

Pre-application Workshop (Cohort 7)

This session will be recorded

Eligibility of studentships

Parts of this presentation assume you are a **home-fee candidate**

Other eligibility criteria may apply and vary by project and university. Please check individual project adverts and university policies for the most accurate and up-to-date information.

[Link to UKCISA guidance on home-fee status](#)

Aims

About
ReNU⁺

Why do a
PhD

ReNU⁺ CDT
studentship

What is a
PhD

Hear from
our students

Project
themes

How to
apply

Cohort
Training

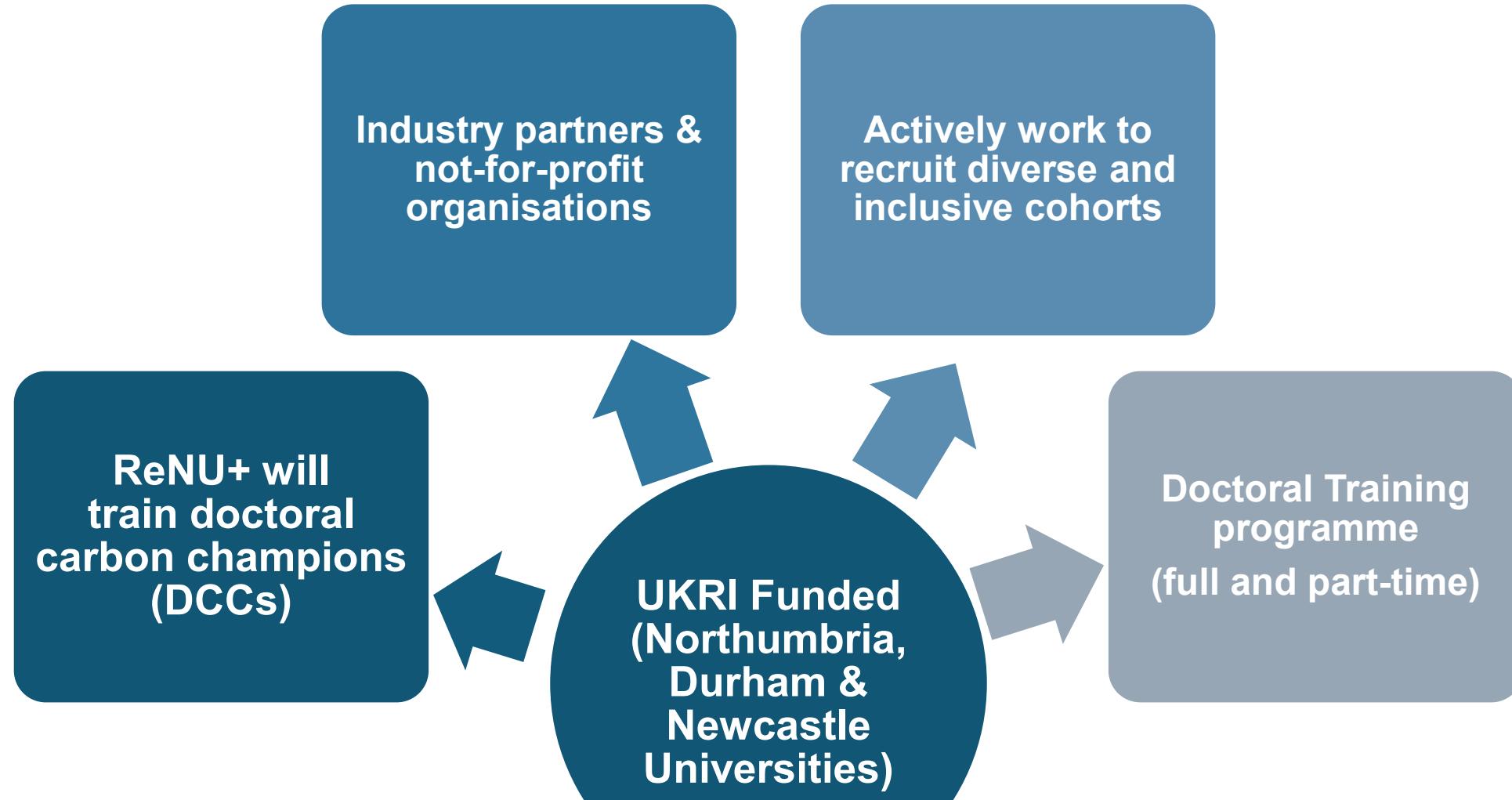
Balancing
part-time
work

Career
options after
PhD

Useful links

Questions

About ReNU⁺



**Northumbria
University
NEWCASTLE**



**Durham
University**



**Newcastle
University**



**Engineering and
Physical Sciences
Research Council**

Why do a PhD



ReNU+ CDT Studentship

LIVING EXPENSES /STIPEND

UKRI rates, tax-free
(2025/26 academic year is
£20,780 on full-time basis)



