicants who plan to entirely fund.

Should we not be able to offer funding, our decision is not subject to revision. You may supplement your income by undertaking tutoring and demonstrating (see section 12) but this can only make a minor contribution to your overall budget.

There are some sources of funding for which existing students are eligible, and you will be encouraged to apply for these where appropriate, but acceptance is not guaranteed - you should not rely on obtaining such funding to continue your study.

12. Are teaching assistantships available to support PhD study?

You may supplement your income by undertaking tutoring and demonstrating, and some of these jobs are called teaching assistantships, but these alone will not be enough to finance PhD study.

13. What is the difference between a 'scholarship' and a 'studentship'?

Different funding schemes use different terms - you may also see the term 'fellowship' - but there is no practical difference as far as we are concerned.

21. I have another question, who do I ask?

Taught MSc enquiries:
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PhD, MPhil and MSc by Research enquiries
Tel: +44 (0) 131 650 3091
Email: phd-admissions@inf.ed.ac.uk