GW4 FRESH CDT: Student Application 2020/21

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 16th December 2019**.

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 the project supervisor will contact you to arrange an interview if you meet their criteria, to discuss the project and your application, and will let you know if they also require references/transcripts. This will take place by 14th January and can be in person or via phone/video call. The Lead supervisor of your project(s) will be sent a copy of this application form before that meeting (less the E&D section). 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 5pm on **20th January 2020**.

If you are shortlisted you will need to:

- arrange for **two referees** to send references to the CDT by 5pm on 22nd January
- send a copy of your **academic transcript(s)** by 5pm on 22nd January
- attend an **interview** in Cardiff in w/c 17th February (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 may 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 eligiblity 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**? ✱ *Required*

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, by the 17th September 2019, will have lived in the UK for at least 3 years

1.b. 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 verifed 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?** ✳ *Required*

[   ]

If English is not your first langauage and you do not have the required IELTs test score you will not be eligible to join the PhD programme

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: ✳ *Required*

9. Address Line 2: ✳ *Required*

10. Address Line 3:

11. Town/City: ✳ *Required*

12. County/Region:

13. Country: *Optional*

14. Post Code / Area Code: ✳ *Required*

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

➕ 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 minumum part-time study allowed is 50% of full-time

Page 5: Project Information

The GW4 FRESH CDT are currently advertising 25 projects and will award up to 14 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 shortlisting rankings than yourself, then you may be offered an interview for 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 by lead supervisor surname.

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

○ Using in situ sensors to monitor ecosystem health in freshwater catchments; Lead Supervisor: Liz Bagshaw Institution: Cardiff

○ Predicting the dynamics of community biomass and size distributions in freshwater communities exposed to long-term warming; Lead Supervisor: Diego Barneche Rosado Institution: Exeter

○ Bacterial fish pathogens: ignored threats for aquaculture and the environment; Lead Supervisor: Cedric Berger Institution: Cardiff

○ Can beaver-modified ecosystems mitigate water quality deterioration caused by both point and diffuse source pollution? ; Lead Supervisor: Richard Brazier Institution: Exeter

○ Assessing the impact of peatland restoration on freshwater ecosystems; Lead Supervisor: Casey Bryce Institution: Bristol

○ Cryptosporidium movement in water- impact of eutrophication and climate change on the zoonotic disease agent; Lead supervisor: Jo Cable Institution: Cardiff

○ Indicators of regime shifts in freshwater ecosystems; Lead Supervisor: Christopher Clements Institution: Bristol

○ Ecological drought risks for stream ecosystems; Lead Supervisor: Isabelle Durance Institution: Cardiff

○ Cascading effects of micro- and nano-plastics on lipid quality and transfer through freshwater planktonic ecosystems; Lead Supervisor: Irina Guschina Institution: Cardiff

- Chemical and ecological effects of combined sewer overflows on rivers; Lead Supervisor: Jan Hofman Institution: Bath

- Speciation of emerging contaminants in wetland systems; Lead Supervisor: Barbara Kasprzyk-Hordern Institution: Bath

- Assessing the microbial contamination of freshwater systems by wastewater treatment plants using phage microbial source tracking; Lead Supervisor: Ana Lanham Institution: Bath

- One man's meat is another man's poison: exploring the effect of mass drug administration against schistosomes on the aquatic food web; Lead Supervisor: Joanne Lello Institution: Cardiff

- Quantifying the role of microbial community dynamics in triggering the production of nuisance chemicals in freshwater systems; Lead Supervisor: Chris Lowe Institution: Exeter

- Long-term environmental influences on the ecology and conservation of river birds; Lead Supervisor: Steve Ormerod Institution: Cardiff

- Bridging ecology and technology: Using citizen science and artificial intelligence to track fish health; Lead Supervisor: Sarah Perkins Institution: Cardiff

- Understanding the ecological role of organic matter (OM) in urban freshwaters; Lead Supervisor: Dan Read Institution: CEH/Bristol

- The influence of biogeochemical iron(III) reduction on contaminant dynamics in riparian systems; Lead Supervisor: Devin Sapsford Institution: Cardiff

- The mysterious microbial ecosystem beneath our feet: Unravelling the groundwater microbiology archive; Lead Supervisor: James Sorensen Institution: BGS/Cardiff

- Adapting to life in an increasingly acid world: understanding tolerance to acidic waters in populations of trout (Salmo trutta); Lead Supervisor: Jamie Stevens Institution: Exeter

