

Midlands4Cities Doctoral Training Partnership Application Form

**Name:  
Email address for contact:**

Please upload to the DMU admissions portal with all other required documents by 22.11.24.

You can contact DMU M4C Site Directors for any further queries: [m4c-sd@dmu.ac.uk](mailto:m4c-sd@dmu.ac.uk)

# **Your Proposed Project**

For applicants to the Open Doctoral Competition: Please provide details of your proposed project. Read the Guidance Notes to help you. For applicants to the Collaborative Doctoral Award (CDA) competition: Please provide details of the purpose and reasons for undertaking research on the collaborative project. Read the Guidance Notes to help you.

**Please provide a project title for your proposed programme of research**

**Project Proposal (max. 500 words)**

Please outline as relevant to the stage of your research at the time of applying, and with reference (e.g., Jones, 2017) to existing literature in the field:

* The context of your project (i.e., the research or practice background to the problem/challenge/research gap you will investigate).
* The research question(s) it will answer.
* The method(s) you will use to investigate your research question(s).
* The impact(s) your project could make in terms of an original contribution to knowledge in the field(s), and beyond academia (e.g., in professional and creative practice, industry, etc).

CDA applicants will want to consider the context and research questions slightly differently, please see the guidance notes for details.

**Project Reference List (max. 200 words)**

Please provide references for all primary and secondary material mentioned in your project proposal. These references may include full details of exhibitions, performances, and other examples of practice. You should ONLY include references for material you have discussed in the project proposal. Your references should provide enough information to locate the item.

**An indicative structure/timeline (max 200 words)**

We are looking to see that you understand the feasibility of your research and have the potential to project manage your PhD. Please provide an indicative structure/timeline for your project across the duration of the award you are applying for.

**Ethics (max. 200 words)**

All research projects must comply with relevant research ethics and integrity guidelines. You must address ethical issues early in your research. Please review your proposed home institution’s guidelines and outline:

* The specific ethical considerations of your project: these may be material (e.g. copyright and intellectual property, data storage) or methodological (data collection, engagement of research participants/stakeholders); and
* How you will address ethical concerns you have identified (e.g., informed consent, anonymisation, appropriate training, identification of support services etc.)

**Off-site Practice/Fieldwork/Study Visits (max. 200 words)**

Complete this section if your proposed project will require you to undertake fieldwork, study visits or practice (beyond routine dissemination and engagement events). We are not looking for numerical figures but the types of costs that are likely to be incurred. For each activity, please provide indicative details about:

* Where the activity will take place (i.e., country, institute, archive, centre etc)
* How long the activity will take (i.e., days, weeks)
* Why the activity is required (i.e., how will the activity support you to complete your research? e.g., enable data collection, stakeholder engagement, language practice, test theoretical argument etc.)
* What types of costs are likely to be incurred (travel, accommodation, room hire, training costs)
* Contingency plans in the event that activity cannot go ahead due to risk assessment outcomes (e.g., restrictions due to COVID-19).

Please be aware, this application will serve as a reference point for additional funding. Activities identified here must be essential to the completion of your project. Their significance to the project must be evident to the assessors of your application. Activities not mentioned here but which are later identified as important to your research will be scrutinised.

# **Person and Preparedness**

**If applicable, please provide details about your qualifications.**

**In order to support our inclusive approach to applications, please DO NOT include details of your degree-awarding institution in your answers.**

International applicants should seek advice from their home institutions admissions office for equivalencies.

**Undergraduate Degree**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Subject |  |
| Degree |  |
| Classification |  |
| Completion Date |  |

**Postgraduate Degree (Master’s or equivalent international qualification)**

If you are not studying for/do not hold a Master's but have equivalent professional experience, please proceed to the next questions and provide details there.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Subject |  |
| Qualification |  |
| Classification |  |
| Completion Date |  |

**Previous study and Experience (max. 500 words)**

Describe how you are ready to undertake your proposed doctoral research project based on your previous study and experience. You might comment on:

**Knowledge and skills** developed through previous study (e.g., undergraduate/postgraduate studies (including specific modules), certifications, training etc.) and/or **professional and creative practice** (e.g., employment, research assistantships, consultancy, residencies, performances, curations, internships etc.).

