EPSRC Centre for Doctoral Training in Connected
Electronic & Photonic Systems (CEPS CDT)

Guidelines for research projects with industry partners

1. Project proposals and supervisors

Supervisors

All industry-based projects for the CEPS CDT must have a Principal Academic Supervisor at either UCL or University of Cambridge as well as an Industry Supervisor/Representative at the partner organisation.

To supervise MRes students on the CDT the Principal Academic Supervisor must be on the approved list of CEPS CDT supervisors.

To supervise PhD students on the CDT the Principal Academic Supervisor must:

1. Be on the approved list of CEPS CDT supervisors, and
2. Be approved to supervise PhD students generally, by either UCL or University of Cambridge, and
3. Have had an MRes project proposal accepted by the CEPT CDT in the current year.

Industry partners may collaborate with different Academic Supervisors on different projects, as long as the aforementioned requirements for academic supervisors are met.

A list of current approved Academic Supervisors for the CEPS CDT can be provided on request.

Submitting a proposal

It is the joint responsibility of both the Academic and Industry Supervisor to ensure a project proposal is up-to-date before submitting to the CDT for consideration.

Proposals from previous years will not be automatically considered. Previously submitted proposals should be updated and re-submitted before the designated deadline in order to be considered by the CDT.

The abstract and primary supervisory responsibility for the project must be agreed with the Principal Academic Supervisor before being submitted to the CDT.

2.   Student's expression of interest

When MRes/PhD project lists are released we advise CDT students to contact the project supervisors to discuss their interest and suitability before choosing a project. For industry based projects contact should be made with both the Principal Academic Supervisor at the university where the project is based and the Industry Supervisor/Representative at the partner organisation.

This is strongly recommended for MRes projects. It is a requirement for PhD projects.

3. Interviews

If a student interview is requested by the industry partner this must be stated in the original project proposal along with contact details and the deadline by which students should express their interest. If multiple project proposals are submitted, this information must be included on each proposal.

Once a student has expressed an interest in a project by contacting the supervisor, an interview should be arranged by the Academic and Industry Supervisor and agreed with the student.

The interview must be held prior to the project selection deadline set by CDT Management when project lists are released.

4. Intellectual Property (IP)

IP policies differ at each institution.

IP at UCL

UCL will own any IP generated by a UCL student.

UCL's IP policy: https://www.ucl.ac.uk/enterprise/about/governance-and-policies/ucl-intellectual-property-ip-policy

IP at University of Cambridge

At University of Cambridge the entitlement to intellectual property rights in material created by a student shall rest with the student.

Cambridge's IP policy: https://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/univ/so/2012/chapter13-section2.html

IP agreements and funding of studentships

Any exception to the standard IP policies at either institution will require a signed written agreement between the university (where the principal academic supervisor is based), the student, and project partner. This applies to MRes and PhD projects and CEPS CDT students.

The CDT Director and IP team at the respective university must be consulted before an agreement is put in place.

Students are not permitted to sign agreements concerning their university studies without approval from the university.

IP terms specific to PhD projects

For PhD projects involving any grant of IP rights to a project partner, the following terms apply:

I.   A written contract covering IP and financial terms must be in place between the university (where the principal academic supervisor is based), the student and the partner organisation/company.

II.   Where it is agreed that IP is to be owned by the partner organisation, and the studentship is EPSRC funded, the partner organisation must provide financial support for the studentship. Illustrative funding levels for the grant of IP rights are: 50% of maintenance and fees, plus a student stipend top-up which is 100% funded by the partner organisation. Such projects involve substantial involvement with the partner and are deemed to be partner organisation- /company-led.

III. Where a project is deemed to be partner organisation- /company-led and the student is primarily based at the company, the university's policies and regulations for 'working away / off-site working' should be adhered to:
https://www.cambridgestudents.cam.ac.uk/your-course/graduate-study/your-student-status/work-away
https://www.ucl.ac.uk/research/integrity/policies-and-guidelines/site-and-lone-working

IV.   Where a project is university-led the IP rights will normally be retained by the university. UCL policy is to offer first refusal on the licensing of IP to a partner providing financial support to the project. IP policies differ at each institution. See section above for the specific policy information.

V.   Students are not permitted to sign agreements concerning their university studies without approval from the university.

Contacts

Industry partners interested in proposing a project can do so via the project submission form online: https://www.ipes-cdt.org/programme/project-submission

A member of the CDT Management team or Academic Supervisor will then contact you to discuss.

Alternatively, you may contact a member of the CDT Management Team, and Academic Supervisor or Administrator directly at UCL or University of Cambridge:

CDT Management Team

Research Groups

CDT Administrator

Website: http://www.ceps-cdt.org/

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