

# The CDT MLSystems Application and Selection Process

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CDT Manager



# MLSystems Eligibility criteria

## UKRI Eligibility Criteria

- All applicants, **regardless of their nationality and country of residence**, are eligible to apply.
- All appointees, regardless of their nationality and country of residence, will receive a **fully-funded studentship**.

## Cap on international students number (30%)

MLSystems can recruit a maximum of 3 international students per year.

## UoE fees status categories

- **Home fees:**
  - UK nationals, EU students with UK pre-settled status or settled status, non-EU students who have indefinite leave to remain, some Irish nationals
  - AND who comply with the 3-year UK/EEA residency immediately before the start of the degree (UK or Ireland residency for Irish nationals)
- **International fees:** all other categories

*Exceptions: refugees, children of UK nationals, legitimate absence from the UK for UK nationals*

# MLSystems Entry requirements

## Academic Eligibility Criteria

- ❑ minimum of **2.1 undergraduate degree** or equivalent
- ❑ Relevant **work experience** and/or a **Masters** degree will be considered
- ❑ A Masters degree is not a requirement for application to an MSystems studentship

## ATAS

If you are not an EU, EEA or Swiss national, you may need an Academic Technology Approval Scheme clearance certificate in order to study this programme. **Deadline for an offer for ATAS students is 30<sup>th</sup> April 2025.**

## English language Requirements (for non-native English speakers)

Degree taught and assessed in English:

- UG or PG
- No older than 5 years at programme start
- taught and assessed in English in a majority English speaking country (see list)

## English Language Tests

- IELTS Academic, TOEFL-iBT, CAE, CPE, Trinity ISE (see minimum marks required on web)
- No older than 2 or 3.5 years

# MLSystems Application Material

## Compulsory Documents (for all candidates)

1. A **Research Proposal** (2-5 page-long)
2. A **Statement** (500 words)
3. an **Academic CV** (2 pages)
4. all Higher Education **Transcripts and certificates** of UG and PG degrees obtained to date
5. The CDT **EDI and Widening Participation form** (MS form)
6. Two **references**

## Optional documents (depending on circumstances)

7. a valid **English Language Test**
8. English **Translation** of transcripts and certificates

**Submission of application via the university system EUCLID**

Details for each document on the CDT website:  
<https://mlsystems.uk>



# MLSystems Application Steps

## STEP 1. SUBMIT AN INITIAL APPLICATION

- Submit documents 1-5 asap
- Request short feedback on your initial application before 1st Dec
- You can update your application later on by uploading additional documents

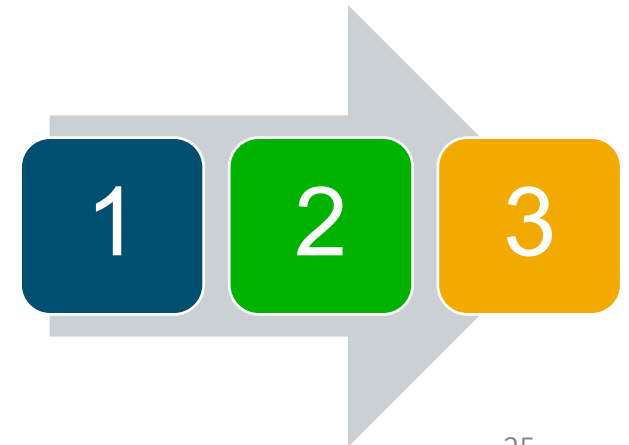
## STEP 2. FIND A SUPERVISOR

- Browse the list of CDT supervisors
- Get in touch with them via email or in person

Deadline to submit final applications is  
**22 January 2025**  
12 noon.

## STEP 3. FINALISE YOUR APPLICATION

- Submit all required documents by the application deadline
- Make sure your application is as you want it to be and ready to be reviewed by supervisors



# MLSystems EDI and Widening Participation

## Disclosing Special Circumstances to supervisors/selectors

Information can be included in your **statement** to explain gap years or weaker marks e.g.

