



GW4 FRESH Centre for Doctoral Training: Student Application 2019/20

Page 1: Before you begin

Thank you for your interest in studying for your PhD with the GW4 FRESH NERC Centre for Doctoral Training.

The deadline for applications is **9am on Monday 17th December 2018**.

You can save the form and complete in stages BUT after you submit you cannot go back to edit or change your answers. IMPORTANT - Download and save a copy of your application form directly after you submit your answers - you have only 15 minutes to do this.

After the application closing date you will need to arrange a **meeting with your chosen**

supervisors (in person or via phone/video call) to discuss the project and your application, between 2nd and 14th January. The Lead supervisor of your project(s) will be sent a copy of this application form. Project supervisors will put forward their first choice candidate for interview by a central CDT panel, and will shortlist candidates on the basis of this application form against the following criteria:

- **proven academic quality:** normally evidenced by an excellent performance at first degree and/or Master's level, but may also be demonstrated by a record of relevant professional practice;
- **research potential:** evidenced through application responses and supported by performance in research projects at first degree and/or Master's level, or another form of dedicated preparation for research;
- **personal motivation and commitment:** evidenced through application responses, by enthusiasm for the project area, and in relation to career goals.

All applicants will be informed of the shortlisting outcome by the **23rd January 2019**.

If you are shortlisted you will need to:

- arrange for **two referees** to send references to the CDT by 9am on 18th February
- send a copy of your **academic transcript(s)** by 9am on 18th February 2019;
- attend an **interview** in Cardiff on in w/c 25th February 2019 (actual date tbc).

Further details will be included in the shortlisting letter.

Please note: This application is for the studentship known as an '**Offer of Funding**'. You will also need to apply for admission, known as an '**Offer to Study**', from your chosen University/Universities by completing their institutional application process (please see website for details).

Page 2: Eligibility

This section will be removed before the form is sent to the GW4 FRESH Supervisors for shortlisting but will be used by administrators to monitor the eligibility of applicants.

Studentships are open to UK Nationals and EU Nationals. International students are not eligible to apply.

1. Are you an **UK National** or **EU National** who, by the 17th September 2019, will have lived in the UK for at least 3 years? *Optional*

Please note

- International students from outside the EU are ineligible to apply

-EU students who have three years residency must hold this residency right up to the start date of the PhD - breaks in residency do not qualify. Please see UKRI terms and conditions for further details

1.a. Are you an **EU National** who **does not** meet the residency requirements in the previous question?

1.a.i. If you are not an EU or UK national but think there is a reason why you might still qualify for 'home student status', for example verified refugee status, then outline here.

If you are not a UK or EU student and do not qualify for home fees for another reason then you are not eligible to apply. Please exit the application form without submitting.

2. If English is not your first language, you will need to meet the English language requirements of the university that will host your PhD by the start of the programme. This will be at least 6.5 in IELTS or an acceptable equivalent. **Do you meet the English language requirements?**

Page 3: Contact Details

This information is being collected to enable CDT and University administrators and your potential supervisors, to contact you.

3. First Name: * Required

4. Preferred Name: * Required

5. Last Name: * Required

6. Email Address: * Required

Please enter a valid email address.

7. Phone Number: * Required

Please enter a valid phone number.

8. House name/number: *Optional*

9. Address Line 2: *Optional*

10. Address Line 3:

11. Town/City: *Optional*

12. County/Region:

13. Country: *Optional*

14. Post Code / Area Code:

15. Is this also the address to which you wish all correspondence to be sent?

+ More info

yes

no

15.a. If you have an alternative address for correspondence, write it here

Page 4: Mode of Study

This section will be removed before the form is sent to the GW4 FRESH CDT supervisors for shortlisting.

It will be used by administrators to monitor the demand for part-time study.

16. Do you plan to study full-time (3.5 years) or part-time (up to 7 years)? * *Required*

The minimum part-time study allowed is 50% of full-time

Page 5: Project Information

The GW4 FRESH CDT are advertising 20 projects and will award up to 12 studentships. We encourage applicants to apply for up to 2 projects, although *this is not compulsory*. This is so that if your first choice project is allocated to someone higher up the interview rankings than yourself then you may be offered your second choice instead.

Choose one project from each of the following two questions - question 17 is required but question 18 is optional.

Projects appear on the list below in institutional order - Bath, Bristol, Cardiff then Exeter based, and within institution alphabetically by lead supervisor surname.

