



COLLABORATORY
Research Hub

NNR26 - PhD Studentship Applications

About this application form

This application form is for those applying to specific PhD research project studentship as part of Collaboratory's 2026 Cohort in **Nottingham and Nottinghamshire**. It is essential that you familiarise yourself with full details of our latest studentship scheme and eligibility criteria, [available on our website](#).

Important information Saving Your Progress

We strongly recommend that all applicants prepare their answers separately in a word document. While the application will allow you to save your progress, external functions of individual users' devices can cause the form to clear. To avoid losing your progress, we recommend using our offline copy of this form to plan and prepare your answers. This can be downloaded from our main applications web page. You will have the option to download a PDF copy of your completed application once submitted.

Eligibility Criteria

- Before submitting an application, please ensure that you have read and understood the eligibility criteria on our website.
- Applications which do not meet eligibility requirements will not be considered.

Supporting Documents

- Once you have completed your application, you must submit copies of your supporting documents/evidence documents to us by email.
- It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that their documents have been submitted. Incomplete applications may not be considered.
- All supporting evidence (including qualification certificates, evidence of achievements, and Professional Equivalency portfolio documents) **MUST** be submitted by email to collaboratory@universitiesfornottingham.ac.uk with your full name in the subject line. A member

of the Collaboratory team will confirm receipt of your supporting documents within 3 working days.

- *All supporting evidence must be received by Monday 01 December 2025 at 10:00 (GMT) or your application will be considered incomplete.*

Key dates

- **Application deadline:** 11:59pm Sunday 30 November 2025
- **Applicant interviews:** 12-30 January 2026
- **Start date for successful PhD candidates:** Wednesday 01 April 2026

For support requests or queries, please contact us at collaboratory@universitiesfornottingham.ac.uk

Your Data

Data submitted as part of this application will be held by Nottingham Trent University, in accordance with [Nottingham Trent University's admissions privacy policy](#). Your data will be used by Nottingham Trent University for the purposes of processing your application.

1. **By ticking the box below, you understand that Nottingham Trent University will need to handle your data for the purposes of processing and considering your application. ***

☐ I understand

2. **Do you give permission for Collaboratory to use your anonymised application for research into widening participation into research degrees?**

*Any application data used for research purposes will be completely anonymised and will not have any bearing on this or any future PhD applications. If you select yes, you are entitled to withdraw your consent at any time by contacting us at collaboratory@universitiesfornottingham.ac.uk **

☐ Yes

☐ No

Eligibility Check

To be eligible to apply to the Collaboratory Research Hub PhD Studentship Scheme you must meet the minimum eligibility criteria. Full details can be found on [our 2026 applications web page](#). If you do not meet our minimum eligibility criteria, your application will not be considered.

3. Please confirm that you have read and understood the minimum eligibility requirements on our website. *

If you do not meet the minimum eligibility requirements, your application will not be considered.

☐ Yes

☐ No

4. Would you be available to formally commence PhD study from 01 April 2026, should your application be successful? *

This includes having fully completed and received the results of any higher education degree course you may currently be enrolled on BEFORE this date.

☐ Yes

☐ No

5. Do you already hold a doctoral level degree or ANY other degree awarding the title of Doctor? *

☐ Yes

☐ No

6. Are you currently registered as a PhD/doctoral candidate at any other higher education institution? *

☐ Yes

☐ No

7. Are you currently a formal employee of either the University of Nottingham or Nottingham Trent University in any research or research supporting/adjacent role? *

☐ Yes

☐ No

8. Are you a permanent resident of the UK? *

It is NOT possible for Collaboratory to fund those who would be classed as international students for the purpose of tuition fees.

☐ Yes

☐ No

Personal Details

This section asks you for your personal contact and identifying information. Please ensure that all personal details are correct, as these details will be used to register you if your application is successful.