RESEARCH TRAINING AND SUPPORT GRANT



£17k For Research Expenses
(Eg. Travel, Consumables,
Equipment)

FULL TUITION FEE

Home tuition fee



ADDITIONAL TRAINING ACTIVITIES

valued at approx.
£13,000 per student

Students must live within reasonable travel time of their campus.
Support available to disabled students funded by UKRI

What is a PhD?

Typical PhD normally involves:

1 Literature Review & Project Planning

Understand what's already known in your field and create plan of action based on your research proposal



2 Conducting original research and collecting your results

Design and carry out experiments, collect data, run simulations depending on your discipline



3 Analyse Data

Process and interpret your findings, looking for patterns and drawing conclusions

5

Collaborate & Network

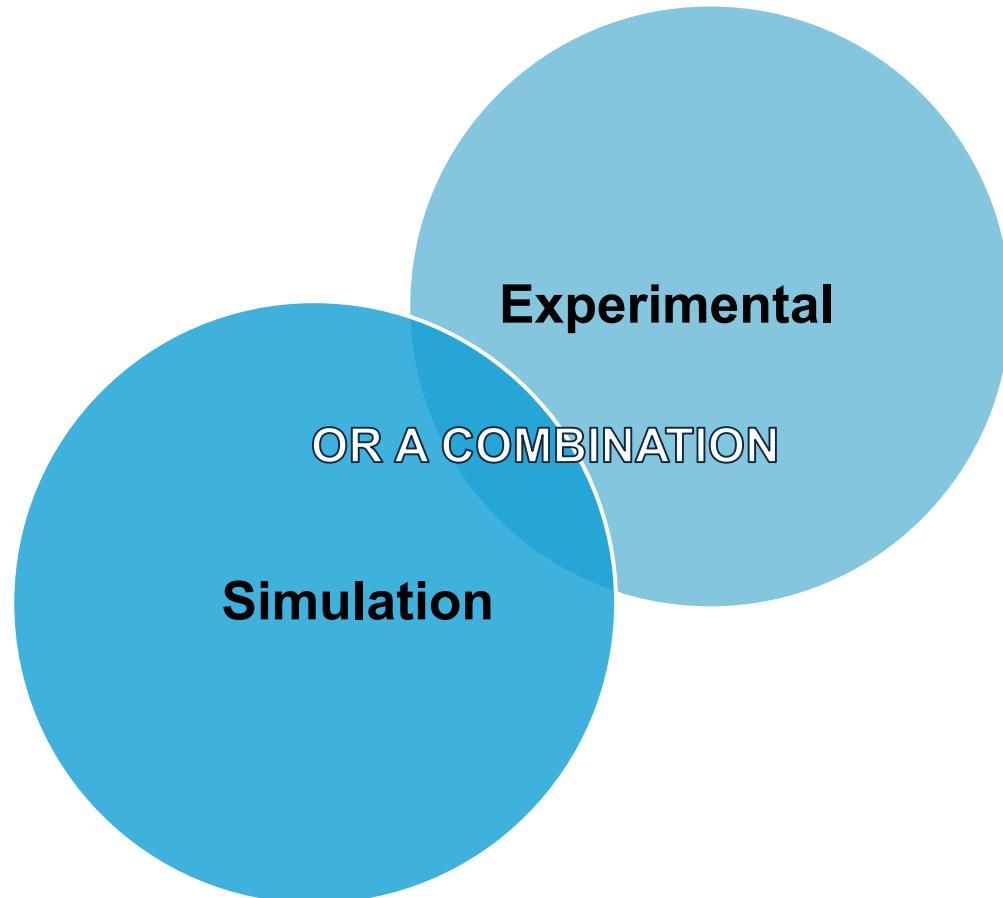
Balancing independent research with guidance from supervisors and collaboration with peers

