UKRI Centre for Doctoral Training in
Speech and Language Technologies (SLT)
and their Applications

Postgraduate Application System Guidance Notes

These guidance notes will help you to apply for a PhD with Integrated PGDip studentship with the UKRI Centre for Doctoral Training in Speech and Language Technologies (SLT) and their Applications hosted in the Department of Computer Science at the University of Sheffield.

If you have any questions please email sltcdt-enquiries@sheffield.ac.uk

Entry Requirements

Applicants should have, or be expecting to obtain, a minimum 2.1 first degree or master's degree in a relevant discipline as well as evidence of mathematics and computer programming experience.

Suitable backgrounds are:
- Computer Science
- Engineering
- Linguistics
- Mathematics
- Physics
- Psychology

All candidates from countries not classed as majority native English speaking countries must submit a valid IELTS Academic test score as evidence of fluency in English. This must have been taken no earlier than two years before the course start date. You will not need to provide this if you are a UK applicant or have recently successfully completed (certificate received) a first degree or master's degree in a majority native English speaking country.

Supporting Documents

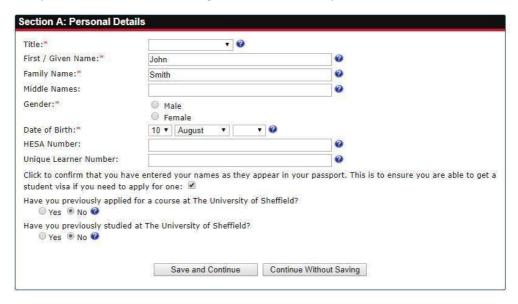You should include the following supporting documents:

- **Proof of your previous degree(s)** including your degree certificate and official academic transcripts. If these documents are not written in English, please include an official translation.
- **Two academic references** which include their personal opinion of your ability to undertake postgraduate research. If you have been out of education for the last two years, you can send at least one academic reference and, if relevant, a reference from a current or previous employer.
  - References should be on headed paper and signed by the referee. It is preferred that you upload a PDF of the reference to your application. If this is not possible, you can send a link to your referee(s) to upload their statement directly. If you choose to do this, it is your responsibility to ensure they are uploaded by the referee before the application deadline. Your application cannot be reviewed without them.
- **Supporting statement.** This programme is more than a 'standard' PhD. Please state clearly what specifically attracts you to the CDT in SLT (in particular how this relates to your academic background and career plans). If possible, identify the main research area(s) that interest you and/or your academic objectives and the reasons behind them.
- **CV**

It is important to upload all of your supporting documents at the time of submitting your application, as without these we are unable to make a decision on your application.

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Section A: Personal Details

You will need to enter your personal details in this section. If you know your HESA or Unique Learner number, then please include them, although this isn't necessary.

Section B: Contact Details

Please enter your email address and correspondence/home addresses. These can be updated if they change once you are registered at the University.

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Section C: Nationality and Residency

Please detail your nationality and residency – this will determine your fee status.

Please note that the funding we provide is typically for 'home' students only. For further details of our funding requirements, please see here: https://slt-cdt.ac.uk/apply/

Section D: English Language

All candidates from countries not classed as majority native English speaking countries must submit a valid IELTS Academic test score as evidence of fluency in English. This must have been taken no earlier than two years before the course start date. You will not need to provide this if you are a UK applicant or have recently successfully completed (certificate received) a first degree or master's degree in a majority native English speaking country.

Our English Language requirements for overseas applicants are IELTS 7.5 overall, with no less than 7.0 in each component.

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Section E: Previous Education

Please provide details of all previous degrees you have attained. You should ensure that relevant degree certificates and transcripts are uploaded to your application, as we are unable to make a decision without these.

Section E: Previous Education

Higher Education Institution: *

◉ Search ○ Browse by country

Enter all or part of the institution name: | University of Sheffield | | Search | ?

Institution Name: | University of Sheffield ▼ | ?

Qualification: *

| BSc ▼ | ?

Subject: *

Search for your subject by entering all or part of your subject name below, then select it in the results list.

Search: | Computer Science | | Search | ?