17. Please select your FIRST CHOICE project from the list below

- High resolution modelling of fate and transport of organic micropollutants and their effect on ecosystems in small rivers
- Stereoisomerism of antimicrobial agents and risks to freshwater ecosystems
- Talking algae: an early warning system for water quality threats
- Diversity and speciation of aquatic macroinvertebrates of Malawi
- Predator-prey interactions under near-future environmental change: The combined effects of increasing temperature and turbidity
- Defining nutrient sources and fluxes driving lowland drinking water reservoir ecosystem response
- The electric ecology of fresh water habitats
- aqAMR: AMR at the interface of the agricultural and aquatic environments
- eDNA: A 21st Century tool to link people and ecosystem health in Sub-Saharan Africa?
- Intervention management options for algal blooms: working with the Canal and River Trust
- Diagnosing the reasons for biodiversity decline in rural rivers
- Using environmental DNA to understand the role of connectivity in pond ecosystems
- Quantifying the impact of beaver reintroduction on aquatic ecology
- Quantifying the effects of bacteria-phage interactions on daily micronutrient cycling in freshwater ecosystems
- Investigating selection for antimicrobial resistance by non-antibiotic drugs in freshwater microbial communities
- Development of a next-generation biosensor system for detecting concentrations and

tissue distribution of heavy metals in living aquatic animals.

- Adapting to life in metal polluted rivers: implications for conservation, genetic diversity and fisheries management in the brown trout (*Salmo trutta*)
- Antibiotic exposure impacts on fish health in natural freshwaters
- Variability of CO₂ and its impact on biota in natural and anthropogenically impacted freshwater environments
- Quantifying synergies between multiple stressors and biodiversity loss on the functioning of freshwater microbial communities
- Cryptosporidium movement in water: impact of eutrophication and climate change on the zoonotic disease agent

18. Please select your SECOND Choice project from the list below

- High resolution modelling of fate and transport of organic micropollutants and their effect on ecosystems in small rivers
- Stereoisomerism of antimicrobial agents and risks to freshwater ecosystems
- Talking algae: an early warning system for water quality threats
- Diversity and speciation of aquatic macroinvertebrates of Malawi
- Predator-prey interactions under near-future environmental change: The combined effects of increasing temperature and turbidity
- Defining nutrient sources and fluxes driving lowland drinking water reservoir ecosystem response
- The electric ecology of fresh water habitats
- aqAMR: AMR at the interface of the agricultural and aquatic environments
- eDNA: A 21st Century tool to link people and ecosystem health in Sub-Saharan Africa?
- Intervention management options for algal blooms: working with the Canal and River Trust
- Diagnosing the reasons for biodiversity decline in rural rivers
- Using environmental DNA to understand the role of connectivity in pond ecosystems
- Quantifying the impact of beaver reintroduction on aquatic ecology
- Quantifying the effects of bacteria-phage interactions on daily micronutrient cycling in freshwater ecosystems
- Investigating selection for antimicrobial resistance by non-antibiotic drugs in freshwater microbial communities
- Development of a next-generation biosensor system for detecting concentrations and

tissue distribution of heavy metals in living aquatic animals.

- Adapting to life in metal polluted rivers: implications for conservation, genetic diversity and fisheries management in the brown trout (*Salmo trutta*)
- Antibiotic exposure impacts on fish health in natural freshwaters
- Variability of CO₂ and its impact on biota in natural and anthropogenically impacted freshwater environments
- Quantifying synergies between multiple stressors and biodiversity loss on the functioning of freshwater microbial communities
- Cryptosporidium movement in water: impact of eutrophication and climate change on the zoonotic disease agent
- None

Page 6: Proven academic quality

Academic Quality

Normally evidenced by an excellent performance at first degree and/or Master's level but may also be demonstrated by a record of relevant professional practice

19. Please list all of your **A-Level** subjects. Grades are not required. * *Required*

+ [More info](#)

20. Please provide details of your **first degree**, e.g. University of Sheffield: Biology (BSc) Hons 2:1. If you are currently completing a first degree programme, please provide your year average grades to date, e.g. University of Sheffield: Biology (BSc) 1st yr - 64; 2nd yr 67. If you hold an EU degree, please also indicate its equivalent UK degree classification - for a conversion table click on '[more info](#)' * *Required*

+ [More info](#)

21. If applicable, please provide details of your **Masters degree**. If you are currently completing your Masters degree programme, please provide your year average grades to date, e.g. University of Sheffield: Psychology (MSc) Average of 2 modules completed to date, 71. If you hold an EU degree, please also indicate its equivalent UK degree classification - for a

conversion table see our website by clicking ['more info'](#) * *Required*

22. The Centre for Doctoral Training should bring together different academic disciplines. To help us monitor the background of applicants please select the most appropriate discipline for yourself based on recent study/experience. (Taken from HESA [JACS 3.0](#)) *Optional*

22.a. If you selected 'combined' please specify using two or more subjects listed above.
Optional

23. Please outline any other relevant **academic or professional training or experience** you have gained ** [200 words].

