 

**Studentship Application for 2021 Intake**

This form must be submitted along with your CV and any local application form **to the university hosting your chosen project by 11th January 2021.**

We want our CENTA student cohorts to reflect our diverse society. CENTA are therefore committed to widening the diversity of our PhD student cohorts. CENTA studentships are open to all and we particularly welcome applications from under-represented groups, including, but not limited to Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic (BAME), disabled, and neuro-diverse candidates. We also welcome applications for part-time study.

**Personal details**

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| **Forename** |  |
| **Surname** |  |
| **Email address** |  |
| **Are you eligible for a Home award?** | To be eligible for a full (Home) award a student must have no restrictions on how long they can stay in the UK and have been ordinarily resident in the UK for at least 3 years prior to the start of the studentship.For further information please see Annex B of this document:<https://www.ukri.org/files/funding/ukri-training-grant-terms-and-conditions-guidance-pdf> Please indicate whether these criteria apply to you**YES/NO** |

**Widening Participation**

In order to address a historical imbalance, it is our ambition to guarantee up to half the available interviews for certain under-represented groups of Home-award-eligible students who meet the academic requirements (at least a 2:1 at UK BSc level or at least a pass at UK MSc level or equivalent, see Q1 and Q2 below).

You qualify for our interview scheme if you identify as BAME or if the postcode where you went to secondary school or grew up (in the UK) is classified as Quintile 1 in the POLAR4 category of the following website:

<https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/data-and-analysis/young-participation-by-area/search-by-postcode/>

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| **Do you identify as Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic (BAME?)**  | **YES/NO** |
| **Postcode of area you grew up in or went to school in** | **e.g. MK41 9LE** |
| **POLAR4 quintile score of that postcode** | **e.g. 2** |

**Project details**

Detailed information for all of our offered projects can be found on our CENTA website (<http://www.centa.ac.uk/>).

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| **Project title** |  |
| **Host institution** |  |
| **Where did you hear about this project?** |  |
| **Have you been in touch with any of the project supervisors to discuss this project?**  | Applicants who are engaged in early discussions about the project with the supervisors are more likely to be successful in their application. We therefore encourage you to contact your potential supervisors and ask any questions you may have about the project and CENTA. Your application will be assessed regardless of your answer. **YES/NO** |

**Q1. Bachelors-level degrees awarded and grade/classification**

For 4 year integrated masters (MSci, MGeol etc.) please report your *third* year mark here and the final “M” grade in Q2.

Where a final grade is not yet known, please provide a predicted grade justified from your academic transcript. Please ensure your referee(s) are aware of the need to provide reference letters. Please ensure that your academic referee is aware that they should also comment on your predicted grade in their reference letter.

If you gained your Bachelor’s degree at a non-UK institution, please use guidance on UK equivalence provided at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/overseas-degree-equivalency-table-and-methodology>.

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| **Start date** | **End date** | **University** | **Subject** | **Qualification awarded****(e.g., BSc)** | **Class/grade awarded****(local and UK equivalent)** |
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**Q2. Masters-Level degrees and grade/classification or equivalent experience**

Where a final grade is not yet known, please provide a predicted grade justified from your academic transcript or indicate whether only a pass/fail is awarded. Please ensure your referee(s) are aware of the need to provide reference letters. Please also ensure that your academic referee is aware that they should also comment on your predicted grade in their reference letter.

If you gained your MSc (or are working towards one) at a non-UK institution, please use guidance on UK equivalence at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/overseas-degree-equivalency-table-and-methodology>.

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| **Start date** | **End date** | **University** | **Subject** | **Qualification awarded or predicted****(e.g., MSc, MSci, etc.)** | **Class/grade awarded or predicted****(local and UK equivalent)** |
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| **Q3. Why do you want to do a PhD?** A PhD is a 3.5-4-year commitment that requires high personal motivation. Please explain in **up to 200 words** how doing a PhD will help lead to your chosen career, why you are interested in research and how you developed that interest.  |
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| **Q4. What interests you about this project in particular?** Interest in a project will significantly underpin your motivation during your studies. Please provide **up to 200 words** to explain/describe the key aspects or points that drew you to apply for this project. |
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| **Q5. What project-specific skills, aptitude and experience do you bring to this particular PhD project?** In up to **200** words please tell us how your skills (for example technical, laboratory, field, IT or any other skills suggested in the project description) fit with this particular PhD project. You can use examples from a wide variety of life experience including work, academic study, research, presentations or public engagement activities, wider reading, extra-curricular activities such as sports, volunteering or other community activities etc. |
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| **Q6. What do you think is one of the key research challenges in the field of the PhD project you are applying for?**  You may use **up to 350 words** for your answer, showing evidence of information found from a range of academic or non-academic sources. |
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| **Q7.**  **How do you plan and manage tasks and time during long-term projects?** Good project and time management skills are key to the successful completion of a PhD, so here is the opportunity to show us how you approach planning and carrying out projects. In **up to 200 words** please describe how you plan tasks and manage your time using evidence from your academic, work or life experience.  |
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| **Q8. What strategies do you use to solve problems?** You will have to solve many problems during your PhD research, so here is the opportunity to show us how you approach problem solving. In **up to 200 words** please describe a problem you have had to solve during your studies, at work, at home or elsewhere. Please describe how you solved the problem and how you might respond differently if you were faced with that problem again.  |
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| **Q9. OPTIONAL Individual Circumstances:**  CENTA is committed to widening participation and opportunity for PhD studentships to a diverse community of applicants. To help provide further context to your application, here is an **optional** opportunity to provide information or context that may have impacted your academic career path thus far. This may include (but is not limited to) caring responsibilities, disabilities, ill health and/or financial pressures. Personal details are NOT needed, but a note about the *effect* of the circumstance(s) on time available for study/extra-curricular experience and the *timescale* over which the circumstance(s) occurred (or continue to occur) would be helpful for appropriately evaluating your application relative to opportunity.  |
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