Results: | Computer Science ▼ |

Dates You Studied For This Qualification:

Start: * | Sept ▼ | 2015 ▼ | ?
End: * | May ▼ | 2018 ▼ | ?
Date of Award: | July ▼ | 2018 ▼ | ?

Final Grade/Score: *

Grading System: | UK Bachelors Degree (BA, BSc) ▼ | ?

Final Grade / Score: | 1st ▼ | ?

Level of Award:

Please tick here if this is this the highest qualification level you have taken: ☐

Documentary Evidence:

Please select how you will provide evidence for your qualification. You can upload scanned documents, but not text files.

Valid file formats are: **.jpg, .png, .gif, .pdf, .doc, .docx, .odf**

If your transcript runs over more than one page please paste the scanned images into an MS Word or ODF document and upload the document. You will need to present your final documents to the Admissions Service for verification before you will be allowed to register.

Final Academic Certificate * ?
◉ I will upload my final certificate now
[Choose file] No file chosen
○ I will upload my final certificate later
○ I will post my final certificate later
○ I will not be providing this document

Final Academic Transcript * ?
◉ I will upload my final transcript now
[Choose file] No file chosen
○ I will upload my final transcript later
○ I will post my final transcript later
○ I will not be providing this document

Final Academic Certificate Translation * ?
◉ My certificate is in English
○ I will upload my certificate translation now
[Choose file] No file chosen
○ I will upload my certificate translation later
○ I will post my certificate translation later
○ I will not be providing this document

Final Academic Transcript Translation * ?
◉ My transcript is in English
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[Choose file] No file chosen
○ I will upload my transcript translation later
○ I will post my transcript translation later
○ I will not be providing this document

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Section F: Relevant Employment

Detail any relevant employment/industrial experience you have had, including the responsibilities and duties you held.

Section G: Equal Opportunities

This is required for University procedures. The only sections that can be seen by the admissions team are: if you have a disability; need additional support; or have any unspent criminal convictions.

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Section H: Supplementary Information

Please provide details of any other Universities/courses you have applied to.

Section H: Supplementary Information

Can you please tell us where you heard about The University of Sheffield?
Google Search ▼ ⓘ

Please provide more details, if you can
ⓘ

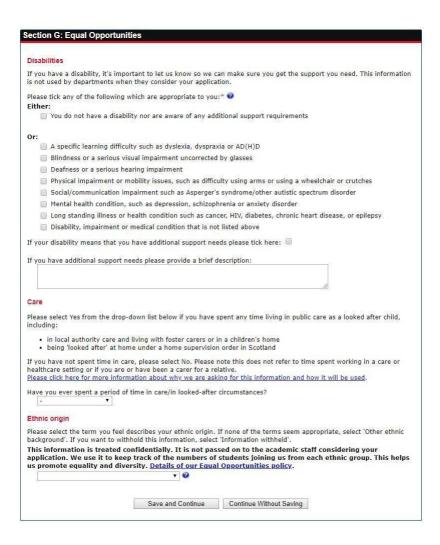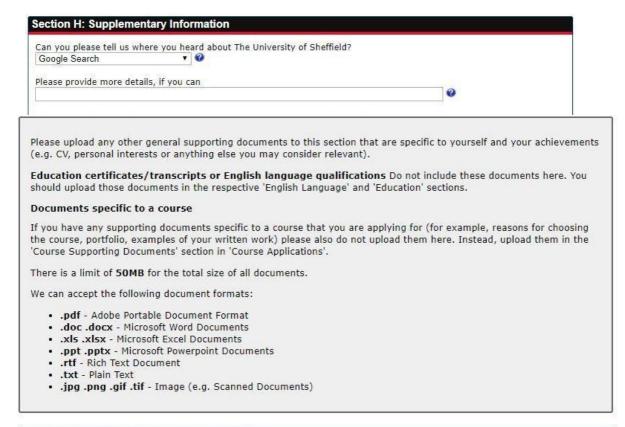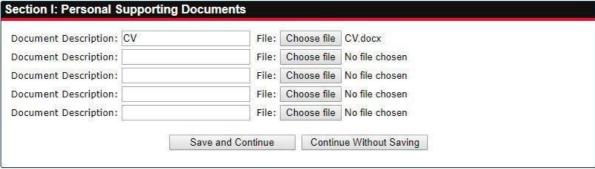Please upload any other general supporting documents to this section that are specific to yourself and your achievements (e.g. CV, personal interests or anything else you may consider relevant).