4 Submit Thesis & Viva

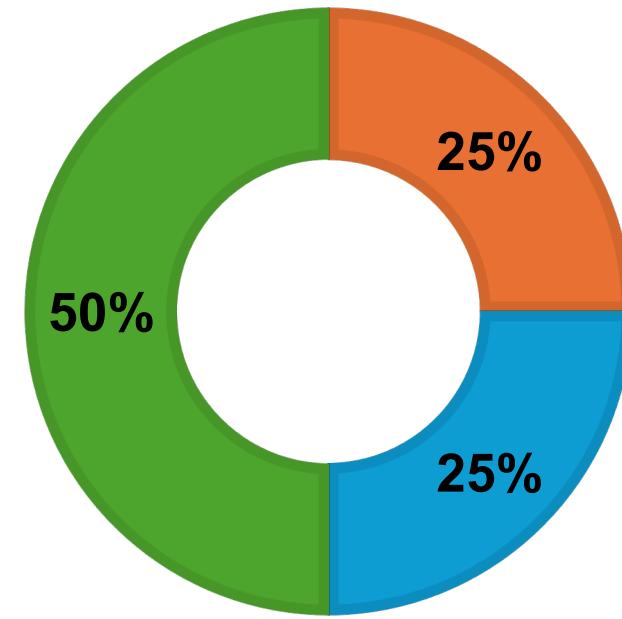
Write your thesis and submit. Defend your thesis in an oral viva examination



Projects our students work on



COHORT 6 RESEARCH THEMES

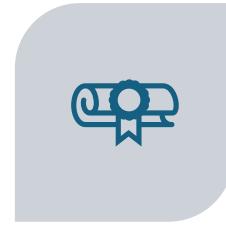


- Low Carbon Energy Generation
- Resilient Energy Storage and Distribution
- Sustainable Resources and Supply Chains

What it's like to be a researcher



Hear From ReNU
And ReNU⁺ students



Transitioning Into
PhD



What's It Like Being
A CDT Student
(Benefits Of CDT
cohort experience)



Professional
Networking And
Growth



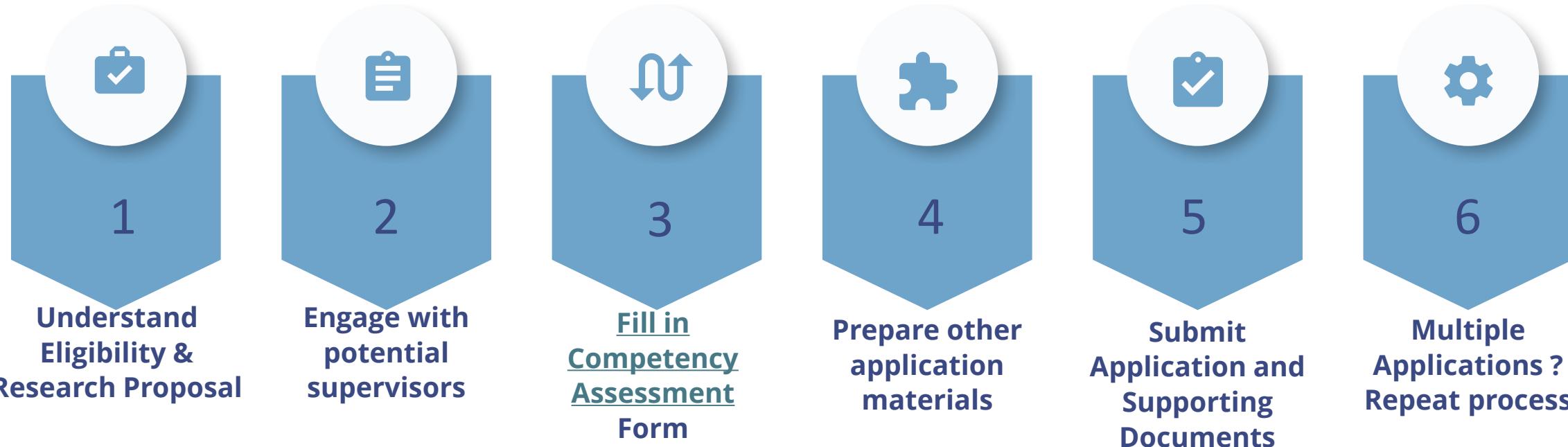
Challenges And
Rewards

- Experiences vary, but these are **examples of what our students find it's like to be a researcher**

