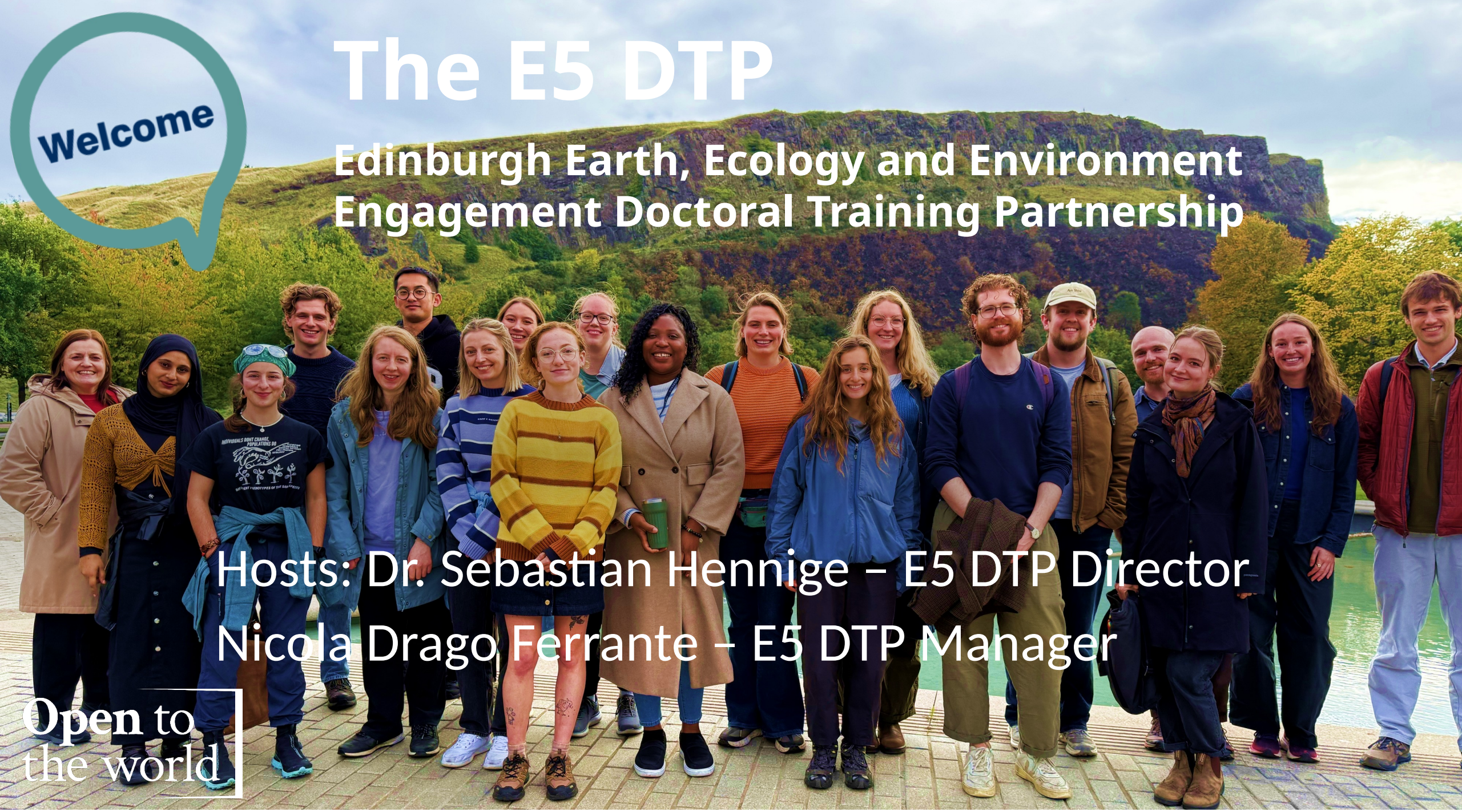


The E5 DTP

Edinburgh Earth, Ecology and Environment Engagement Doctoral Training Partnership

Hosts: Dr. Sebastian Hennige – E5 DTP Director

Nicola Drago Ferrante – E5 DTP Manager

Open to the world

THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH



- Founded in 1582

- Internationally connected university with staff and students from over 156 countries across the world
- A major international university with a strong research culture