Education certificates/transcripts or English language qualifications Do not include these documents here. You should upload those documents in the respective 'English Language' and 'Education' sections.

Documents specific to a course

If you have any supporting documents specific to a course that you are applying for (for example, reasons for choosing the course, portfolio, examples of your written work) please also do not upload them here. Instead, upload them in the 'Course Supporting Documents' section in 'Course Applications'.

There is a limit of **50MB** for the total size of all documents.

We can accept the following document formats:

- **.pdf** - Adobe Portable Document Format
- **.doc .docx** - Microsoft Word Documents
- **.xls .xlsx** - Microsoft Excel Documents
- **.ppt .pptx** - Microsoft Powerpoint Documents
- **.rtf** - Rich Text Document
- **.txt** - Plain Text
- **.jpg .png .gif .tif** - Image (e.g. Scanned Documents)

Section I: Personal Supporting Documents

Document Description: CV   File: [Choose file] CV.docx
Document Description: File: [Choose file] No file chosen
Document Description: File: [Choose file] No file chosen
Document Description: File: [Choose file] No file chosen
Document Description: File: [Choose file] No file chosen

[Save and Continue]   [Continue Without Saving]

Section I: Personal Supporting Documents

Please add personal supporting documents such as a CV or documentation of any achievements.
For any documents relating to previous courses (such as Final Year Projects or Dissertations) please upload these to the "Course Supporting Documents" section.
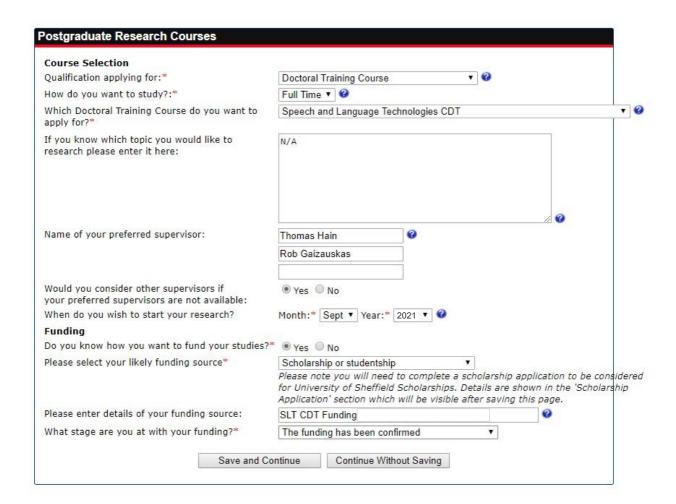
Save and Continue.

Completed Part 1

You have now completed all the required fields in this section and can now return to the overview to make your course choices.

Return to Overview

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Part 2: Course Applications

Postgraduate Research Courses

Please select the following:

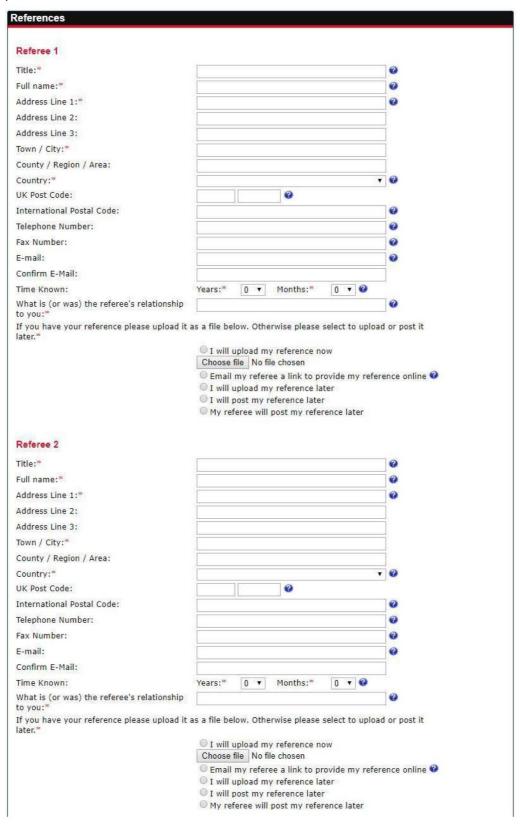| Qualification applying for	Doctoral Training Course
How do you want to study?	Full Time
Which Doctoral Training Course do you want to apply for?	Speech and Language Technologies CDT
Preferred supervisor	Prof. Thomas Hain & Prof. Rob Gaizauskas
Start date	September 2021
Do you know how you want to fund your studies	Yes
Please select your likely funding source	Scholarship or Studentship
Please enter details of your funding source	SLT CDT Funding
What stage are you at with your funding?	The funding has been confirmed