** This is particularly important if you do not meet the standard academic requirements. The CDT

is keen to attract students from a range of backgrounds and will consider those demonstrating equivalent professional experience.

24. Please outline any relevant **prizes, awards or funding** you have received [100 words].

Page 7: Research Potential:

Research Potential

Evidenced through application responses and supported by performance in research projects at first degree and/or Master's level, or another form of dedicated preparation for research.

25. Please outline up to 3 examples of relevant research experience and training. This can be from your academic studies, placements or employment. Please include a title, summary, grade/outcome (where applicable), relevance and reflection [300 words].



26. Please list any published works, including the topic, journal, position in authorship and year.

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27. Please list any conferences you have presented at, including the presentation format, e.g. poster, paper.

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Page 8: Personal motivation and commitment

Personal motivation and commitment

Evidenced through your application responses, particularly your enthusiasm for the project area(s) and how you see it relating to your career goals.

In a maximum of **300 words** (combined) please explain why you have:

- a) applied to study for a PhD
- b) chosen your specific project(s)

28. a) applied to study for a PhD

29. b) chosen your specific project(s)

30. Please outline any relevant periods of paid or unpaid employment [100 words].



Page 9: Any further information:

31. Please provide any relevant information not previously covered (completion of this section is not essential) [100 words].

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Page 10: Equality and Diversity Monitoring

This section will be removed before the form is sent to GW4 FRESH Supervisors.

The following is being collected for equality and diversity monitoring purposes only and is required by the Natural Environment Research Council; an aggregated and anonymised summary of all applicants will be presented to the Management Group after the recruitment process is complete. Your responses will be deleted once analysis has taken place.

32. What is your age category?

33. Do you have any dependents? * *Required*

34. Do you have any disabilities? * *Required*

35. What is your ethnicity? * *Required*

36. What is your nationality?

37. What is your gender? * *Required*

Page 11: Advertising

38. How did you find out about this PhD opportunity?

- Email from GW4 FRESH forwarded by my University
- Email from the project supervisor direct
- GW4 FRESH CDT Website
- FindaPhD.com
- Via link from another website
- Personal recommendation ie from friend or colleague
- General Postgrad event
- Social Media - Twitter/Facebook
- ResearchGate
- University Careers Service
- Other

Page 12: Data Protection:

Data Protection:

If you are applying for a place on a collaborative programme of doctoral training provided by Cardiff University and other universities, research organisations and/or partners, please be aware that your personal data will be used and disclosed for the purposes set out below.

Your personal data will always be processed in accordance with the GDPR 2018. Cardiff University (“University”) will remain a data controller for the personal data it holds, and other universities, research organisations and/or partners (“HEIs”) may also become data controllers for the relevant personal data they receive as a result of their participation in the collaborative programme of doctoral training (“Programme”).

Application Process

During the application process, the University may need to share some of your personal data with third parties to be able to administer your application, carry out interviews and select candidates. These are not limited to, but may include disclosures to:

- the selection panel and/or management board or equivalent of the relevant Programme, which is likely to include staff from one or more other HEIs;
- administrative staff at one or more other HEIs participating in the relevant Programme.

Such disclosures will always be kept to the minimum amount of personal data required for the specific purpose. Your sensitive personal data may need to be shared in certain circumstances, but only where strictly necessary. By applying for a place you hereby consent to your data being processed and shared in this way.

If you become a student on one of the Programmes

If your application is successful and you register on a Programme, the University may need to make further disclosures of your personal data throughout your time on the programme to ensure the effective management of your studies and comply with its obligations to funders. These disclosures may include, but are not limited to disclosures:

- within the group of HEIs to the Programme;
- to other collaborative parties to the relevant Programme, e.g. industrial sponsors and/or collaborators, supervisors from other HEIs, Research Councils (as funders of the Programme);
- to external examiners.

