

FAQs for potential students

Our most frequently asked questions are answered below.

What can I expect with a CDT cohort experience?

It's traditional to think of a PhD as a 'solo' endeavour: you pursue your project, with your research, leading to your thesis. All of that still happens within a CDT, but you'll be working alongside a cohort of other PhD students. This provides a more collegiate atmosphere with an informal support structure and opportunities for collaboration. A cohort-based approach also enhances your networking opportunities. Like you, your fellow students are looking to become part of the next generation of leading scientists and researchers. It's worth getting to know them.

How will I make connections with industry?

Not all PhDs lead to a career in academia. CDTs have been set up to recognise this fact. And to make the most of it. As well as supporting you to earn a PhD, your CDT will make sure that your PhD is worth earning (and worth funding) whatever you go on to do with it. Much of this is done through the additional training and skills development described above.

The N0MES CDT takes a more direct approach with opportunities to take up placements beyond the university. These will be designed to contribute to your research and give you the opportunity to see how that research is applied in the real world.

Can I apply for my own research topic?

No. The topics have been co-created by academics and non-academic partners who are part-funding the PhDs. That said, there will always be scope within a PhD to refine the topic to be well aligned with an individual's interests and achievements. The topics are therefore relatively broad and so there is likely to be scope to pursue your specific interests within that broad topic area.

What if I want to apply and no projects are advertised?

Keep our webpage book marked and return to it each quarter. We aim to have one to two recruitment rounds each year – in January/February and April time. You can also email the N0MES CDT to register your interest, and we will place you on an 'interest list' and email you a link to the projects once they are live.

How do CDTs recruit students?

CDTs offer four-year PhD programmes including a range of additional training and development. This means, that CDTs tend to recruit cohorts of PhD students each year – like undergraduate programmes. The exact number of places (and studentships) depends on the CDT's annual intake. Generally, this CDT looks to recruit up to 12 students each year.

Are fees and stipend covered?

The funding does include PhD fees and a stipend for four years. See [restrictions/eligibility here](#).

Is the stipend enough to live in Liverpool?

This is the standard EPSRC stipend which many PhD students have in Liverpool and it is widely perceived to be sufficient by current PhD students.

How long does the PhD last?

University regulations dictate that you must submit your thesis within four years of starting. Most students submit at some point after the end of their third year and that is the anticipation for students in the CDT.

Why Research at Liverpool?

Every project within the centre is offered in collaboration with an industrial partner who, as well as providing co-supervision will also offer the unique opportunity for students to be embedded within industry, working on real world problems, using live benchmarking and data.

Our graduates will gain unparalleled experiences answering industry need while working across academic disciplines in highly sought-after topic areas.

As well as learning from academic and industrial world leaders, the centre has a dedicated programme of interdisciplinary research training including the opportunity to undertake – see our [training programme](#) for further information.

Many events and training sessions are undertaken as a cohort of PhD students, allowing you to build personal and professional relationships that we hope will lead to research collaboration either now or in your future.

Graduates from this CDT will have the essential skills needed to achieve excellence in their domain and cultivate their creativity to push beyond their area of expertise whilst honing their ability to advance the solutions-focused, systems-thinking approaches demanded by the decarbonisation challenge.

Who to contact

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