- **More videos of our students talking about life as a PhD student**

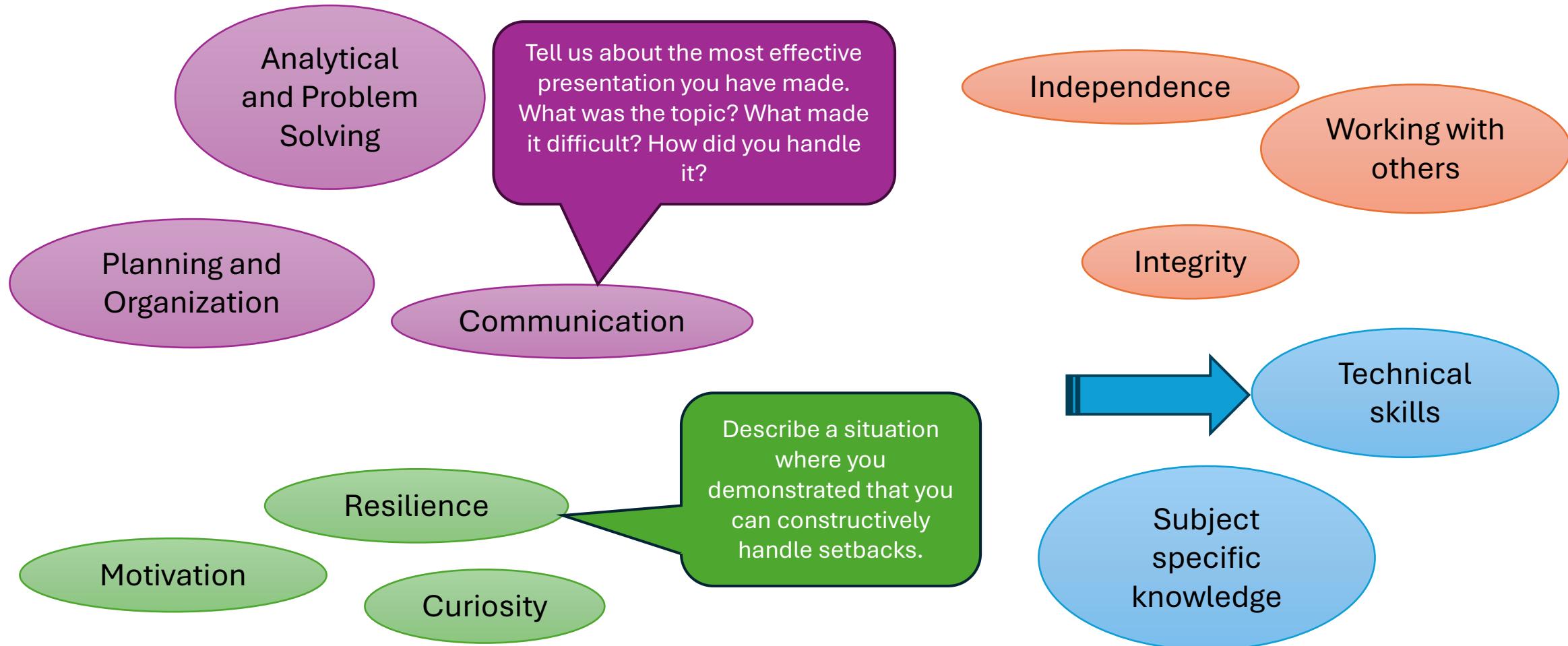
HOW TO APPLY

- Project proposals are included within the advertised positions.
- Each project is based at one of the three partner universities.
- Applicants must **apply through the application portal of the university hosting the project.**