Postgraduate Research Courses

Course Selection

Qualification applying for:* — Doctoral Training Course

How do you want to study?:* — Full Time

Which Doctoral Training Course do you want to apply for?* — Speech and Language Technologies CDT

If you know which topic you would like to research please enter it here: — N/A

Name of your preferred supervisor: — Thomas Hain / Rob Gaizauskas

Would you consider other supervisors if your preferred supervisors are not available: — ● Yes ○ No

When do you wish to start your research? — Month:* Sept Year:* 2021

Funding

Do you know how you want to fund your studies?* — ● Yes ○ No

Please select your likely funding source* — Scholarship or studentship

Please note you will need to complete a scholarship application to be considered for University of Sheffield Scholarships. Details are shown in the 'Scholarship Application' section which will be visible after saving this page.

Please enter details of your funding source: — SLT CDT Funding

What stage are you at with your funding?* — The funding has been confirmed

Save and Continue   Continue Without Saving

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References

You need to provide two academic references for your application. If you have been out of education for over two years, one reference can be from your current employer. Note: if you choose to have your referee provide their reference directly, it remains **your** responsibility to ensure they are uploaded by the referee before the application deadline. Your application cannot be reviewed without them.

References

Referee 1

Field	Value
Title:*	
Full name:*	
Address Line 1:*	
Address Line 2:	
Address Line 3:	
Town / City:*	
County / Region / Area:	
Country:*	
UK Post Code:	
International Postal Code:	
Telephone Number:	
Fax Number:	
E-mail:	
Confirm E-Mail:	
Time Known:	Years:* 0 ▼ Months:* 0 ▼
What is (or was) the referee's relationship to you:*	

If you have your reference please upload it as a file below. Otherwise please select to upload or post it later.*

○ I will upload my reference now
Choose file   No file chosen
○ Email my referee a link to provide my reference online
○ I will upload my reference later
○ I will post my reference later
○ My referee will post my reference later

Referee 2

Field	Value
Title:*	
Full name:*	
Address Line 1:*	
Address Line 2:	
Address Line 3:	
Town / City:*	
County / Region / Area:	
Country:*	
UK Post Code:	
International Postal Code:	
Telephone Number:	
Fax Number:	
E-mail:	
Confirm E-Mail:	
Time Known:	Years:* 0 ▼ Months:* 0 ▼
What is (or was) the referee's relationship to you:*	

If you have your reference please upload it as a file below. Otherwise please select to upload or post it later.*

○ I will upload my reference now
Choose file   No file chosen
○ Email my referee a link to provide my reference online
○ I will upload my reference later
○ I will post my reference later
○ My referee will post my reference later

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Supporting Statement

Your supporting statement should include a brief outline of your research areas of interest and why you wish to pursue this area of research. This should not be a project proposal as this will be defined in collaboration with our industrial partners after you start if you are offered a place.

Please also indicate in your statement whether the UKRI eligibility criteria classify you as a home student or an international student.

Research Course Supporting Documents

Please upload documents, such as your dissertation or final year project, if you feel these will support your application.

Once you are happy that you have completed all the sections, please return to the overview. Click on 'Submit Application', which will send your application to our admissions team to review.