## Feedback on initial application

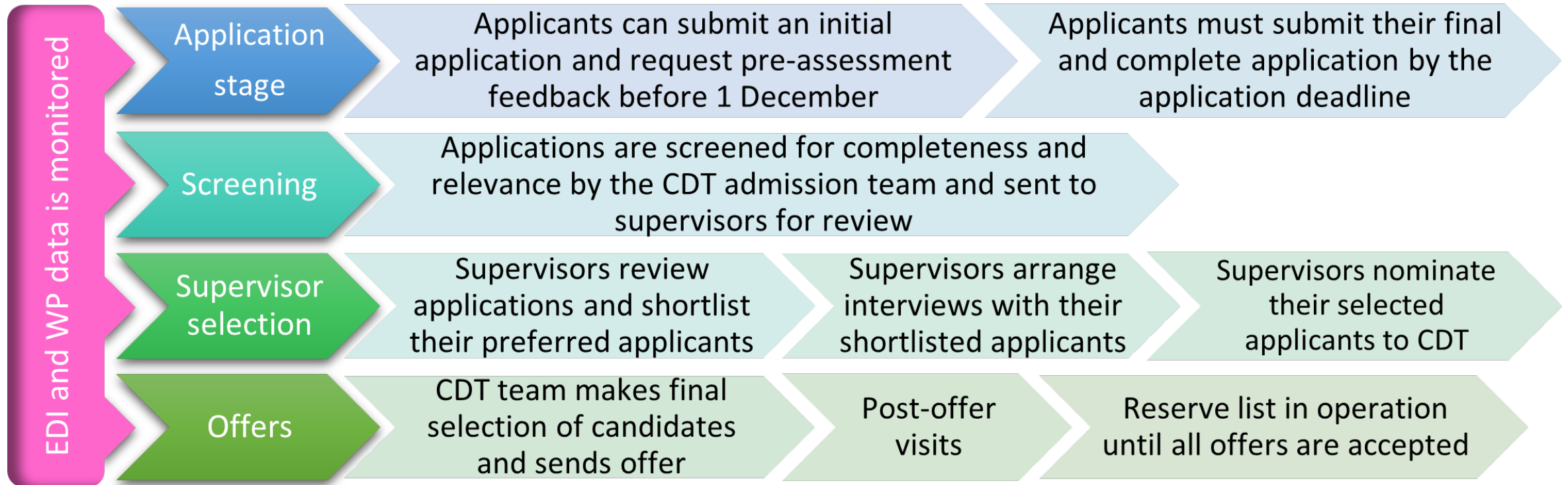
submitted before 1st December. Applicants need to request this in their **statement**.



## EDI and WP form

- **Complying with EPSRC** EDI Data collection
- **Collecting information** about applicants who are under-represented on our CDT, to monitor the data across the selection cycle, widen our range of applicants and have the opportunity to support applicants who would be less confident in applying for PhD studies.
- **Under-represented groups:** female students, declared disability, ethnic minority background, first generation to attend university, caring responsibilities, received/qualified for additional financial aid during your studies, other
- Not seen by selectors/supervisors
- Kept **confidential**
- **Voluntary** – can be left blank

# MLSystems Selection Process Overview



# MLSystems Selection Process Timeline

<b>Applications open</b>	Beginning of October
<b>Application deadline</b>	<b>22 January 2025</b>
<b>Shortlisting and Interviews by supervisors</b>	End of January to mid February
<b>Final selection of candidates</b>	End of February
<b>First round of offers</b>	Beginning of March
<b>Post-offer visits and first-round offer acceptance deadline</b>	End of March
<b>Second round of offers (reserve list)</b>	Until end of May





# What we are looking for



Might be gained and evidenced via a wide range of activities and experiences: studies, employment, volunteering, hobby etc.