- One of the largest and most successful groupings of Geographers, Earth and Environmental Scientists in the UK



Open to the world



Our DTPs

Funded by The Natural Environment Research Council (NERC)
Over 10 years of experience delivering the E3, E4 and E5 programmes

DTP	Years active	NERC funded studentships per year	Total students supported to date
E3	2014 – 2018	15	**117 students**
E4	2019 – 2024	17	**127 students**
E5	2025- 2028	13	**40 students (cohorts one and two)**

That’s a vibrant and active postgraduate community you’ll be part of

UKRI Natural Environment Research Council

E5DTP EDINBURGH EARTH, ECOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENT ENGAGEMENT DOCTORAL TRAINING PARTNERSHIP

E5 DTP

COLLABORATIVE PARTNERS

Centres of excellence
Edinburgh Centre for Parallel Computing (EPCC)
National Centre for Atmospheric Science (NCAS)
National Centre for Earth Observation (NCEO)

Data-driven
Bayes Centre
Edinburgh Climate Change Institute (ECCI)
Edinburgh Innovations (EI)

Public engagement
Dynamic Earth

Industry
Earthwave
Space Intelligence
Space Scotland
Telespazio

HOSTING PARTNERS

Academic
UoE School of GeoSciences **project lead**
UoE School of Biological Sciences
UoE School of Chemistry
UoE School of Engineering
UoE School of Informatics
UoE School of Mathematics
UoE School of Physics & Astronomy
UoE School of Veterinary Studies
Scotland's Rural College (SRUC)

Non-Academic
British Geological Survey (BGS)
National Museums Scotland (NMS)
National Physical Laboratory (NPL)
Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh (RBGE)
Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS)
Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre (SUERC)
UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology (UKCEH)

Executive agencies
Forest Research
Met Office

Consultancy
Biomathematics and Statistics Scotland (BIOSS)
EcoOnline

Public bodies
NatureScot
Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA)

Conservation charities
British Trust for Ornithology (BTO)
National Trust for Scotland (NTS)
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)
Scottish Wildlife Trust (SWT)

Life as an E5 DTP Student

- **Conduct independent research** to make a meaningful contribution to your field of study (leading to submission of a PhD thesis by end of funding)
- **Participate** in research seminars, group meetings, and an active community
- **Build expertise** through cohort-wide and tailored training
- Complete a **3-month Professional Internship Placement**
- **Access** paid teaching and demonstrating opportunities
- Shape your community through **student led clubs and committees** – Coding Club, Student Advisory Board
- Student Away Days, social events
- **Engage** in Outreach - (schools, mentoring, science festivals)





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Structured Training

- **Training is based around four pillars of development:**

- Training Needs Analysis
- Core Professional Skills
- Advanced Research Training
- Peer Learning and Support

- **30 days Core Training-** Cohort based, focussing on professional and transferable skills including data science skills, impact and innovation, Generative AI, science outreach and communication, careers planning

- **30 days Advanced Training -** Project specific, tailored to your individual needs -organised by the student and supervisor





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What does the E5 Studentship Cover:



- Stipend set at UKRI standard rate (2026/2027: £21,805)
- Tuition fees (for 4 years)
- Basic Research Costs (£3,450)

Some projects also have a CASE Partner from an external organisation:

- Additional support for the project including the opportunity for a placement
- Additional Supervision

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UKRI Eligibility Criteria

Application deadline is 2 December 2026 for Autumn 2027 entry



Applicants are split into two different fee status categories

Home fees:

UK nationals

EU/ EEA with settled/ pre settled status, or those with indefinite leave to remain in the UK - Evidence required (see our website)

International fees: all other categories

We welcome applications from talented individual regardless of nationality or country or residence

International students are fully supported and encouraged to apply

- Admission for international students is highly competitive
- UKRI limit the number we can recruit to a **maximum** of 30% international students per cohort each year.