9. Title *

0/32,000 characters

10. Forename(s) *

0/32,000 characters

11. Last name / family name *

0/32,000 characters

12. Previous last name (if changed)

0/32,000 characters

13. Main country of permanent residence *

0/32,000 characters

14. Country of birth *

15. Place of birth

*Town, city, or locality, as printed on your passport or similar identity document **

0/32,000 characters

16. Date of birth ***17. Home address**

*Please provide your address in your country of permanent residence **

0/32,000 characters **18. Home postcode ***

0/32,000 characters

19. Correspondence address and postcode

If different from your home address, please provide your correspondence address and postcode below

0/32,000 characters **20. Contact telephone number**

*Please provide your main contact mobile or home telephone number **

0/32,000 characters

21. Email address *

0/32,000 characters

22. How did you find out about Collaboratory PhD Studentships?

*Please select all the apply **

- ☐ Social media
- ☐ Google (or other search enginge)
- ☐ Other local media
- ☐ Collaboratory Newsletter
- ☐ University Website
- ☐ Word of mouth
- ☐ Other

23. You selected other. Please specify.

0/32,000 characters

Main Application Questions

- In this section, you must provide the exact title of the Collaboratory **Nottingham and Nottinghamshire 2026** PhD project that you wish to apply to for your studentship application.
- Applications without a project title, with multiple titles, or which name a project that is not one offered for the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire 2026 Cohort will be rejected.

Application Questions

All candidates must answer the following questions. Your answers to these questions play a key part in assessing your application against the core and project-specific criteria detailed in each PhD project advert. We recommend that you draft your answers beforehand to ensure you are within the word limits. To support us in being able to assess applications anonymously and without unconscious bias, where possible, please avoid revealing personally identifiable information in your answers such as your name, gender, age, ethnicity, previous institutions of study, etc.

24. Research Project Title

Please provide the title of the Collaboratory PhD research project to which you are applying. *

Each applicant can only apply to ONE PhD project.

0/32,000 characters

25. Why have you chosen to apply for this PhD research project?

*Prompt: What about this specific research project motivates, excites and interests you? Why have you applied to this project and not another educational or development opportunity in this field? **

Maximum 500 words



26. What makes you prepared to undertake this specific PhD research project?

*Prompt: How do your skills, knowledge, experience (whether from degrees you hold or practical experience) and other attributes make you well prepared for the requirements and challenges of undertaking PhD study, and for this PhD project, specifically? **

Maximum 500 words

27. **Why have you applied to a Collaboratory Research Hub PhD in particular?**

*Prompt: Why you have chosen to apply to a Collaboratory PhD project specifically, rather than a PhD project under any other programme? What is it about a Collaboratory PhD that appeals to you/aligns with your own goals, values, longer term ambitions, etc. **

Maximum 350 words

28. **What would be the main challenges for you personally in undertaking a PhD and how would you overcome these ?**

*Prompt: In what ways would doing this specific PhD challenge or test you, especially in relation to what the project aims to do? What personal skills and competencies might you look to develop to be as successful as possible in this PhD? **

Maximum 350 words

29. **What would be the impact on you personally if you were to successfully complete this PhD project?**

*Prompt: To what extent would being able to do this PhD support your future personal and professional ambitions? What would you intend to do after receiving a PhD qualification? How would completing this PhD fit into your wider interests and motivations? etc. **

Maximum 350 words

30. **Describe three personal attributes you possess which you feel will make you a successful Collaboratory PhD candidate.**

*Why would these attributes make you the most successful candidate for this specific PhD project, and as a Collaboratory PhD candidate? How would these attributes ensure that you would deliver a successful, impactful body of research work? **

Maximum 350 words

Qualifications

Please provide details of any relevant formal qualifications (i.e., undergraduate degree, masters degree, professional qualification, etc.).

- List all subjects taken, including awards pending, whatever the result, in date order with the most recent first.

Evidence to submit

- For every qualification listed, you **MUST send a copy of your qualification certificate and transcript (if available) to us, by email.** Copies must be clear and legible. Copies of qualification certificates must be sent to collaboratory@universitiesfornottingham.ac.uk along with any other requested evidence, after you have submitted your application. Please include your full name in the subject of the email.

Applications by Standard Admission

If you meet the minimum qualifications for entry, as detailed in our eligibility criteria, you must apply by Application by Standard Admission by providing details and submit evidence of your qualifications.

Applications by Professional Equivalency

If you do not meet the minimum qualifications for entry, as detailed in our eligibility criteria, and wish to apply by Professional Equivalency, you must still provide details of any formal qualifications you hold, here. If you do not hold any formal qualifications, you may skip to the next section.

31. Name of educational establishment attended

e.g., university or other institution

0/32,000 characters

32. Level and degree title

e.g. BSc Political Science, MRes Social Sciences, etc.

0/32,000 characters

33. Results

If you have not yet completed this course, please provide details of your current provisional grade, or expected result.

34. Date study commenced

Please select the date this course started. Please select an approximate day if you are unsure of the exact date. The start month and year must be accurate.