- Antibiotic exposure impacts on fish health in natural freshwaters; Lead Supervisor: Charles Tyler Institution: Exeter

- Chlorine reduction wetlands; Lead Supervisor: Jannis Wenk Institution: Bath

- Fish Swimming Dynamics and Behaviour in the Vicinity of a Fish Exclusion Screen; Lead Supervisor: Catherine Wilson Institution: Cardiff

- Using physiology to generate novel control measures and management strategies for ectoparasite outbreaks in freshwater trout fisheries; Lead Supervisor: Rod Wilson Institution: Exeter

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

○ None

○ Using in situ sensors to monitor ecosystem health in freshwater catchments; Lead Supervisor: Liz Bagshaw Institution: Cardiff

○ Predicting the dynamics of community biomass and size distributions in freshwater communities exposed to long-term warming; Lead Supervisor: Diego Barneche Rosado Institution: Exeter

○ Bacterial fish pathogens: ignored threats for aquaculture and the environment; Lead Supervisor: Cedric Berger Institution: Cardiff

○ Can beaver-modified ecosystems mitigate water quality deterioration caused by both point and diffuse source pollution? ; Lead Supervisor: Richard Brazier Institution: Exeter

○ Assessing the impact of peatland restoration on freshwater ecosystems; Lead Supervisor: Casey Bryce Institution: Bristol

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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. ✱ *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 ** [upto 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.

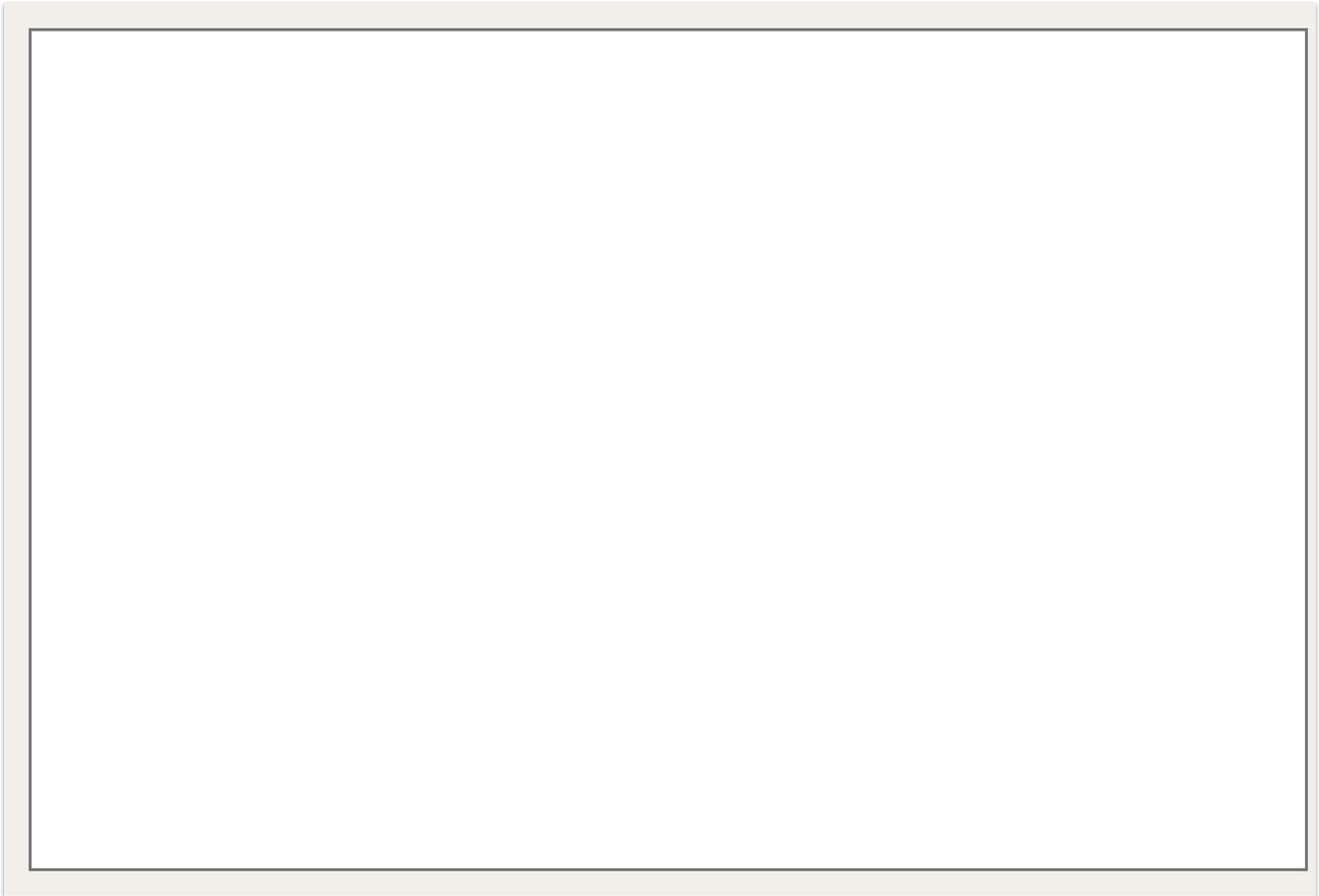*24.* Please outline any relevant **prizes, awards or funding** you have received [upto 100 words].

