# **Faculty of Science & Engineering Studentships: Call 2022-23**

Candidate Personal Statement

The proforma below provides guidance for the personal statement/supporting statement/cover letter segment of the candidate application. It has been designed to take the guesswork out of our application system, ensuring that all applicants provide details of the key criteria we use for assessing applications. We seek to recruit students with the potential to thrive in a PhD training environment, regardless of what opportunities may have been available to them and what barriers they may have faced. We recognise that there is no one way to identify talent and commitment so our application system is designed to embrace this diversity, and to empower you to put your best self forward.

If candidates follow the following 5-question format, then this takes the place of the personal statement/supporting statement/cover letter in their application.

Before completing this personal statement, we recommend candidates read the [candidate FAQ’s](http://pcwww.liv.ac.uk/~gg1jrc/Faculty%20funded%20Studentships%20Call%202022/Faculty-funded%20Studentship%20Call_2022_Candidate_FAQs.pdf) and [guidance on interviews](http://pcwww.liv.ac.uk/~gg1jrc/Faculty%20funded%20Studentships%20Call%202022/Faculty-funded%20Studentship%20Call_2022_Interviews_Guidance_Candidates.pdf).

*How will this information be used?* Details given here provide context for each application which can be taken into account during review. Any information provided will be shared only with the supervisory team and interview panel. The student will not be asked to expand on this information by the supervisor or panel, but is welcome to discuss it further themselves if they choose.

***Please answer the 5 questions below.***

**1. What inspires you about the project you have applied for? (~100 words)**

*Outline your interest in your chosen project. Consider telling us about your interest in the subject, the approach the project takes, and/or why the supervisor/department are good choices for pursuing the topic.*

**2. List the skills you have gained that you will draw on in your PhD (~200 words)**

*This should include*

* *Academic skills/experience relevant to your chosen project*
* *Academic skills/experience relevant to a PhD in general*
* *Transferable skills/experience from your non-academic life that you will draw upon during a PhD*

**3. Please describe (up to 3) examples of where you have shown commitment to research**

*There are many ways to demonstrate your passion, determination and commitment to your pursuit of research. We want to hear about any ways you have gone out of your way to get to the point you are at now. For example, working to fund your studies demonstrates work ethic, adaptability, and perseverance in achieving your goals. Other examples of this could be: contributing to the department/university/employment culture or outreach projects, coauthoring a publication, contributing to equality and diversity work, obtaining grant funding, taking on vacation lab or field projects, overcoming significant life hurdles to complete your studies, or choosing research-based or relevant jobs such as technical roles. This is not an exhaustive list; we are interested in any relevant examples.*

**4. Tell us about a recent piece of research that excited you. If you could repeat it, how would you do it differently? (~400 words)**

*Here you should outline:*

* *One project that you led, were involved in, or just another person's research that excited you (e.g. based on a paper)*
* *Why was it important?*
* *What were the hypotheses and why were they chosen?*
* *What were the findings and how are they relevant to the wider field?*
* *If you could repeat the study, how would you improve it and what did this teach you about doing research?*

**5. Is there anything else you would like to tell us that can help to frame your application?**

*All students experience different challenges throughout their careers, leading to different opportunities and outcomes. We take an evidence-based approach that recognises that for many reasons - such as belonging to a marginalised group (racial, LQBTQI, disability, gender or beyond), having caring responsibilities, financial disadvantage, being the first in your family to attend university, suffering significant illness or bereavement, and so on - a student’s potential is not always accurately reflected in grades. We therefore invite you to frame your application in a context that best reflects you.*