35. Date study completed

Please select the date this course ended. Please select an approximate day if you are unsure of the exact date. The end month and year must be accurate. If you have not yet completed this course, please select the expected end date.

36. Add details of another qualification? *

☐ Yes

☐ No

37. Name of educational establishment attended (2)

e.g., university or other institution

0/32,000 characters

38. Level and degree title (2)

e.g. BSc Political Science, MRes Social Sciences, etc.

0/32,000 characters

39. Results (2)

If you have not yet completed this course, please provide details of your current provisional grade, or expected result.

40. Date study commenced (2)

Please select the date this course started. Please select an approximate day if you are unsure of the exact date. The start month and year must be accurate.

41. Date study completed (2)

Please select the date this course ended. Please select an approximate day if you are unsure of the exact date. The end month and year must be accurate. If you have not yet completed this course, please select the expected end date.

42. Add details of another qualification? (2) *

☐ Yes

☐ No

43. Name of educational establishment attended (3)

e.g., university or other institution

0/32,000 characters

44. Level and degree title (3)

e.g. BSc Political Science, MRes Social Sciences, etc.

0/32,000 characters

45. Results (3)

If you have not yet completed this course, please provide details of your current provisional grade, or expected result.

46. Date study commenced (3)

Please select the date this course started. Please select an approximate day if you are unsure of the exact date. The start month and year must be accurate.

47. Date study completed (3)

Please select the date this course ended. Please select an approximate day if you are unsure of the exact date. The end month and year must be accurate. If you have not yet completed this course, please select the expected end date.

Experience and Achievements

Please provide any relevant professional, voluntary, or other experience and achievements not mentioned elsewhere in this application.

Evidence to Submit

- If you are providing details of any awards or other formal achievements (i.e., honorary awards, formally recognised achievements, etc.) please include evidence of this by email when you send us any other certificates or required supporting documents. These should be emailed to collaboratory@universitiesfornottingham.ac.uk with your full name in the email subject line.

48. Experience

*Please include details of any relevant work or professional, voluntary, or other experience not included in other areas of this application. You will have a chance to go into further detail about how your experience is relevant to your PhD application in the next section. **

Maximum 500 words

49. Achievements

*Please provide details of any relevant awards, prizes, publications, or other achievements which support your application. **

Maximum 500 words

Application by Professional Equivalency

To apply by Professional Equivalency, you must submit to us, by email, a professional equivalency portfolio. Your portfolio must be emailed, along with any other evidence documents, to collaboratory@universitiesfornottingham.ac.uk with your full name in the subject line. Please see our eligibility criteria web page for further details.

Your Professional Equivalency Portfolio must include the following:

1. At least one example of an extended* piece of analytical, academic or technical writing. This could be a professional report, briefing document, formal review, etc., that clearly demonstrates your ability to produce larger pieces of written work to a high standard. (*If this piece of writing is less than 5,000 words, we recommend applicants send a maximum of 3 examples.)
2. A professional CV which demonstrates substantial experience in a relevant sector(s). Please remove any profile photos, date of birth, address, or other personal identifying details beyond your name from your CV.
3. A cover letter (maximum x1, A4 page) which demonstrates how and to what extent you meet the core and project specific competencies outlined in the PhD project advert.

If you meet or exceed the minimum qualifications for entry you CANNOT apply by the Professional Equivalency route. Any CVs or portfolio-type documents emailed to us by those who DO meet the minimum qualifications for entry, and so are eligible to apply by Standard Admissions, will be disregarded.

50. Do you wish to make an application by Professional Equivalency?

*Only applicants who do not meet the minimum standard qualifications for entry can apply by Professional Equivalency. **

☐ Yes

☐ No

Please indicate whether English is your first language. If English is NOT your first language, please provide details of any English language qualifications you hold or if you have previously studied in the UK.

If you are submitting an IELTS report, please ensure that the date of the test is not older than 2 years.

You can find further details of our English language requirements on our eligibility criteria page.

51. Is English your first language? *

☐ Yes

☐ No

52. What English Language Qualification(s) do you hold?

0/32,000 characters

53. Awarding Organisation(s)

0/32,000 characters

54. Name of award(s) and course title(s)

0/32,000 characters

55. Result(s)

0/32,000 characters

Evidence of English Language Qualifications

Where applicable, please email us any documentation which provides evidence that you meet our English language requirements for undertaking postgraduate research. If you are submitting an IELTS report, please ensure that the date of the test is not older than 2 years. Evidence must be sent by

email to collaboratory@universitiesfornottingham.ac.uk along with your other evidence documents, with your full name in the subject line.