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Standard Entry Requirements

Application deadline is 2 December 2026 for Autumn 2027 entry

🎓Academic Eligibility:

- Minimum requirement: UK 2.1 honours degree or equivalent

If your degree classification is lower than a 2.1, we may also consider:

- Relevant work experience
- a Master's degree



English Language Requirements

For Non-Native English speakers

We accept degrees that are entirely taught and assessed in English if:

- The degree is no more than 3.5 years at the programme start date
- The degree was completed in a majority English speaking country or at an approved university in a non- majority English Speaking country

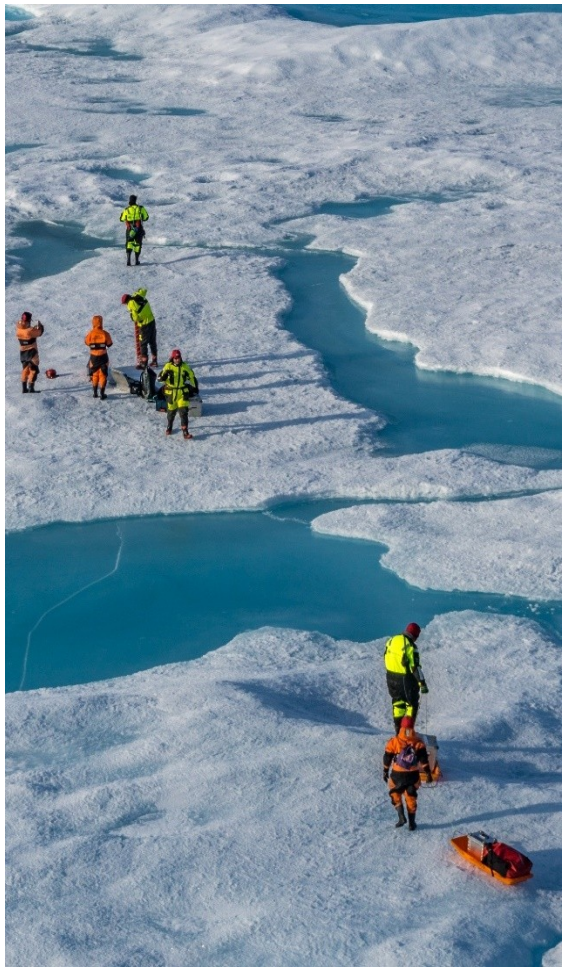
- Accepted English Language Tests and minimum scores are listed on the University of Edinburgh website

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E5 Widening Participation Scheme

Application deadline is 2 December 2026 for Autumn 2027 entry



- Applicants whose academic journey has been disadvantaged or disrupted may choose to complete a Widening Participation form
- This form allows you to tell us about your circumstances that have affected your route into higher education.
- Optional
- All information provided on the WP form is Confidential and will be reviewed only by the Widening Participation Panel

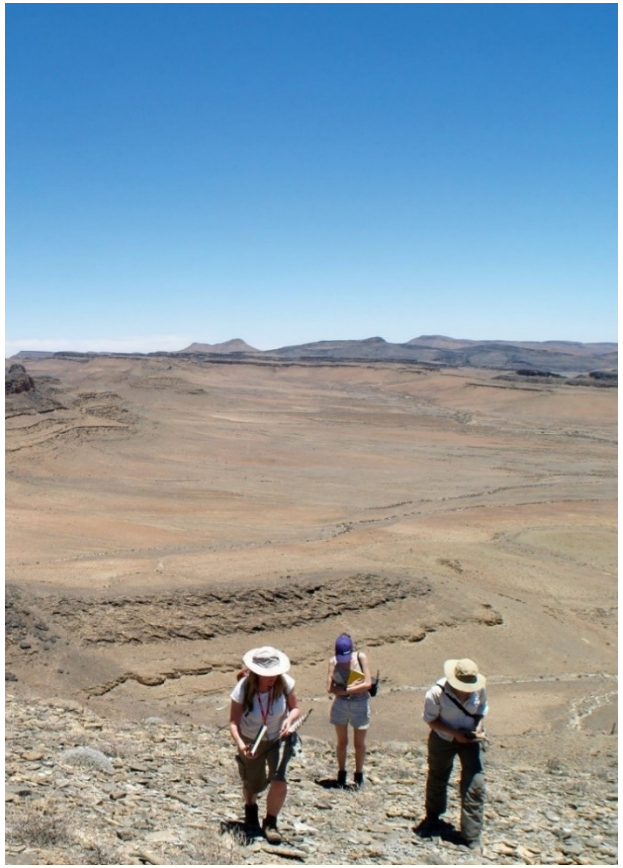
Disclosing special circumstances to the supervisor/selection panel
if you wish to disclose information to the supervisor or selection panels in order for them to take it into consideration when assessing your application, there is space to do this on the Studentship form.

