

E5 DTP STUDENT-LED PROJECT PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

The E5 DTP provides two routes for applicants to apply for PhD positions

1. **Supervisor- led project** – These are projects designed and proposed by an E5 supervisor. They are advertised on the E5 DTP website during the application period (October – December).
2. **Student-led projects** – Applicants can propose their own project idea, drawing on their prior research experience, academic interests and strengths.

Student-Led Projects Route

Applicants choosing the student-led route must identify a supervisor from one of the E5 DTP partner schools who is willing to support their idea. The project should be developed collaboratively and in agreement with the supervisor. Supervisors can be from any of the 7 schools within the UoE College of Science and Engineering, or SRUC. Supervisors may only support **one** student-led project per recruitment round.

Key steps for Student Led Applications

The chart below outlines the process for submitting a student-led project. Applicants should confirm their eligibility for the E5 DTP before beginning this process.

GUIDANCE ON WRITING AN E5 DTP STUDENT-LED PROJECT PROPOSAL

Students and supervisors should work together to prepare the following information:

<u>Section</u>	<u>Details</u>
Title	The proposed project title
CASE Partner	Name of the CASE partner (if applicable). Further guidance on CASE studentships is available—please consult the supervisor.
Summary	Brief summary of the proposed project (Max 200 characters)
Project Background	Outline the rationale and context for the project (Max 2,000 characters)
Key Research Questions	List up to 5 core research questions
Methodology	Describe the proposed research and include a three-year research timetable.
Training	Specify and project-specific training requirements beyond standard DTP provision (Max 100 words)
Further Reading/References	Provide up to 6 key references

Supervisory Team	List between two and four supervisors
Resources & Facilities	Outline the equipment, software, computing facilities, or other resources required, and explain how these will be accessed
Project Budget	Provide estimated research costs (e.g. fieldwork, analyses, specialist training, software, data storage, etc.). Complete this section only if costs are expected to exceed the £3,450 RTSG allocation (max £5,000)
Computer Purchase	If the host school does not provide a laptop, include the cost of a standard laptop in the budget under Additional Research Costs
Partner Institution Hosts	If the project involves spending a significant period of time at an institution outside of the University of Edinburgh, provide details and the estimated duration over the course of the PhD.



The student should complete the student-led project pre-approval [JISC form](#) and then must email the E5 Admissions Team (e5dtp.info@ed.ac.uk), copying in the proposed supervisor, to confirm that the project has been submitted for approval. The E5 DTP team will review the proposed project and confirm by email whether it has been approved.

If approved, the lead supervisor must submit the project through the normal E5 application portal, selecting the student-led project option. This ensures that the project is not included in the public advertisement of supervisor-led projects.

The supervisors are responsible for checking that the proposed budget is appropriate for the project and ensuring that all requirements are met. If the supervisor is unfamiliar with the submission process, they should contact the E5 DTP team.

Project submissions deadline 20th October 2026, 12 noon, late submission will be rejected.