

THE EPSRC CDT IN MACHINE LEARNING SYSTEMS

INFORMATION SESSION FOR APPLICANTS 2025

WED 22 OCTOBER 2025 – 1-2PM

Amos Storkey – MLSystems Director
Stephanie Robin – MLSystems Manager
Jack Lee – MLSystems Administrator
Zoey Shepherd – MLSystems Student

1. Programme Overview
2. Application and Selection Process
3. Q&A



MLSYSTEMS APPLICATION AND SELECTION PROCESS

STEPHANIE ROBIN - 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

[More on the CDT webpages](#)

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 Master's degree is not a requirement to apply for an MLSystems studentship

ATAS

If you are not an EU, EEA or Swiss national, you may need an Academic Technology Approval Scheme clearance certificate to study on this programme.

Deadline for an offer for ATAS students is 30th April 2026.

English Language Requirements (for non-native English speakers)

Degree taught and assessed in English:

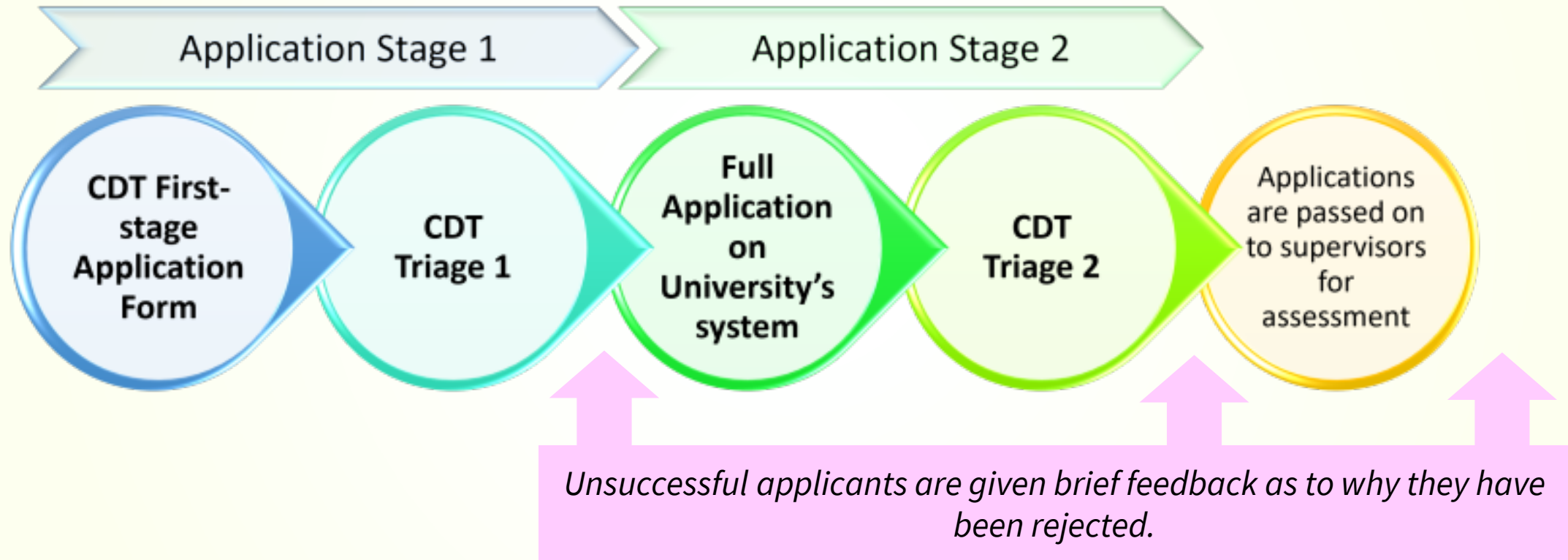
- UG or PG
- No older than 5 years at programme start
- taught and assessed in English in a majority English speaking country (see list)

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

[More on the CDT webpages](#)

Application Process Overview



[More on the CDT webpages](#)

MLSystems Application Pathways

Student-led PhD Project

Candidates have an **idea of a PhD research** which fits the **CDT remit** and which they would like to pursue.

They find a **supervisor willing to supervise them.**

Candidates submit a summary of their own research proposal via the **first-stage Application Form.**

They submit a full **Research Proposal** within their **EUCLID application.**

Final PhD project is defined by the students and their supervisor once on board, in year 1.