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E5 DTP Projects 2027 entry

Application deadline is 2 December 2026 for Autumn 2027 entry



Supervisor-led Projects

- Over 70 projects advertised this year
- Cover a wide range of research areas within NERC-remit
- Browse online at: E5 DTP Supervisor-led Projects | The University of Edinburgh
- Next steps: Contact the main supervisor as early as possible to discuss your application

You can apply for 1 project only

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Application Process

Application deadline is 2 December 2026 for Autumn 2027 entry

are Appl icati on

- **Submit compulsory documents**
- **Optional documents** depending on circumstances

Cont act Refer ees

- Enter the contact details for 2 referees to the portal- this creates an automatic email with a link so they can upload the E5 reference form.
- Referees must upload their reference form via their referee portal by the application deadline

mit appl icati on

- Upload your documents to our application portal by the deadline of 2 December
- Once all documents have been uploaded, press Submit to complete your application.

[Follow our application step-by-step guidance on our website.]



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E5 Application Documents

Application deadline is 2 December 2026 for Autumn 2027 entry

Compulsory documents (all applicants)

- **E5 Studentship form**
- **Academic CV (2 pages)**
- **Transcripts and certificates for all completed UG and PG degrees** (an interim transcript is acceptable if you are still studying)
- **Equality and Diversity Form**

If applicable:

- Proof of EU Settled/ Pre-Settled Status or Right to Remain in the UK evidence – UKVI share code (details on our website)

Optional documents – depending on circumstances

- **Widening Participation Form**
- **English Language Test certificate** (not essential until the offer stage)

Application deadline is 2 December 2026 for Autumn 2027 entry

Create your account on the E5 Portal

All application materials, including your references, are submitted through the online Applicant Portal.

1. Click on **"Apply for this project"** at the bottom of the project page
2. **Register** with your name and email (or log in with Ease if you already have a University of Edinburgh account)
3. Check your email inbox for a **link to access your portal**
4. **Upload your application documents** – can be done in stages
5. **Enter your referees' contact details -** They will be emailed automatically
6. You can edit your application and make changes up until the closing date.



Use the Applicant portal (same link) to:

Check that your references have been submitted

Replace any documents already uploaded (if necessary)

Change the name of a referee (if necessary)

