

ACCE+ DLA candidate application: 2026 entry - University of York only

Please use this online form to apply for ACCE+ DLA PhD projects at the University of York only.

This page has [details of York projects](#).

If you wish to apply for projects at other ACCE+ partner institutions, please use their application process.

This page has [details of projects at other institutions and how to apply for them](#).

If you wish to apply for projects at more than one institution, you must complete the relevant forms for each institution. You may select more than one project from the same institution on the same form, but you cannot use one form for projects at different institutions.

About this form

This form comprises four sections. Please read the form carefully and complete all relevant sections.

Section 1: Personal, work and academic details. Personal details and details of your previous institution of study will not be used as part of the application process; they are for information only. Information you give about University highlights and work experience may be used as part of the application selection process.

Section 2: for information about what may be required later in the application process.

Section 3: project selection details

Section 4: personal statement for the DLA. These details are used in place of a standard personal statement or cover letter to standardise this part of the application and minimise the difference between those are given support when applying and those who are not.

Before completing the form, please read through all of the questions - a copy is here available in PDF form.

Do not complete the PDF form as your application as this will not be accepted. You do not need to submit a separate CV, personal statement or cover letter as part of your application - these will not be used as part of the selection process at this stage.

A pre-recorded candidate information session, made by the primary supervisors of each project available for this round, will be available for you to view from the beginning of December 2025. A Frequently Asked Questions document will also be available on our website from the beginning of December 2025.

You can [sign up on this form](#) to receive updates about the ACCE+ recruitment process.

The closing date for applications is 5.00pm UK time on Wednesday 7th January 2026. Only applications submitted via this form will be accepted.

[Privacy notice](#)

* Indicates required question

1. Email *

2. Your first name *

3. Your surname *

4. Your email address we can use to contact you *

5. Your nationality *

6. Your country of birth *

7. Your country of permanent residence *

8. Length of current residence (please state "from birth" if appropriate) *

9. Name of the University you have most recently or are currently studying at (Uni1) *

10. Name of the the qualification to be obtained or most recently obtained (Uni1) *

11. Start and end dates of current/most recent course (Uni1) *

12. Degree classification/percentage/GPA obtained or achieved to date (Uni1) *

13. Please note briefly any highlights from your degree (maximum 150 words). *
Please no not mentioned the name of your institution in this description. (Uni1)

14. Name of the previous University you studied at (Uni2)

15. Name of the qualification obtained (Uni2)

16. Start and end dates of that course (Uni2)

17. Degree classification/percentage/GPA obtained (Uni2)

18. Please note briefly any highlights from your degree (maximum 150 words).
Please do not mention the name of your institution in this description. (Uni2)

19. Name of the previous University you studied at (Uni3)

20. Name of the qualification obtained (Uni3)

21. Start and end dates of that course (Uni3)

22. Degree classification/percentage/GPA obtained (Uni3)

23. Please note briefly any highlights from your degree (maximum 150 words).
Please do not mention the name of your institution in this description. (Uni3)

24. Work highlights: Please note here any highlights from previous academic work ^{*} or employment that you would like to tell us about (max. 200 words). Please do not include the name of your institution in this description.

25. Is English your first language? *

Mark only one oval.

☐ YES

☐ NO

26. Have you completed an academic qualification in the UK, or the equivalent to a *
UK degree taught in a majority English-speaking country?

Mark only one oval.

☐ YES

☐ NO

27. If you are a non-UK national, do you hold a SELT? (Secure English Language Test)

Mark only one oval.

☐ YES

☐ NO

☐ Other: _____

28. If YES, please provide the following details: SELT/overall score/test
date/listening score/reading score

29. If relevant, please note any other English language qualification you hold, including the test date and the grade/score achieved.

30. Has your Bachelor/Master degree been taught in English? *

Mark only one oval.

☐ YES

☐ NO

☐ Other: _____

31. Have you studied all or part of your Bachelor/Master degree in the UK? *

Mark only one oval.