Referees

In accordance with university policy, each applicant is required to provide 2 supporting references. Please provide the details of your two referees below.

- If you are making an **Application by Standard Admission**, you must provide 1 academic reference (a previous academic supervisor, degree tutor, etc.) and 1 professional reference (a previous employer, current line-manager, a professional colleague, etc.).
- If you are making an **Application by Professional Equivalency**, you must provide 2 professional references.

Please Note

References are NOT used to evaluate your suitability as a candidate. Referees will only be contact to verify your experience and suitability if you are successful at interview.

56. Referee 1: Full name *

0/32,000 characters

57. Referee 1: Email address *

0/32,000 characters

58. Referee 1: Role and employing organisation *

0/32,000 characters

59. Referee 1: Is the person named above a professional or academic reference? *

- ☐ Professional
- ☐ Academic

60. Referee 2: Full name *

61. Referee 2: Email address *

0/32,000 characters

62. Referee 2: Role and employing organisation *

0/32,000 characters

63. Referee 2: Is the person named above a professional or academic reference? *☐ Professional☐ Academic

Equal Opportunities Monitoring

All details provided in this section are used only for anonymous reporting and monitoring that Collaboratory is required to carry out by our funders, Research England.

None of the details submitted in this section of the application will be seen by those assessing your application, unless you actively choose to disclose them in other areas of this application.

Applicants to the Collaboratory Research Hub PhD Studentship Scheme are considered solely on the basis of their merits, abilities and potential, regardless of gender identity, ethnic or national origin, age (subject to university regulations on minimum age), disability, religion, sexual orientation or any other irrelevant distinction.

64. What is your gender? *

- ☐ Man
- ☐ Woman
- ☐ Non-binary
- ☐ Other
- ☐ Prefer not to say

65. Is the gender you identify with the same as your sex as registered at birth? *

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Prefer not to say

66. What is your sexual orientation? *

*Choose one option that best describes your sexual orientation. **

- ☐ Bisexual
- ☐ Gay man
- ☐ Heterosexual / straight
- ☐ Lesbian / gay woman
- ☐ Other
- ☐ Prefer not to say

67. What is your ethnic group or background? *

*Choose one option that best describes your ethnic group or background. **

- ☐ Asian
- ☐ Arab
- ☐ Black
- ☐ Mixed
- ☐ White
- ☐ Other
- ☐ Prefer not to say

68. You selected "Asian", please specify *

- ☐ Bangladeshi
- ☐ Chinese
- ☐ Indian
- ☐ Pakistani
- ☐ Any other Asian background

69. You selected "Arab", please specify *

- ☐ Middle Eastern
- ☐ North African
- ☐ Any other Arab background

70. You selected "Black", please specify *

- ☐ African
- ☐ Caribbean
- ☐ Any other Black background

71. You selected "Mixed", please specify *

- ☐ White and Black Caribbean
- ☐ White and Black African
- ☐ White and Asian
- ☐ Any other Mixed background

72. You selected "White", please specify *

- ☐ Welsh/English/Scottish/Northern Irish/British

- ☐ Irish
- ☐ Gypsy or Irish Traveller
- ☐ Any other White background

73. What is your religion? *

- ☐ Buddhist
- ☐ Christian
- ☐ Hindu
- ☐ Jewish
- ☐ Muslim
- ☐ No Religion
- ☐ Sikh
- ☐ Any other religion
- ☐ Prefer not to say

74. Do you have a disability, specific learning difference, mental health or medical condition? *

- ☐ No known disability
- ☐ A long-standing illness or health condition e.g. cancer, HIV, diabetes, etc.
- ☐ A mental health condition such as depression, schizophrenia, anxiety disorder, etc.
- ☐ A social/communication difference such as autism spectrum disorder
- ☐ A specific learning difference such as autism, dyslexia, dyspraxia or ADHD
- ☐ Blind or serious visual impairment uncorrected by glasses
- ☐ Deaf or serious hearing impairment
- ☐ A disability, impairment or medical condition not listed - please specify below
- ☐ Prefer not to say

75. If your disability, impairment or long-standing health condition is not listed above, please specify *

0/32,000 characters

76. Are you currently in receipt of Disabled Students Allowance? *

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Prefer not to say

77. What was your UK home postcode at your first point of entry into Higher Education?

Higher Education is defined as education after school, usually delivered by a University or Further Education College.