Check any messages from the admissions team

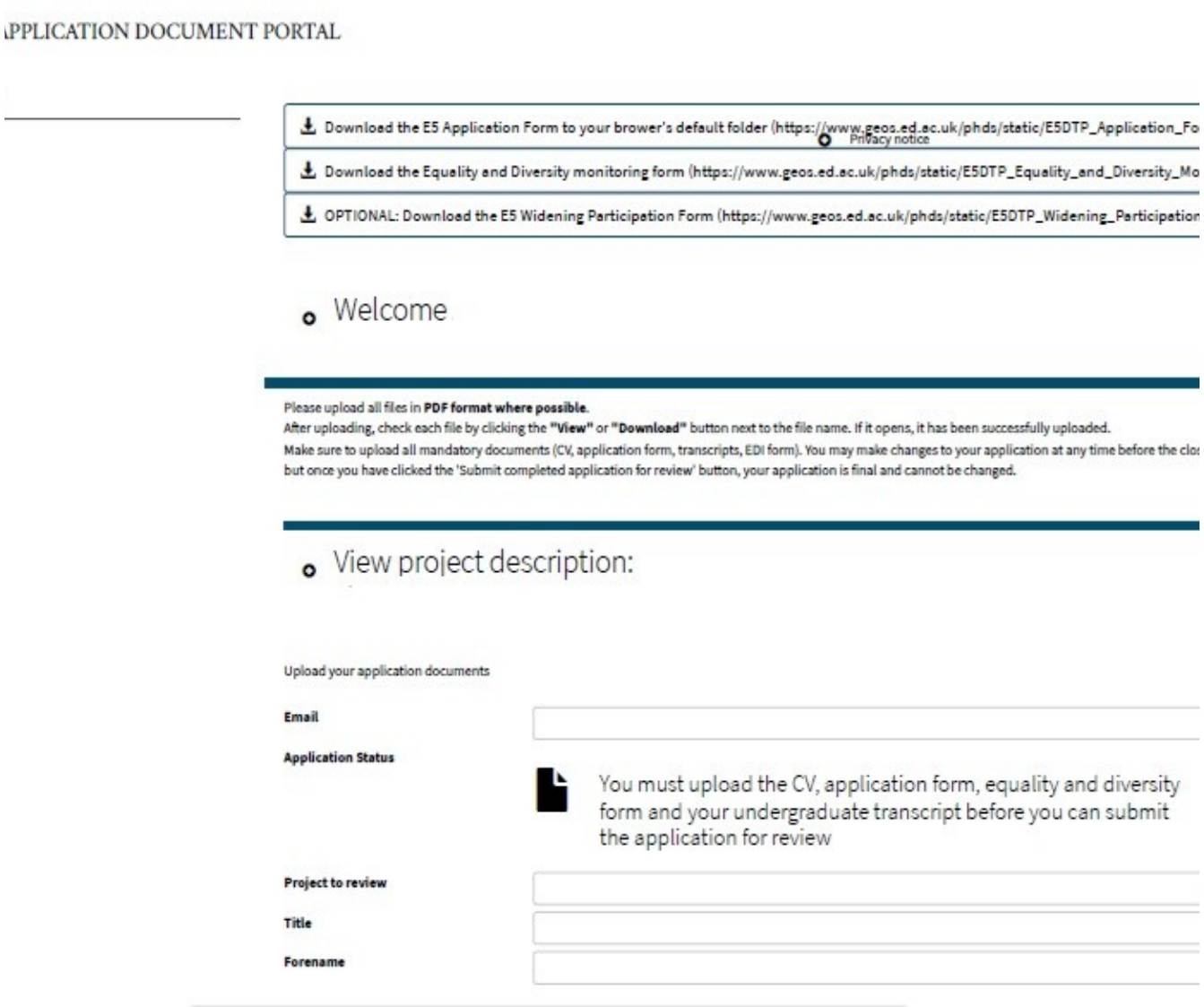
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Applicant Portal

Complete your details and upload your documents

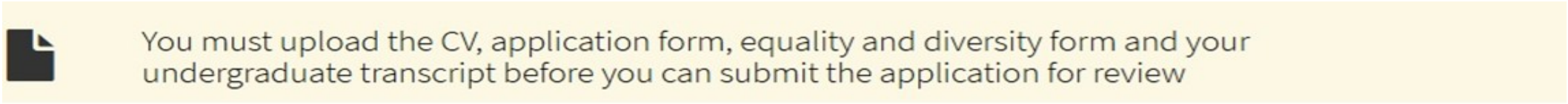
Application deadline is 2 December 2026 for Autumn 2027 entry



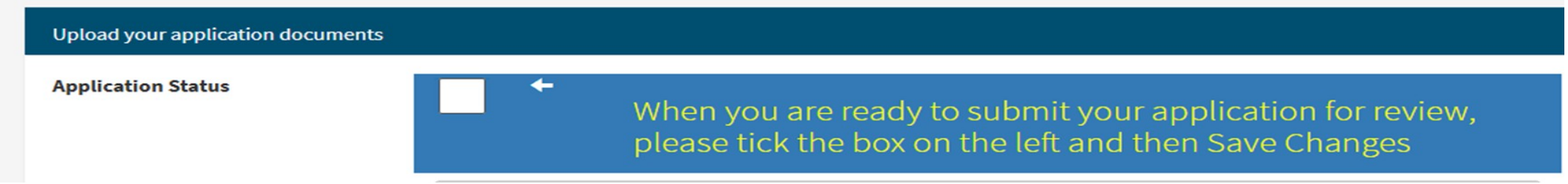
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Status Notifications: Application Portal

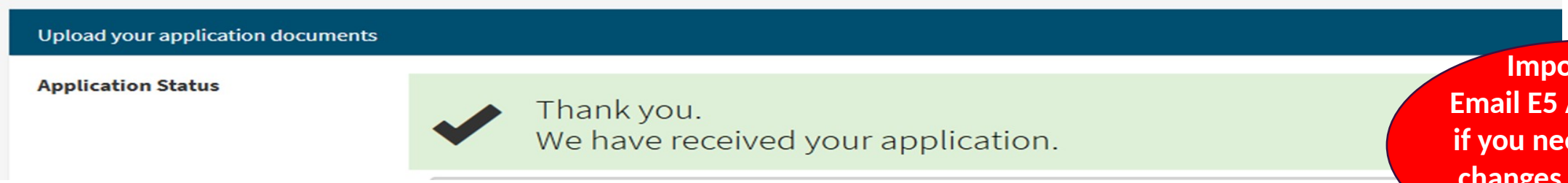
Once you have created your account on the portal, you will see the following banners at the top of the application screen