☐ YES

☐ NO

☐ Other: _____

32. If YES, please note the length of time studying in the UK

33. Passport and visa information: *
- Please state you passport country of issue:

34. Do you require a visa to study in the UK? *

Mark only one oval.

☐ YES

☐ NO

☐ Other: _____

35. If you have previously studied in the UK on a Tier 4 / Student visa, please provide the issue and expiry dates.

36. Please select the most relevant status for you from the list below. Details of the UKRI's guidance on student eligibility are in [Annex B of this document](#). *

Mark only one oval.

☐ Settled status in the UK

☐ Pre-settled status in the UK

☐ Indefinite leave to remain or enter the UK

☐ I am a British citizen

☐ Non of the above

☐ Other: _____

37. **References:** *

Only referee contact details are required at this time - **not full references**.

References will be requested by the ACCE+ administration team only for candidates invited to interview.

Referee 1: Please provide their full name including title

38. Referee 1 employer (this University of workplace) *

39. Referee 1 job title/position *

40. Referee 1 email address (work place, not personal) *

41. Referee 2: Please provide their full name including title *

42. Referee 2 employer (this University of workplace) *

43. Referee 2 job title/position *

44. Referee 2 email address (work place, not personal) *

Documentation that may be required

Note that no additional documents are required at this first application stage.

If your application is shortlisted for the next round of the process, you will be asked to provide the following documents:

- Your first undergraduate degree transcript and certificate (if available)
- Any subsequent degree transcript and certificate (if relevant or available)
- If relevant, your current English language certificate

At this point in the process, your referees will also be contacted by us for a reference.

Project choices

Please use this online form to apply for ACCE+ DLA PhD projects **at the University of York only**. This page has [details of York projects](#). You can select up to two projects at York. You will only be considered for your first two choices so please do not make multiple applications.

If you wish to apply for projects at other ACCE+ partner institutions, please use their application process. This page has [details of projects at other institutions and how to apply for them](#). If you wish to apply for projects at more than one institution, you must complete the relevant forms for each institution.

45. **First choice project:** select one from the list below. This will be referred to later as Project 1. *

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Mark Hodson: Earthworms and climate change: Earthworm energetic and population responses to drought frequency and duration
- ☐ Katherine Selby: Saltmarsh and dune wetlands: sentinel sites for coastal change: past, present and future
- ☐ Jon Hill: Winning at digital twinning: integrating AI and numerical modelling on the Great Barrier Reef
- ☐ Piran White: A biodiverse future for woodlands in the presence of deer
- ☐ Ed Garrett: The past, present and future resilience of UK saltmarshes in a changing climate
- ☐ Darpan Das: Climate Change and Bioaerosol Exposure: Mapping Risks and Building Resilience
- ☐ Lisa Emberson: How will air pollution and climate change compromise achieving UK woodland carbon sequestration targets?
- ☐ Oliver Andrews: Oceans Losing Breath: ocean oxygen trends and variability in the next generation of Earth System models
- ☐ Adam Green: Investigating agricultural adaptation and re-urbanisation in the Yamuna-Ganges Doab of South Asia
- ☐ Lara Gonzalez Carretero: Investigating Britain's Late Neolithic "cereal demise": reassessing agricultural resilience and population adaptability through dataset development and machine learning
- ☐ Michelle Alexander: Irrigating the Past: isotopic pathways to medieval agricultural practices in the dynamic environments of Iberia and North Africa (6th–16th c. CE)
- ☐ Lindsey Gillson: Right tree, right place, right conversation: myth busting in Madagascar
- ☐ Daniel Jeffares: Uncovering natural and anthropic factors that affect the eco-epidemiology of Leishmania pathogens transmission in the Amazon
- ☐ Elva Robinson: Tri-trophic interactions in a woodland ecosystem: the dynamics of tree-aphid-ant relationships
- ☐ Andrea Harper: Multifunctional Roles of Entomopathogenic Fungi in Crop Protection: Mechanisms, Microbiome Interactions, and Climate Resilience
- ☐ Kanchon Dasmahapatra: The impact of introgression on invasive species
- ☐ Colin Beale: Climate impacts on nomadic birds
- ☐ Sean Meaden: Sleep Now in the Mire: Assessing Viral Dormancy and Activity in Alpine and Agricultural Soils
- ☐ Jon Pitchford: Habitat restoration and prioritisation in dynamic landscapes
- ☐ Kirsty Penkman: The adaptability of deep sea coral biomineralisation strategies

46. If you wish, you can select a **second choice** project: select one from the list below. This will be referred to later as Project 2.