*If you do not know this or it is not relevant to you, please type "n/a" **

0/32,000 characters

78. Have you ever been in care? *

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Prefer not to say

79. Have one or more of your parents participated in Higher Education?

*Higher Education is defined as education after school, usually delivered by a University or Further Education College. **

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Don't know / not applicable
- ☐ Prefer not to say

80. Do you have caring responsibilities? *

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Prefer not to say

81. Have you ever been in receipt of free school meals? *

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Don't know / not applicable

☐ Prefer not to say

Declaration

In this section you are asked to sign a declaration regarding the information you have provided as part of your application and to consent to the Collaboratory Research Hub and our partner universities using the information you have provided in this form to consider your studentship application.

Applicant Declaration

I confirm that the information I have provided in this form is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge at this date. I understand that it is my responsibility to ensure that all parts of my application are submitted in due time and that any missing information may render my application incomplete and ineligible for consideration.

82. Applicant full name

*Please type your name in full. **

0/32,000 characters

83. Date of declaration

*Please select the date on which you are making this declaration **

Collaboratory Research Hub PhD Studentship

Scheme terms and conditions:

1. Applicants are only allowed to make **one** application for **one** project listed under the Collaboratory Research Hub PhD Studentship Scheme.
2. Funding under this PhD Studentship Scheme is only available to applicants who meet specific eligibility criteria of the Collaboratory Research Hub, as detailed on the programme website:
3. Only full and complete eligible applications (including the submission of any necessary supporting documents where applicable), submitted by the advertised deadline via the online application form, will be eligible for consideration.
4. Existing doctoral level candidates based at any UK higher education institution, or applicants who already hold a doctoral degree or any degree awarding the title of Doctor will not be eligible for funding under this scheme.
5. Only complete and eligible applications will be considered.
6. The Collaboratory Research Hub PhD Studentship Scheme is competitive. Selection of candidates is based on the quality of the application, successful interview, and alignment with aims and funding remit of the Collaboratory Research Hub programme.
7. Nottingham Trent University (NTU) reserve the right to revoke the PhD Studentship funding, and terminate the studies of the applicant, if a studentship was awarded on the basis of information which turned out to be false or materially incorrect at the time of assessment, or if a candidate is in breach of any NTU policies relevant to postgraduate researchers.
8. The University of Nottingham (UoN) reserves the right to revoke the PhD Studentship funding, and terminate the studies of the applicant, if a studentship was awarded on the basis of information which turned out to be false or materially incorrect at the time of assessment or if a candidate is in breach of any UoN policies relevant to postgraduate researchers.
9. The final funding decisions for awarding a PhD Studentship will be made by Nottingham Trent University's Director of Research Culture and Environment (or nominated representative), or their equivalent representative for the University of Nottingham, dependant on the host institution of the PhD project for which the applicant is applying. These decisions are final and there is no right of appeal.
10. Applicants to the Collaboratory Research Hub PhD Studentship Scheme will be considered on the basis of academic qualifications or equivalent experience, interest, motivation and potential to undertake research in the chosen area. This will be assessed through the application form, including relevant supporting documents (if applicable), and the interview.
11. All participating universities are firmly committed to a diverse and inclusive research culture which is characterised by fairness and equality of opportunity for all.
12. All participating universities seek to ensure that applicants who wish to study with us are not subjected to unlawful discrimination by either institution based on the following nine protected

characteristics: age, disability, gender identity, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation.

84. Please confirm that you have read and understood the terms and conditions of this PhD studentship scheme. *

☐ I understand and accept these terms and conditions

85. Have or will you submit all necessary evidence documents by email by the required deadline?

All supporting evidence (including qualification certificates, transcripts, evidence of achievements, and Professional Equivalency portfolio documents) MUST be submitted by email to collaboratory@universitiesfornottingham.ac.uk with your full name in the subject line.

*All supporting evidence emails must be received by Monday 01 December 2025 at 10:00am (GMT) or your application will be considered incomplete and will be rejected. **

☐ I have/will submit my evidence documents by deadline

86. Have you completed all necessary sections of this application?

Once you have completed this section, your application will be submitted and will be considered complete. Please use the "back" option to review your application carefully before you finish and submit.

*You will not be able to submit your application after the deadline. **

☐ I confirm that my application is complete

NOTE: You will be given the option to download a PDF copy of your completed application after you click submit.