## Scientific Skills

- ❑ Substantial knowledge of the background methodology
- ❑ Good mathematical understanding and capability: a confidence and competence in handling mathematical ideas, and manipulations.
- ❑ Clear computational and software engineering experience
- ❑ Good basic computer science understanding

## Research skills

- ❑ Clear experience of doing research and a level of capability at that research
- ❑ Evidence of scientific writing capability

## Professional/Transferable Skills & Competencies

- ❑ Substantial proactivity
- ❑ Evidence of diligence, rigour, scholarliness, and accuracy
- ❑ Evidence of collegiality, a care for others, a willingness to help out, good working with others, and commitment to working partnerships
- ❑ Evidence of excellence (awards and prizes, publications, achievements of all sorts, community engagement, project lead etc.)

# MLSystems Application tips

## Plan Ahead

- Contact potential **supervisors** before preparing your application.
- Contact your **referees** as early as possible in the process.
- Submit an **early application** and update it before the deadline.

## Make your application count

- Ensure you have support from one (or more) supervisors
- Use the CV and the statement to demonstrate the **skills, experience and knowledge** you will bring to the project and the CDT (why does it have to be you?)
- Use the research proposal to showcase your **research skills, ideas and interests** and your **understanding of what a PhD entails**
- **Adjust** your research proposal to the CDT remit (both Machine Learning and Systems)



Application deadline: 22 January 2025 12 noon  
For September 2025 entry

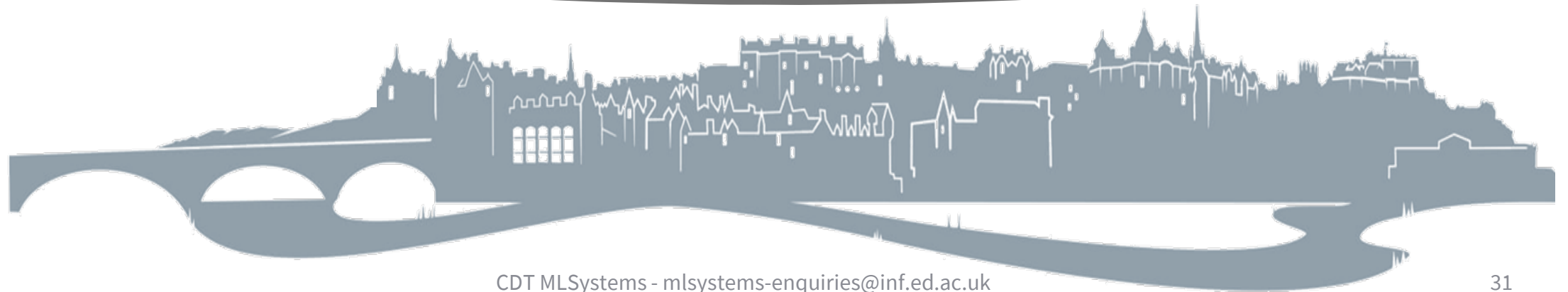
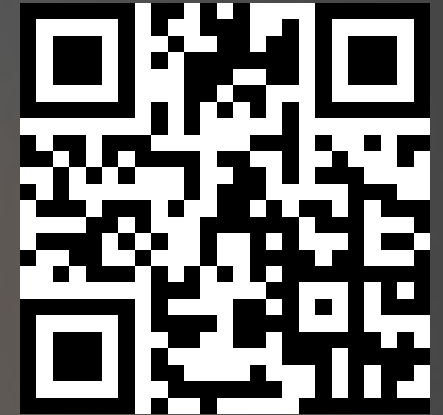
<https://mlsystems.uk/>

[mlsystems-enquiries@inf.ed.ac.uk](mailto:mlsystems-enquiries@inf.ed.ac.uk)

CDT Administrative team  
Stephanie Robin and Jack Lee

CDT Direction  
Amos Storkey

QR code to  
CDT website



# Next steps...

<https://virtualvisits.ed.ac.uk/pg>

<https://edin.ac/student-chat-pg>



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