The CDT programme at a glance

Most CDT research projects adopt an EngD model, but PhD projects are also possible, with students following the same programme as EngD students. Students progress to their research project in Month 9, with EngD projects located at the company’s site and PhD projects being based in one of the five Universities.

Selected courses are available in distance-learning format, allowing company employees to pursue an EngD without spending a large amount of time off-site.

The programme duration is four years.

The time line of the programme is shown below.

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**Academic Contacts**

**Director**

*Prof. Derryck Reid*

Heriot-Watt University  
Tel: 0131 451 3652  
Email: d.t.reid@hw.ac.uk

**Deputy Director**

*Dr. Bill MacPherson*

Heriot-Watt University  
Tel: 0131 451 3733  
Email: w.n.macpherson@hw.ac.uk

**Co-ordinators**

*Prof. Erling Riis*

University of Strathclyde  
Tel: 0141 548 3490  
Email: e.riis@strath.ac.uk

*Dr. Graham Turnbull*

University of St Andrews  
Tel: 01334 467330  
Email: gat@st-andrews.ac.uk

*Dr. Nigel Johnson*

Glasgow University  
Tel: 0141 330 4110  
Email: nigel.johnson@glasgow.ac.uk

*Dr. David McGloin*

University of Dundee  
Tel: 01382 384402  
Email: d.mcgloin@dundee.ac.uk

**General Enquiries**

e: cdtphotonics@hw.ac.uk  
t: 0131 451 3792  
w: www.cdtphotonics.hw.ac.uk
What is an EngD degree?
The Engineering Doctorate (EngD) is an alternative to the traditional PhD for students who want a career in industry. A four-year programme combines PhD-level research projects with masters-level technical and MBA courses, and students spend about 75% of their time working directly with a company.

Each research project is proposed by the industrial partner and is normally located at the company’s site. Students are co-supervised by an industrial and academic supervisor and submit a thesis which is examined in a similar way to a PhD.

The AEngD – Association of Engineering Doctorates – is a community of EngD providers, researchers, sponsoring companies, EngD alumni and other stakeholders in the EngD ‘brand’, ensuring the qualification is widely recognised in industry and academia.

ACADEMICS: BECOMING A SUPERVISOR
Research active academics at each of the partner Universities are entitled to act as academic supervisors to EngD projects and as primary supervisors to PhD projects which they offer.

BENEFITS
PhD and EngD projects in the Centre are distinguished by their industrial connectivity. Acting as a supervisor allows academics to develop mutually beneficial links with industry, such as licensing research results or developing exploitation pathways important for obtaining research council funding.

Academic supervisors receive a £3,500 annual payment from the Centre which can be used in support of their project.

RESPONSIBILITIES
In addition to the usual supervision responsibilities, academic supervisors are required to participate in quarterly progress reviews, including mandatory biannual visits to the company’s site for EngD projects. Supervisors are also expected to support students in preparing their annual appraisal documents, and to participate in the review of their student and / or other CDT students.

SUBMITTING A PHD RESEARCH PROJECT
Academic supervisors who are interested in attracting industrial support for a PhD research project which they wish to offer should submit a research profile via the CDT website: www.cdtphotonics.hw.ac.uk/academics.html

STUDENTS: APPLICATION PROCEDURE AND FUNDING

ELIGIBILITY
Non-EU students cannot be admitted to the EngD programme and restrictions will apply to those entering the PhD programme.

Both UK and non-UK EU nationals with settled status and who have been resident in the UK for work or education for at least three years are eligible to receive a full stipend and payment of their tuition fees. Full funding for students unable to fulfil the residency criteria can only be offered to exceptional applicants and on a case-by-case basis.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
Applicants must have a 1st class or 2.1 degree at MPhys or MEng level (or equivalent) from a physical sciences programme. Exceptional candidates with BSc or BEng qualifications are also considered.

APPLICATION AND SELECTION PROCEDURE
Project vacancies appear on the CDT website www.cdtphotonics.hw.ac.uk along with a link to the online application site, hosted at Heriot-Watt. Full supporting documentation should be uploaded, (eg CV, degree certificates and transcripts) with the exception of letters from referees, which we will obtain independently. For EngD applications, please specify your preferred projects in order of priority.

An initial technical interview takes place between appropriately qualified applicants and academic staff from the Centre. Suitable candidates are invited to a follow-up interview with the company sponsor. If successful, an offer is made by the University which is providing the academic supervision to the project and the candidate will register with this University, who will also be responsible for awarding the final degree. After accepting a place, the student and his / her supervisors sign a contract defining the payment schedule and IP management in the project. Entry to the programme is normally September, however entry is possible at other times by prior agreement.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR ELIGIBLE STUDENTS (£)

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<th>Centre</th>
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<td>EngD researcher (regular student)</td>
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<td>EngD researcher (employee)</td>
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<tr>
<td>PhD researcher</td>
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COMPANIES: HOW TO ENGAGE WITH THE CENTRE

Two routes allow companies with a research activity in the UK to engage with research projects supported by the Centre:

EngD
Most research in the Centre takes the form of EngD projects, in which a company is responsible for proposing and supporting the research project at their own facility. The EngD student is based within the company, which provides them with an Industrial Supervisor who is supported by an Academic Supervisor from one (or more) of the partner universities. Companies automatically own the foreground IP from the EngD project they support.

PhD
A company can choose to support a relevant PhD research project in a university laboratory, in return gaining early access to results, the potential to exclusively license foreground IP and the right to host the student at their site for 3 months of the project.

Entry to the programme is normally September, with students completing two semesters of taught courses before beginning the research phase, either at the company’s site or at one of the partner universities.

Project proposals from companies are accepted throughout the year but are particularly encouraged by the end of December to allow recruitment to the programme in phase with the academic year.

COSTS PER ANNUM (£)

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<tr>
<th></th>
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<td>EngD researcher (employee)</td>
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<td>PhD researcher</td>
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FURTHER INFORMATION

Please contact the Centre Director to discuss a project proposal. The project proposal form can be downloaded from the Centre website: www.cdtphotonics.hw.ac.uk

To learn more about research activities in the participating universities, contact the appropriate academic coordinator or visit the Centre website to see profiles of academic researchers with an interest in running industrially collaborative PhD projects.