Partnership Model

The CDT in Applied Photonics works with companies developing photonics-enabled products and services. Each of our collaborations is built around an EngD or PhD student, providing them with masters-level technical and business qualifications, along with an industrially-connected doctoral research projects. The CDT is a partnership of the universities of Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Heriot-Watt (lead), Huddersfield, St Andrews, Strathclyde and NPL and Industry.

PhD research project
- project based in university
- duration 4 years
- IP owned by university
- company pays £5,500/yr
- university pays £8,250/yr
- academic budget of £3,500/yr
- reflects second year stipend for 2024/25 £21,237

EngD research project
- project based in company
- duration 4 years
- IP owned by company
- company pays £13,750/yr
- university pays £3,300/yr
- academic budget of £3,500K/yr
- reflects second year stipend for 2024/25 £27,237
- for company employees the cost is £9,000/yr

The research projects will offer benefits to your company by:
- Increasing the research portfolio in a cost-effective way
- Providing access to University laboratories and facilities
- Creating opportunities to make contacts with other sponsor companies
- Aiding the retention of existing staff who wish to study for a doctorate degree and continue with their employment

Partners & Research
Training Programme

We provide a comprehensive 4-year training programme suitable for graduates of MPhys, MEng and related programmes.

Full-time technical courses occupy the first eight months of Year 1, leading to 120 credits (60 ECTS). Semester 1 is spent in St. Andrews, and students move to Edinburgh or Glasgow for Semester 2.

After completing the technical taught courses EngD students relocate to near their sponsoring company’s site, remaining there for the rest of the programme. PhD students complete their research in the university of their academic supervisor.

MBA Business courses are delivered on-line with in-person revision sessions in Years 2 and 3 to provide a further 60 credits (ECTS).

Professional skills courses are distributed across the programme, and their content is profiled according to each year of study. Students attend the CDT Conference and Summer School on alternative years.

Company employees of sponsor companies are able to become a full-time student whilst remaining as an employee, although are required to attend the taught courses.

• Semester 1 taught courses St Andrews
• Semester 2 taught courses Edinburgh/Glasgow
• Move to research phase after taught courses
• CDT Conference/Summer School on alternate years

Year 2

• Research phase continues
• Students study 2 MBA business courses
• Students attend professional skills courses and workshops appropriate to year of study
• CDT Conference/Summer School on alternate years

Year 3

• Research phase continues
• Students study a MBA business course
• Students attend professional skills courses and workshops appropriate to year of study
• CDT Conference/Summer School on alternate years

Year 4

• Students conclude research phase
• Students write thesis
• Students take professional skills courses appropriate to year of study
• CDT Conference/Summer School on alternate years

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