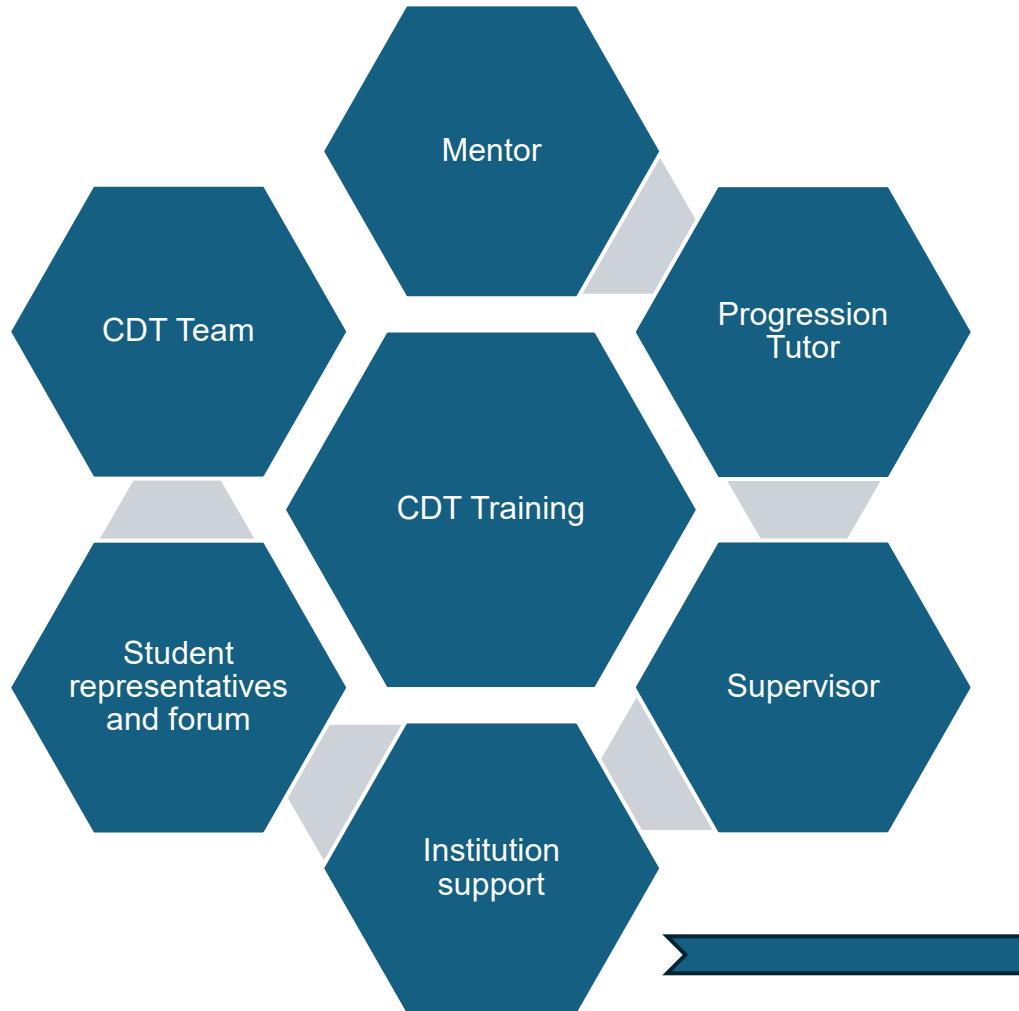


Further details can be found in individual project adverts on our website [Apply Now](#) page or [FindaPhD](#)

What competencies do successful PhD students have and how do I talk about this in my application?



Support from CDT and University (for CDT students)



Support teams vary at universities. Check individual university websites for specific support services available.

[Durham University](#)

[Newcastle University](#)

[Northumbria University](#) & [support-for-students/](#)

Cohort Based Training

- What your training might look like. **Reviewed annually and may change.**
- Students typically travel between universities for in-person training/workshop/event (but this may change).

SOFT SKILLS

TECHNICAL

DATA SKILLS

BUSINESS
SKILLS

SUSTAINABILITY

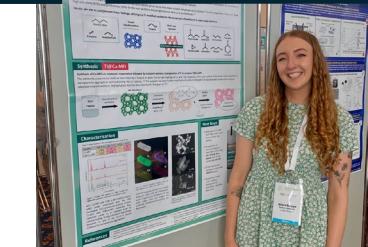
WRITING
RETREAT

INDUSTRY
ENGAGEMENT

PUBLIC
ENGAGEMENT

CONFERENCES

EMPLOYABILITY
WORKSHOP



Welcoming Cohort 6 to the CDT!