When you have uploaded your compulsory documents, you will be prompted to select the check box



If you are happy with your application, select the check box and the banner will change to:



Important!
Email E5 Admissions if you need to make changes before the deadline

Application Review Process

Application deadline is 2 December 2026 for Autumn 2027 entry



APPLICATIONS EVALUATION

SCREENING
Applications received and initial check by the E5 DTP Admissions Team.

Supervisor Nominations
Supervisors review applications and nominate their preferred candidates.

E5 Shortlisting panels
The preferred candidates are shortlisted by three thematic panels.

INTERVIEWS
The top 60-70 applicants* are invited for interview and their performance evaluated by E5 panels.

OFFERS
Application and interview evaluations are combined to constitute the final ranking of applicants. The top ~20 applicants* are offered a studentship.

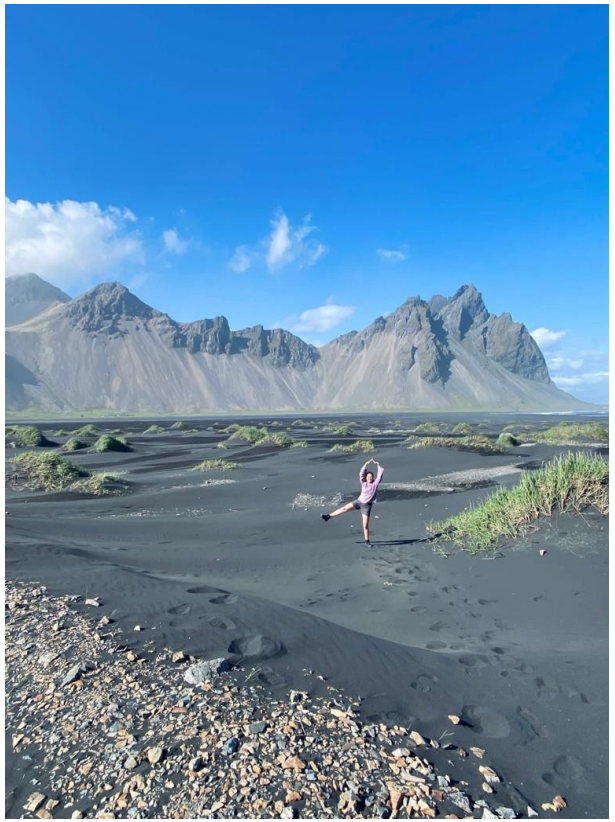
E5 Widening Participation Panel
May recommend additional applications for consideration

* Proportionally to the NERC cap for international students

Application deadline is 2 December 2026 for Autumn 2027 entry

E5 DTP Recruitment Timeline 2027 entry

Application Deadline	**2 December 2026 – 12 Noon GMT**
Application Review and shortlisting	**December – January**
Initial outcomes sent via email	**8th February 2027**
Interviews	**22,23,24 February 2027**
First Offers sent by	**5 March 2027**
2027 Universal NERC DTP acceptance of offers date (before which candidates are not obliged to accept any NERC-funded PhD offer)	**16 March 2027**



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Application Tips

Application deadline is 2 December 2026 for Autumn 2027 entry

Plan Ahead

- Contact the project supervisor early
- Speak to your referees
- Request official documents early
- Create your account on the applicant portal and upload your documents ahead of the deadline.