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 [upto 300 words].

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

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

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)

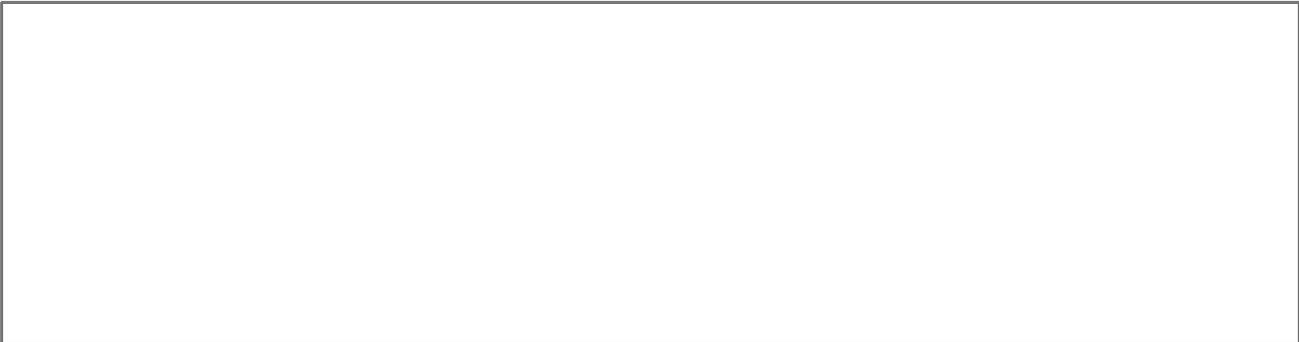28. a) applied to study for a PhD ✳ *Required*

29. b) chosen your specific project(s) ✳ *Required*

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

Page 9: Any further information:

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

Page 10: Equality and Diversity Monitoring

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

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.

There is an option of 'prefer not to say' if you do not wish to disclose such information.

32. What is your age category? ✱ *Required*

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? ✻ *Required*

37. What is your gender? ✻ *Required*

38. What is your sexual orientation ✻ *Required*

○ Prefer not to say

○ Bisexual

○ Gay Man

○ Gay woman/lesbian

○ Heterosexual

○ Other

Page 11: Advertising

39. How did you find out about this PhD opportunity? (tick all that apply)

➕ More info

☐ Email from GW4 FRESH forwarded by my GW4 University (Bath, Bristol, Cardiff or Exeter)

☐ Email from GW4 FRESH forwarded by my University (non GW4)

☐ Email from the project supervisor direct

☐ GW4 FRESH CDT Website

☐ FindaPhD.com

☐ Via link from another website

☐ From a leaflet or poster

☐ General Postgrad event

☐ Personal recommendation ie from friend or colleague

☐ 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 or research organisation;
- administrative staff at one or more other HEIs or research organisation participating in this 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.

40. 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 recieve 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.

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

All applicants will be informed of the shortlisting outcome by the **20th January 2020**

If you are shortlisted for interview you will need to:

- attend a **meeting with your chosen supervisors** (in person or via phone/video call) to discuss the project and your application before **14th January**

- submit a copy of your **academic transcript(s)** by **5pm 22 February 2020** and arrange for two references to be sent, preferrably forwarded direct from your referees to us
- attend an **interview** in Cardiff in week commencing 17th February (date tbc)

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?
    UK National
    EU National
    Neither, I am an International student

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?

English is my first language

English is my second or other language but yes, I have passed the test or meet the level required

No, I need to take the test or reach the required level

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?

24 or under

25 - 29

30 - 34

35 - 39

40 - 44

45 - 49
50 - 54
55 - 59
60 - 64
65 or over
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
Chinese British
Chinese 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