**EPSRC Centre for Doctoral Training in**

**Diversity-Led, Mission-Driven Research**

**Application Statement 2026 Entry**

Please submit an electronic copy of this completed form as a PDF via the University of Glasgow online application system. As a research proposal is not required, please upload this document in the section allocated for the research proposal.

This is the only form which will be reviewed by the shortlisting panel. To allow for anonymous reviewing and to reduce unconscious bias, please do not include any personal identifiable information, such as your own name or names of institutions where you have trained or worked, or details of staff or supervisors you have worked with. This information is provided elsewhere in your application and will not be reviewed by the shortlisting panel. If such details are included, please note that we will make minor edits to your answers to help maintain anonymity and support a fair, unbiased review process.

It is important that you follow the word limit noted on each of the questions; we recommend that you make full use of the word limit, but note that any text beyond this will be removed before being passed on to the panel for review.

Each question must be completed on a separate page, please ensure the Question ID box is at the top of the page for each of the questions as in the original template. Questions will be reviewed independently and anonymously, with each response considered in isolation. Reviewers will not see your answers to other questions, so please ensure each response stands alone and does not rely on or reference information provided elsewhere.

Use your Application Statement as your opportunity to shine – each response is a chance to share your unique perspective, values, and motivations. While AI tools can support your thinking and structure, ensure your voice remains clear and authentic, so reviewers connect with the real you behind the application. More guidance is available on the DiveIn website.

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| **Q1 Question ID**  Leave blank, office use only |  |

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| **Q1: What is exciting about the prospect of doing a doctorate?**  With this question we wish to understand your own personal motivations and how these will drive your research. You may wish to demonstrate your willingness to engage fully in your chosen area and contribute to conversations and advances in that field. The response to this question provides us with valuable insights into your motivations, aspirations, overall readiness for doctoral-level research and communication skills.  Your answer will be assessed in terms of purpose, long-term goals, enthusiasm, motivation and communication skills.  Your answer should be between 150 -200 words. |
| Click or tap here to enter text. |

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| **Q2 Question ID**  Leave blank, office use only |  |

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| **Q2: Describe a challenge you faced and tell us how you overcame it.**  A PhD is paved with challenges, obstacles and problems to solve. With this question we would like to assess your problem-solving abilities, resilience, and capacity for personal growth. You may wish to demonstrate your abilities to adjust approaches and responses when faced with change, your ability to learn from setbacks, your willingness to admit to errors and seek appropriate support, or how you have demonstrated the willingness to engage with complex situations and viewpoints.  Your answer will be assessed in terms of identification of challenge(s), problem-solving skills, resilience, learning and growth, and communication skills.  Your answer should be between 200 and 250 words. |
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| **Q3 Question ID**  Leave blank, office use only |  |

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| **Q3: Discuss your favourite scientific topic, your own engagement and experience with it and what you think are the next big questions to investigate.**  With this question we invite you to demonstrate your excitement and interest in a particular scientific area, your willingness to think deeply about complex ideas and theories in the context of that topic and your preparedness to deepen your investigation to shed new light on that research field.  Your answer will be assessed in terms of relevance and quality of the response, scientific understanding, enthusiasm, and communication skills.  Your answer should be between 200 and 250 words. |
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| **Q4 Question ID**  Leave blank, office use only |  |

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| **Q4: What inspirations do you draw from our Catalogue of Possibilities, particularly in terms of working within a team to carry out mission-driven, interdisciplinary and collaborative research?**  This question prompts you to not only consider the available resources but also reflect on how those resources align with your own values and research aspirations. It encourages you to discuss your potential contributions to mission-driven initiatives, your willingness to engage in interdisciplinary work, and your approach to collaboration with external partners. You may wish to show your abilities to seek out and make use of opportunities to collaborate, support others and make a positive contribution to your chosen discipline.  Your answer will be assessed in terms of level of engagement with the Catalogue of Possibilities and consideration of mission-driven research, collaborative interdisciplinary research, teamwork, and communication skills.  Your answer should be between 150 and 200 words. |
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| **Q5 Question ID**  Leave blank, office use only |  |

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| **Q5: How do you see your participation in a Centre for Doctoral Training such as DiveIn helping to fill your skills gaps?**  This question prompts you to reflect on the unique aspects of DiveIn and how those align with your academic and career objectives. It also encourages you to consider the specialised training, resources, and opportunities offered by the Centre for Doctoral Training.  Your answer will be assessed in terms of level of understanding of what CDTs are, alignment of the programme with personal and professional development values, alignment with specific features of DiveIn and overcoming barriers to application and communication skills.  Your answer should be between 150 and 200 words. |
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| **Q6 Exercise ID**  Leave blank, office use only |  |

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| **Q6 Exercise: Analysing the Penguin Dataset**  The dataset provided (link is on the website) contains measurements from three species of penguins: Adélie, Gentoo, and Chinstrap. For each penguin, the following features were recorded: culmen length, culmen depth, flipper length, body mass, and sex. The data also includes the island where each penguin was observed.  Instructions:   1. **Visualising Culmen Length Across Species**   Create a figure that displays the mean and variance of the culmen length (the length of the penguin’s bill) for each species (Adélie, Gentoo, Chinstrap). Use appropriate visual tools (e.g., bar plots with error bars or box plots) to clearly represent the data for each species.   1. **Correlation Analysis**   Produce a second figure (a single figure or composite of multiple graphs) that explores the relationships between culmen length and the other numerical features (culmen depth, flipper length, body mass) across the species. Your figure should help identify any significant correlations or patterns between these features.   1. **Figure Placement and Annotations**   Place both figures in the box below with descriptive captions. In <50 words, describe your methods for creating the figures, including the tools or libraries used (e.g., Microsoft Excel (or open-source equivalent), Python, R, MATLAB, etc., and any large language models such as ChatGPT, Claude etc). In another <100 words, briefly interpret the results of your visualisations. |
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