**Specialised training** (e.g., languages, ICT, methods, EDI etc.).

**Academic and professional achievements** (e.g., awards, scholarships, publications etc.).

If appropriate, you should also identify any training you might need to undertake or skills you might need to gain in order to complete your project. These may include:

**Language** proficiency

**Research methods** in data collection, such as interviewing, archive use, and associated ethical

practice

**Data management and processing,** particularly where specific software is required

**Project management,** including practice and curation

**Any other information (max. 150 words)**

Is there any other information you would like to bring to the panel’s attention? For instance, you might wish to note extenuating circumstances, such as illness, which have affected your previous performance.

If there is something you would like the panel to know, please present it as concisely as possible, with a rough date. For instance, "2021, diagnosis of dyslexia during final year of study. Mitigation as the result of diagnosis improved but degree average predominantly calculated on previous grades

# **Place**

**Proposed home institution**

Choose an item.

**Proposed Supervisory Team**

Please provide details of your potential supervision team. Include here the names of your potential supervisors and their universities in each case (minimum of 2 and no more than 3 academic supervisors). Your team can also include an external partner organisation. CDA applicants should list both the lead academic supervisors and the name of the supervisor(s) at the partner institution.

**Potential lead supervisor details:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name |  |
| University (this will be your home university) | Choose an item. |
| Academic unit |  |

**Potential second supervisor details:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name |  |
| University | Choose an item. |
| Academic unit |  |
| Do you have a third supervisor to add? |  |

**Potential third supervisor (optional):**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name |  |
| University | Choose an item. |
| Academic unit |  |
| CDA APPLICANTS ONLY: Do you have partner organisation details to add? |  |

**Potential Cultural Partner supervisor details (optional):**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name |  |
| Cultural Partner Organisation |  |

**Open competition only- Partner organisation**

If your proposed open competition application involves working with a partner organisation, please provide details about the name and type (e.g., business, museum, NGO). Collaborative Doctoral Award (CDA) applicants do not have to complete this. (optional)

**M4C institution (max. 300 words)**

**Describe how your selected M4C institution(s)** provide a suitable environment for both the progress of your project and your academic/professional development. [max 300 words]. Please comment on:

The fit and expertise of your proposed **supervisory team.**

Institutional **expertise and networks** (e.g., research centres/institutes/groups, partnerships, collaborations etc)

**Training and development** opportunities (e.g., available courses, teaching, leadership roles).

# **Midlands4Cities**

**Please review M4C webpages:** [**https://www.midlands4cities.ac.uk/**](https://www.midlands4cities.ac.uk/)

Consider how you might both support and benefit from the Midlands4Cities Doctoral Training Partnership.  You may wish to discuss these opportunities with your potential supervisor.

You may wish to comment on how you could engage with:

* M4C development funding beyond your stipend.
* Partner organisations.
* Placement and training opportunities.

**(max. 150 words)**

# **Request a Reference**

To support your application to Midlands4Cities it is essential that two references are completed by your chosen referees via the online M4C reference form by the deadline of **13th January 2025 (noon UK time).** Please note that alternative formats are not accepted.

We advise that you monitor the progress of your reference completion as it is your responsibility to ensure that your referees have received the request and completed the relevant documentation by the deadline. **If references are not received by the deadline, your application will be deemed ineligible.**

Reference tips:

1. Inform your referees that they have been nominated to complete a reference request and confirm that they have received the automated reference request. (In some instances, the request may have been delivered to the junk or spam folder. It is advisable to add noreply@mail.smapply.net to your safe senders list).
2. When using a university email address, please use the referee's full email address, e.g. [Joe.bloggs@institution.ac.uk](mailto:Joe.bloggs@institution.ac.uk) and **not their username.**
3. Referees should not register with the M4C applicant portal to submit a reference. Please ask them to await the automated reference request.
4. Your referees understand that they will be expected to include detailed answers to each of the questions on the form, in relation to your proposed research and your academic background and qualifications.
5. In order to support our inclusive approach to applications, please DO NOT include details of your degree-awarding institution in your answers.

Please be aware that although your reference request has been sent, your referees must submit their reference via our online form before the reference task can be marked as complete and your application can be submitted.