

# FAQs for potential students

Our most frequently asked questions are answered below.

## What can I expect with a CDT cohort experience?

It's traditional to think of a PhD as a 'solo' endeavour: you pursue your project, with your research, leading to your thesis. All of that still happens within a CDT, but you'll be working alongside a cohort of other PhD students.

This provides a more collegiate atmosphere with an informal support structure and opportunities for collaboration.

A cohort-based approach also enhances your networking opportunities. Like you, your fellow students are looking to become part of the next generation of leading scientists and researchers. It's worth getting to know them.

## How will I make connections with industry?

Not all Science and Engineering PhDs lead to a career in academia. CDTs have been set up to recognise this fact. And to make the most of it.

As well as supporting you to earn a PhD, your CDT will make sure that PhD is worth earning (and worth funding) whatever you go on to do with it.

Much of this is done through the additional training and skills development described above.

The DA CDTs takes a more direct approach with opportunities to take up placements beyond the university. These will be designed to contribute to your research and give you the opportunity to see how that research is applied in the real world.

## Can I apply for my own research topic?

No. The topics have been co-created by academics and non-academic partners who are part-funding the PhDs. That said, there will always be scope within a PhD to refine the topic to be well aligned with an individual's interests and achievements. The topics are therefore relatively broad and so there is likely to be scope to pursue your specific interests within that broad topic area.

## What if I want to apply and no projects are advertised?

Please submit a generic application form at any time and follow the [CDT Application Instructions](#). If your application meets the eligibility criteria, you will be sent a list of projects (once they are confirmed) and you will be asked to return a ranked list of your top 3 projects.

## What should I include in the “research proposal”?

Please cut-and-paste the content of the project advert: the research proposal won't be assessed for any of the CDT's studentships. [CDT application instructions](#).

## Based on my nationality, am I eligible to apply?

If you are a UK or EU citizen then you are eligible. If you are not an EU citizen, then unfortunately you are not eligible to apply.

## I am an EU national, but haven't been living in the UK. Am I right that I can't apply?

No. If you are an EU citizen then you are eligible to apply. There is a complicated constraint on how many EU students who have not been living in the UK for the last three years that we will be able to support in total. We do not anticipate that constraint to impact on our ability to recruit students.

## How do CDTs recruit students?

CDTs offer four-year PhD programmes including a range of additional training and development. This means, that CDTs tend to recruit cohorts of PhD students each year – similar to undergraduate programmes. The exact number of places (and studentships) depends on the CDT's annual intake. Generally, this CDT looks to recruit up to 12 students each year.

## Are fees and stipend covered?

The funding does include PhD fees and a stipend for four years.

## Is the stipend enough to live in Liverpool?

This is the standard EPSRC stipend which many PhD students have in Liverpool and it is widely perceived to be sufficient by current PhD students.

## Is there an initial MSc or MRes year?

No. You will start the PhD on day one. The training will be integral to the PhD and tailored based on both your specific previous experience and the requirements associated with the specific PhD topic.

## How long does the PhD last?

University regulations dictate that you must submit within four years of starting. Most students submit at some point after the end of their third year and that is the anticipation for students in the CDT.

## Why Research at Liverpool?

Every project within the centre is offered in collaboration with an industrial partner who, as well as providing co-supervision will also offer the unique opportunity for students to be embedded within industry, accessing state of the art computing platforms, working on real world problems, using live benchmarking and data.

Our graduates will gain unparalleled experiences answering industry need while working across academic disciplines in highly sought-after topic areas.

As well as learning from academic and industrial world leaders, the centre has a dedicated programme of interdisciplinary research training including the opportunity to undertake modules at the global pinnacle of Data Science teaching.

A large number of events and training sessions are undertaken as a cohort of PhD students, allowing you to build personal and professional relationships that we hope will lead to research collaboration either now or in your future.

Graduates from this CDT will have the essential skills needed to become future leaders in data science, be it in academia or industry.

### Who to contact

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