Other disclosures may be made where it is necessary for the administration of your studies.

Accessing your personal data

If you wish to have access to any of your personal data as held by the University, please contact InfoRequest@cardiff.ac.uk. There may be a fee of £10 associated with such requests.

Contact

If you have any queries or concerns about the use of your personal data during the application process or your time as a student, please contact PGR Quality and Operations (Registry) by emailing pgr@cardiff.ac.uk.

39. Please confirm you have read the data protection statement and are happy for your information to be collected and shared as specified in the application form. If you do not agree with the terms, exit the survey without submitting. * *Required*

Yes, I have read and accept these terms

Page 13: Nearly Finished

At the bottom of this page you are able to select a 'Finish Later' option and return to the survey.

Once you click 'Finish' on this page your application will be submitted and **cannot be edited** by yourself or the CDT hub. Therefore please ensure you have completed all sections before finishing.

You will be able to download a copy of this application form for 15 minutes after submission, after which you will not be able to access your answers.

Page 14: Thank You!

Your application has now been received. You will NOT receive a follow-up email or any other confirmation, but please be assured that if you are seeing this page, that we have it.

Please **DOWNLOAD A COPY OF YOUR FORM and the receipt number**. You have only 15 minutes to do this. If you discover you have made a mistake you will need to submit a whole new form and let us know so we can delete the original.

Your application will be forwarded to and considered by the supervisory team(s) of the project(s) to which you have applied.

All applicants will be informed of the shortlisting outcome by the **23rd January**

If you are shortlisted for interview you will need to:

- arrange a **meeting with your chosen supervisors** (in person or via phone/video call) to discuss the project and your application between 2nd and 14th January
- submit a copy of your **academic transcript(s)** by 9am 18th February 2019 and arrange for two references to be sent, preferably forwarded direct from your referees to us
- attend an **interview** in Cardiff in the week commencing 25th February

Further details will be included in the shortlisting letter.

Thank you for submitting your application.

Key for selection options

1 - Are you an UK National or EU National who, by the 17th September 2019, will have lived in the UK for at least 3 years?

Yes

No

2 - If English is not your first language, you will need to meet the English language requirements of the university that will host your PhD by the start of the programme. This will be at least 6.5 in IELTS or an acceptable equivalent. Do you meet the English language requirements?

Yes, I have passed the test or meet the level required

No, I sat the test but did not reach the required level

I need to take the test

16 - Do you plan to study full-time (3.5 years) or part-time (up to 7 years)?

Full-time

Part-time

22 - The Centre for Doctoral Training should bring together different academic disciplines. To help us monitor the background of applicants please select the most appropriate discipline for yourself based on recent study/experience. (Taken from HESA [JACS 3.0](#))

Medicine & dentistry (clinical)

Subjects allied to medicine

Biological sciences

Veterinary science

Agriculture & related subjects

Physical sciences

Mathematical sciences

Computer science

Engineering & technology

Architecture, building & planning

Social studies

Law

Business & administrative studies

Mass communications & documentation

Languages

Historical & philosophical studies

Creative arts & design

Education

Combined

32 - What is your age category?

0 - 24

25 - 29

30 - 34

35 - 39

40 - 44

45 - 49

50 - 54

55 - 59

60 - 64

65 +

Prefer not to say

33 - Do you have any dependents?

- Young people/children
- Other relatives/friends
- No dependents
- Both young people/children & other relatives/friends
- Prefer not to say

34 - Do you have any disabilities?

- None
- A specific learning difficulty, such as dyslexia, dyspraxia or AD(H)D
- A social/communication impairment such as Asperger's syndrome/other autistic spectrum disorder
- A longstanding illness or health condition, such as cancer, HIV, diabetes, chronic heart disease, or epilepsy
- A mental health condition, such as depression, schizophrenia or anxiety disorder
- A physical impairment or mobility issues, such as difficulty using arms or using a wheelchair or crutches
- Deaf or a serious hearing impairment
- Blind or a serious visual impairment uncorrected by glasses
- A disability, impairment or medical condition that is not listed above
- Prefer not to say

35 - What is your ethnicity?

- Asian British
- Asian other
- Black British
- Black other
- Mixed / multiple ethnic groups
- Other
- White British
- White other
- Prefer not to say

37 - What is your gender?

- Male
- Female
- Other
- Prefer not to say

