About the programme

What training will the Centre provide?

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

When can students start the programme?

There is an intake each September, to ensure that students complete the requisite taught courses.

What taught courses are studied?

MSc level taught courses are studied during the first year of the programme. Courses are offered by the University of Edinburgh (mainly School of Informatics) and Heriot-Watt University (School of Engineering & Physical Sciences and School of Mathematical and Computer Science).

Will there be placements?

All students are encouraged to take a placement during their PhD (typically during year 3). This might be at another international lab or with a company. Support is provided in finding placements and some financial support is available to facilitate this.

How are the students supervised?

Each student will have two Academic Supervisors. Typically but not always, one from Heriot-Watt University and one from the University of Edinburgh. Your supervisor, on acceptance, will be one associated with your theme and aligned with your chosen PhD topic.

Which University will award the final degree?

The final degree award will be a dual award from both universities. However, you will graduate (only once) from the institution of your primary supervisor.

What does the first year of the PhD involve?

The first year is approximately 50% taught and 50% independent research towards your PhD.

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

Students will receive instruction on both campuses during Year 1 but once they start their independent research, they would be expected to spend most (but not all) of their time at their first supervisor's campus.