Experience

- **Research experience:** Past projects and research skills
- **Professional/Other experience:** Relevant non-academic skills and achievements
- **Scientific Outputs:** Any publications, including those under review

Motivation

- Explain why you want to do a PhD now
- Demonstrate your interest in the project
- What have you done to prepare for PhD study

Top Tips

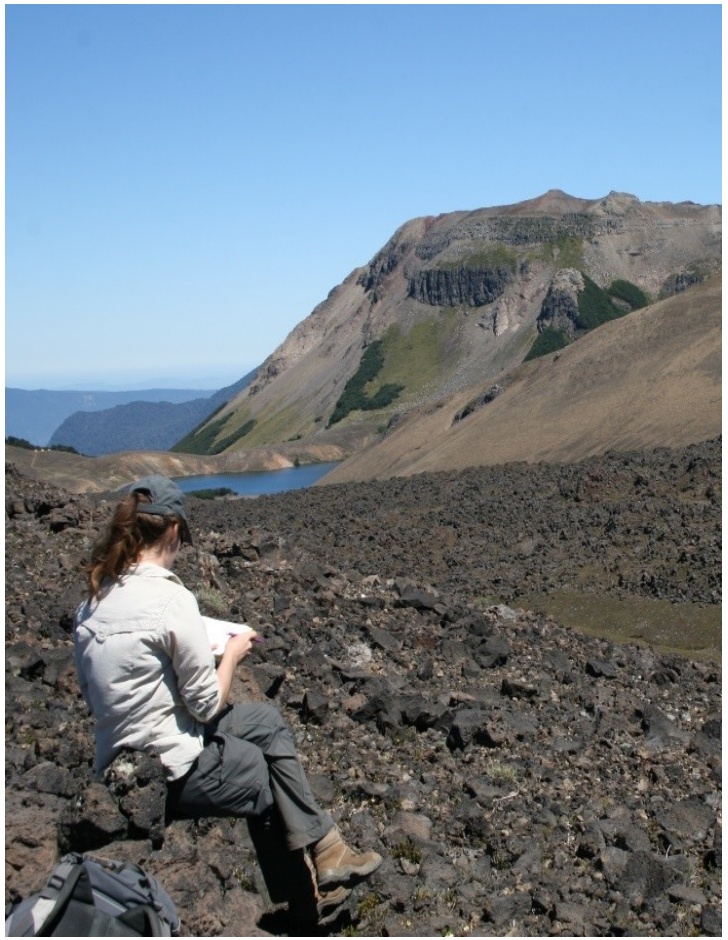
- Tailor your application to the project
- Show enthusiasm and curiosity
- Be clear and concise
- Proofread carefully
- Use AI tools responsibly – your application should reflect **your own** skills, experience and ideas.

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Support for Applicants

Application deadline is 2 December 2026 for Autumn 2027 entry



Our website provides a range of information and resources to help you through the application process:

- Frequently Asked Questions - Guidance on project choice, applications, shortlisting, interviews and offers
- A day in my PhD Life videos from our students about what a PhD is really like
- Advice for PhD Applicants - A video from one of our DTP Directors offering practical advice on preparing your application.
- **Applicant Information and Q&A Sessions**: Online sessions covering the application process, with recordings available to watch.

More information on studying at University of Edinburgh

Campus Virtual Visits

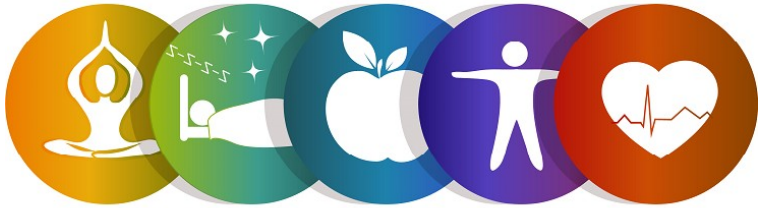


Chat with UoE students



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Student Support Services



University Student Support Services:

- Health
- Wellbeing and mental health
- Counselling
- Sport and Exercise
- Disability and Learning and Support
- Student Immigration
- Careers
- Academic Development
- Accommodation
- Student Finance
- Childcare







The Advice Place by EUSA (Edinburgh University Student Association)

Edinburgh University Students' Association

Highlights from DTP Alumni



https://www.ed.ac.uk/e4-dtp/people/dtp-alumni

Where have our students gone on to?





The E5 DTP

Application deadline is 2 December 2026 12 Noon GMT

More than a PhD

Edinburgh Earth, Ecology and Environment Engagement Doctoral Training Partnership

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Application deadline is 2 December 2026 12 Noon GMT

Thank you and good luck with your application!

E5 DTP Admissions Team

e5dtp.info@ed.ac.uk

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