Company-Linked PhD Projects

Candidates find a good fit in one of the **pre-defined or exploratory Company-linked PhD projects advertised by the CDT.**

These PhD projects are generally **funded or partly-funded by Industry** and will not vary from the initial project description.

Candidates **contact the primary supervisor** as indicated on the project advert.

They then submit a "fit-to-project statement" within their **first-stage Application Form.**

They submit a **Research Approach** document within their **EUCLID application.**

[More on the CDT webpages](#)

The 4 Application Steps

STEP 1: Get support from a supervisor



STEP 2: Submit a first-stage Application Form (online)



STEP 3: Submit a full application on EUCLID
(if invited to do so)



STEP 4: Wait for the outcome

More on the CDT webpages

First-stage Application Deadlines

Round	Applicants	Applications open	Applications close
Round 1	All Applicants	08/10/2025 00:00	11/12/2025 23:59
Round 2	Home Applicants only	12/12/2025 00:00	02/02/2026 23:59
Round 3	Home Applicants only	03/02/2026 00:00	23/03/2026 23:59
Company-linked projects	<i>As per advert</i>	<i>As per advert</i>	<i>As per advert</i>

MLSystems EDI and Widening Participation

EDI and WP form:

- **Collecting EDI and WP information to:**
 - ❑ **Know** who our applicants are
 - ❑ **Support** applicants from under-represented groups
 - ❑ **Monitor** the WP data across the selection cycle
 - ❑ **Comply** with EPSRC EDI Data collection
- **Under-represented groups:** female students, ethnic minority background, declared disability, first generation to attend university, caring responsibilities, lower socio-economic backgrounds, care-experienced, estranged students etc.
- **Not seen by selectors/supervisors**
- Kept **confidential**
- **Voluntary** – can be left blank

Special Circumstances

You can disclose Special Circumstances and Barriers to your study or opportunities in your **first-stage application form** for supervisors/selectors to take into consideration when assessing your application.



Applicant Support

PhD Shadowing Scheme



THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH
informatics

Behind the Screens: what is PhD study in Computer Science really like?

Informatics PhD Shadowing Scheme

Apply by 3rd November

© University of Edinburgh

Informatics PhD Fair: 10 November



Curious about doing a **PhD** in **Informatics**?

Come along to our **Informatics PhD Fair** and find out more about postgraduate research.

Monday 10 November, 12:00-17:00

Informatics Forum, Edinburgh

THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH
informatics

Applicants Q&A



Applicant Information 22 November



Postgraduate Virtual Open Days

19 - 21 November

EDINBURGH
extraordinary futures await

Postgraduate Virtual Open Days

Event by The University of Edinburgh

Nov 19, 2025, 9:00 AM - Nov 21, 2025, 5:00 PM (your local time)

Online

Event link - <https://edin.ac/48sPRG6>

More on the CDT webpages

Selection Process Overview



Selection Process Timeline (Round 1)

Applications open	08/10/2025
First-stage Application Form submitted by	11/12/2025
EUCLID Full application deadline	22/01/2026
Shortlisting and interviews by supervisors	Late January to Late February
First round of offers sent by	Beginning of March
Post-offer visits and first-round offer acceptance deadline	Mid/Late March
Second round(s) of offers (reserve list)	Until end of May

What we are looking for

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, honesty, rigour, scholarliness, and accuracy
- ❑ Evidence of friendliness, 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.)

Application Tips

Plan Ahead

- **Contact potential supervisors** before preparing your application.
- **Read the application guidance** fully and make sure you know what to do and expect.
- **Prepare your first-stage Application Form** using the downloadable version ahead of the online submission.
- *Do not wait for the last minute to submit your first-stage Application Form!*

Make your application count

- Ensure you have support from one (or more) supervisors
- Use the first-stage Application Form statements to demonstrate the **skills, experience and knowledge** you will bring to the project and the CDT.
- Make sure that your **research summary** is detailed enough to give us a good overview of what your proposed research looks like and which problem(s) you will be trying to address.
- **Adjust** your research proposal to the **CDT remit** (both Machine Learning and Systems)

First-stage Application deadline (Round 1):
11 December 2025 23:59

FOR SEPTEMBER 2026 ENTRY

<https://informatics.ed.ac.uk/cdt-in-machine-learning-systems/apply>

Any questions:

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