E-mission Zero Residential Trip

Celebrate Science
(Public Engagement)



Research Culture Day



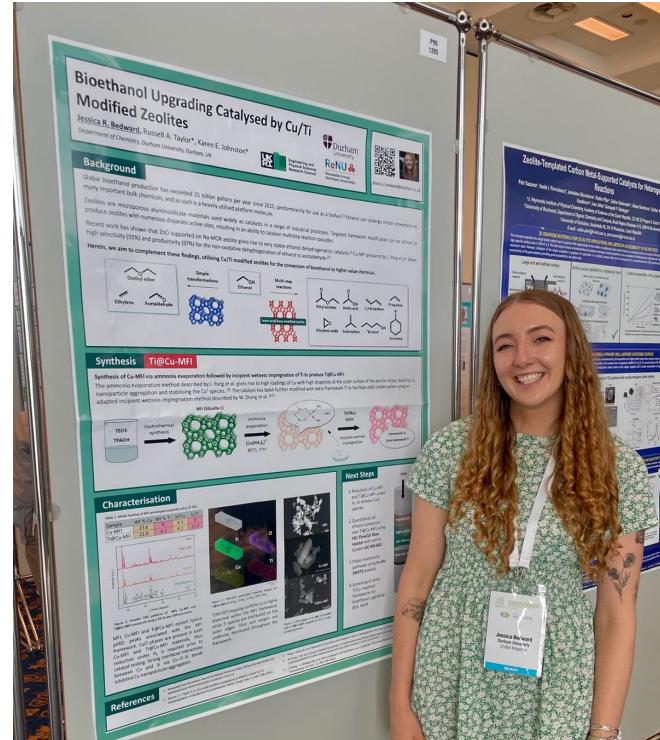
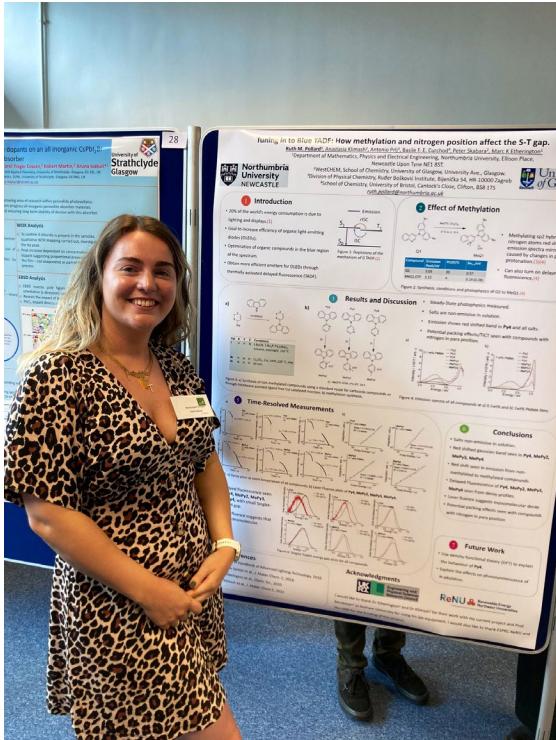
North East Energy Materials Systems (NEEMS)10



North East Energy Materials Systems (NEEMS) 11 Meeting



Presenting research



Balancing part-time work and PhD study

Different rules apply if you require a student visa to study in the UK.

Prioritize Research Commitments

- Keep research as your primary focus to manage the demands of your PhD program effectively.

Utilise University Resources

- University resources including workshops, financial advice, and career services can help you balance study commitments with part-time work.

Structured Scheduling and Support

- Set realistic goals, maintain a structured schedule, and communicate with supervisors to support your wellbeing.

Managing Part-Time Work While Pursuing a Full-Time PhD

Full-time PhD students expected to dedicate **37 hours per week** to research

Part-time work (not your PhD research) :

- Should **not interfere with PhD progress**
- Typically **not more than 6 hours per week**

Managing Part-Time Work While Pursuing a Part-Time PhD

Part-time PhD students

- 50% of Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) at Newcastle University or 60% at Northumbria University and Durham University
- Stipend pro-rated (eg. 50% FTE receives 50% of full stipend)
- Access training and cohort development opportunities
 - Participation **spread over a longer timeframe**
 - Engagement may occur **alongside later cohorts**

Career Options After a PhD

PhD graduates may pursue roles in:

Academic Careers

- eg. postdoctoral researchers and lecturers

Industry Opportunities

- eg. R&D, consultancy, and technical leadership

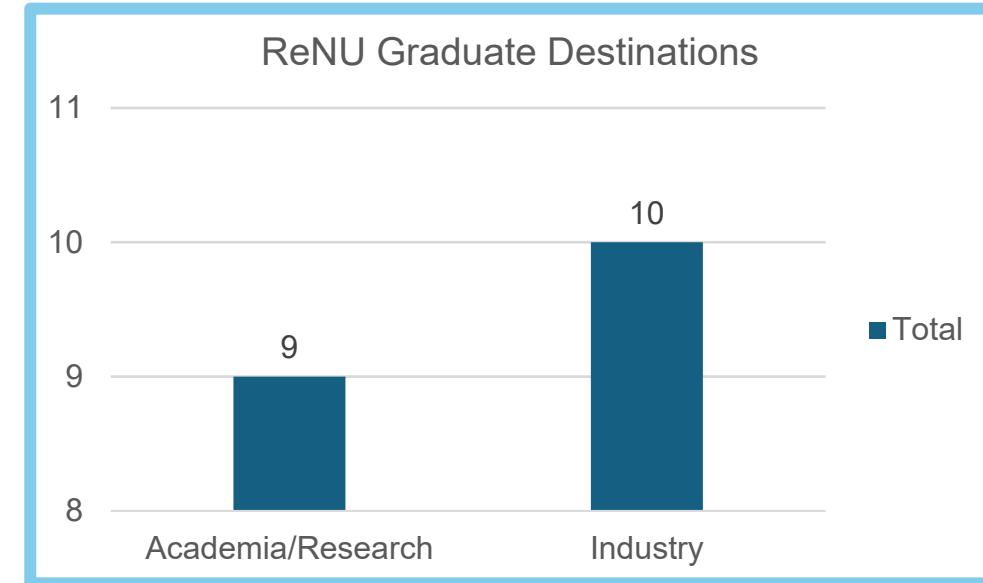
Policy and Government Roles

- eg. influence sustainability and energy policies through government and policymaking positions

Entrepreneurship

- eg. launch startups or develop innovative solutions

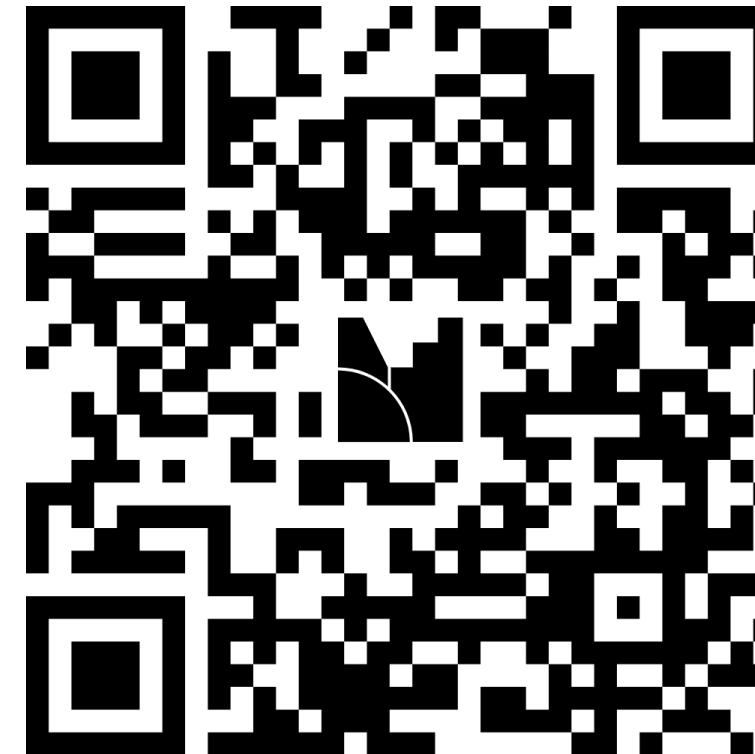
[Listen to Dr Simon FitzGerald, Head of Science & Technology at HORIBA UK talk about his career journey after PhD and recruiting PhD graduates for his organisation.](#)



Industry	Sustainability Engineer, Cundall Battery Engineer at Ilka plc Metrologist at BAE Systems Cluster Facility Technician
Academic	Postdoc Researcher at Northumbria University Postdoc Researcher at Newcastle University Postdoc Researcher at University of Rochester (New York)

[More ReNU Graduate Destinations](#)

Menti Feedback Survey



Useful links and info

- **Deadline** : Monday 2 February 2026 (this may vary, please check individual project adverts)
- Available projects are advertised on [Apply Now page](#).
- [ReNU CDT Annual Report 2024/5](#)
- More tips at [jobs.ac.uk](#) , [findaphd](#)

