



EPSRC Centre for Doctoral Training in
Robotics and Autonomous Systems
www.edinburgh-robotics.org

Frequent Asked Questions

Information for Prospective Students

Who runs the Centre?

Heriot-Watt University and the University of Edinburgh are jointly offering an innovative 4-year Ph.D. programme, drawing on our extensive experience with postgraduate teaching and research supervision in the area of robotics and autonomous systems.

What programmes will the Centre provide?

The Centre will provide individually tailored course and project portfolios (MSc by Research) taken during the first year of the programme that ensures all students will have a strong general grounding in current theory, methods and applications, with flexibility for strategic individualised study, and strong support leading to a specialised Ph.D. project.

When can students start?

There is an intake each September. The Centre organises Induction events.

What taught courses are studied?

Taught courses are studied during the 1st semester of the first year of the programme. The courses are offered by the University of Edinburgh and Heriot-Watt University (School of Engineering & Physical Sciences and School of Mathematical and Computer Science). For further information, please visit: www.edinburgh-robotics.org/programme

How are the students supervised?

Each student will have two Academic Supervisors - one from HW and one from Edinburgh.

Which University will award the final degree?

The final Ph.D. degree award will be a joint award from both universities.

What does the first year of the CDT involve?

The first year involves an MSc by Research, which is partly taught and partly a preparatory project. Successful completion of the first year would qualify a student for the award of an MRes and progression to the Ph.D. stage.



Would students be mainly based within the Heriot-Watt campus or the University of Edinburgh campus?

Students will receive instruction on both campuses during Year 1 but once they have been paired up with a Ph.D. supervisor they are expected to spend most (but not all) of their time at their supervisor's campus. Please note that there is a certain amount of studentships allocated to each University.

What funding is available?

The Centre offers fully funded studentships covering tuition fees and maintenance at prevailing EPSRC rates. Who is eligible for funding?

Eligibility

Because of constraints from funding agencies, there are different rules for funding depending on your fee status. If you are unsure about your status, please read the University web pages about fees and fee status.

UK and eligible EU students: Full funding (fees and stipend) is available for UK students and for EU students who have been in the UK for the last three years (for example on a full-time degree course). For other EU students, the number of places is limited.

Other EU students: There are a limited number of studentships available for EU students who have not been in the UK for the last three years, including 1-2 university funded scholarships per annum at UoE and James Watt Scholarships (up to three per year) at HWU besides the Edinburgh Global Research Scholarship. Typically, fully funded industry sponsored studentships are open to EU applicants (unless explicitly specified otherwise).

Non-EU students: Funding is significantly more competitive: students from outside the EU may apply to the CDT. However, the CDT is unable to provide funding for the difference between overseas fees and UK/EU fees. Non-EU students must either:

- Compete for a prestigious HWU James Watt Scholarship covering fees and living allowance (one per annum), or
- Provide their own funding, typically via a scholarship from their country of origin. You may also wish to look at the School of Informatics page about other scholarships that are available to non-EU students.

Industry-sponsored studentships

We also offer industry-sponsored studentships: www.edinburgh-robotics.org/vacancies