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Postgraduate Virtual **Open Days**

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



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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>



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, 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 **strongly discouraged and rejected in most cases**.



How will you fund your studies?

- Adding up CDT places, EPSRC and University 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 2026, with most of the funding available for CDT students.
- 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.



Uni/ EPSRC DTP funding

All **complete** PhD applications to any standard PhD degree for a start in September 2026 submitted by the deadlines indicated below will be considered for funding, regardless of their fee status.

18 December 2025

Not eligible: CDT applications, start dates other than September 2026, 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>



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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>



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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>



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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>



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Did you get the info you were looking for?

- Programme-specific info: <https://postgraduate.degrees.ed.ac.uk/>
- Chat to our Students: <https://edin.ac/student-chat-pg>
- Any other questions (including, Fees & Admissions) email: futurestudents@ed.ac.uk
- Read our students' blogs at <https://blogs.ed.ac.uk/studentstories/>



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Thank you

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