Value of a PhD



EMPLOYMENT CIRCUMSTANCES

- Doctoral graduates were highly employable, with more than 90% in work or work and further study, which was higher than for contemporaneous undergraduates (UG) and masters (M) graduates

VALUE OF THE DOCTORATE

- 62% of employed doctoral graduates said their doctorate was required for their job, with an additional 24% saying it was an advantage in getting the job

JOB FIT

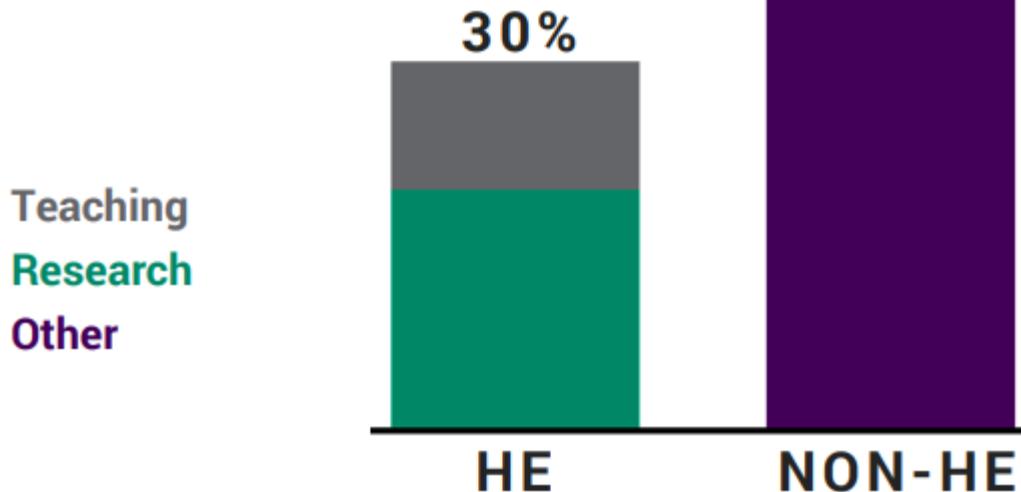
- 80-95% of employed doctoral graduates felt positive about their work, that it used their skills/knowledge, was meaningful, and fitted their overall career plans

Source: [2022 Vitae report on What do researchers do - doctoral graduate employment, activities & earnings 2022.pdf](#)

CAREER DESTINATIONS

Where do physical sciences and engineering doctorate holders work? 3.5 years after graduation, **70% work outside of HE** while 30% work in the HE sector.

Across all sectors, 16% are in teaching roles, 35% in research, and 49% in other occupations.



SAMPLE JOB TITLES

Some common sectors for physical sciences and engineering doctoral holders employed outside of HE at 3.5 years after graduation include the health service, business, finance, consultancy, engineering, sales, and marketing.

Sample job titles for this group are:

- Supply chain consultant
- Vehicle dynamics engineer
- Actuarial trainee
- Patent examiner
- Credit risk analyst
- Global energy manager
- Senior analyst / statistician
- Intellectual property manager
- Aerodynamics engineer



Source: [Vitae](#)



Employability of Doctoral Graduates in Physical Sciences & Engineering



employed on
open-ended
contracts, 24%
fixed term, 3%
self-employed



in **paid work**,
with 3% in
further study
and 6% in other
employment

Source: [VITAE](#)

Earnings data First Degree vs Level 8 (PhD)

Year after graduation (YAG)	Median annual salary	
	First Degree	PhD
1 year after graduation	£21,475	£30,700
5 years after graduation	£30,325	£36,050

'Real Terms Earnings data' for 1 YAG and 5 YAG, Biosciences, Chemistry, Engineering and Physics (averaged) in United Kingdom for 2021-22

Source: [UK Government Longitudinal Education Outcomes \(LEO\), Graduate and Postgraduate](#)

Any questions ?

How to contact us:

Book an online (Teams) meeting with the CDT Manager

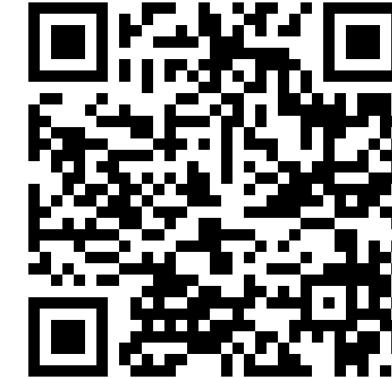
Contact us form

Email: renu@northumbria.ac.uk

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