Mark only one oval.

- ☐ Mark Hodson: Earthworms and climate change: Earthworm energetic and population responses to drought frequency and duration
- ☐ Katherine Selby: Saltmarsh and dune wetlands: sentinel sites for coastal change: past, present and future
- ☐ Jon Hill: Winning at digital twinning: integrating AI and numerical modelling on the Great Barrier Reef
- ☐ Piran White: A biodiverse future for woodlands in the presence of deer
- ☐ Ed Garrett: The past, present and future resilience of UK saltmarshes in a changing climate
- ☐ Darpan Das: Climate Change and Bioaerosol Exposure: Mapping Risks and Building Resilience
- ☐ Lisa Emberson: How will air pollution and climate change compromise achieving UK woodland carbon sequestration targets?
- ☐ Oliver Andrews: Oceans Losing Breath: ocean oxygen trends and variability in the next generation of Earth System models
- ☐ Adam Green: Investigating agricultural adaptation and re-urbanisation in the Yamuna-Ganges Doab of South Asia
- ☐ Lara Gonzalez Carretero: Investigating Britain's Late Neolithic "cereal demise": reassessing agricultural resilience and population adaptability through dataset development and machine learning
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- ☐ Elva Robinson: Tri-trophic interactions in a woodland ecosystem: the dynamics of tree-aphid-ant relationships
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- ☐ Kirsty Penkman: The adaptability of deep sea coral biomineralisation strategies

Personal statements for the DLA

This section provides guidance for the personal statement/supporting statement/cover letter segment of the 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 candidates 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.

By following this format, this takes the place of the personal statement/supporting statement/cover letter in your application. To understand more about the ACCE+ application process and to support you in your application we have put together an online guide. Please see our [ACCE+ web page](#) for more information.

Please note the word counts when answering the questions below.

The first two questions are project-specific so appear twice - you should answer Project 1 for your first choice and Project 2 for your second choice, if you have one. The remaining questions are not project-specific so will be used for consideration in both projects.

The answers to these questions should be anonymous so please do not include any identifying information such as your name or the names of previous institutions.

47. **PROJECT 1: What inspires you about the project you have applied for? (max. 300 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.

48. **PROJECT 1: Describe how your skill set matches any skills required for the project and the general skills required for a PhD (max. 300 words).** *

If you don't currently have a specific skill, please describe with examples, your aptitude to learn new skills. 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.

49. **PROJECT 2: What inspires you about the project you have applied for? (max. 300 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.

50. **PROJECT 2: Describe how your skill set matches any skills required for the project and the general skills required for a PhD (max. 300 words).**

If you don't currently have a specific skill, please describe with examples, your aptitude to learn new skills. 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.

51. **Please describe up to three examples that show your commitment to science (max. 450 words).**

★

There are many ways to demonstrate your passion, determination and commitment to your pursuit of science. 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 demonstrate work ethic, adaptability and perseverance in achieving your goals. Other examples could be: contributing to the university/employment culture or outreach projects, co-authoring 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.

52. **Tell us about a recent piece of science that excited you. If you could repeat it, how would you do it differently (max. 300 words).**

*

You should outline: one project that you led, were involved in, or just another person's science that excited you. 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 scientific research?

53. **Is there anything else you would like to tell us that can help frame your application? (no word limit)**

*

All student 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, LGBTQI, disability, gender, or beyond), having caring responsibilities, financial disadvantage, being the first in your family to attend university, suffering significant illness or bereavement, and son on - a student's potential is not always accurately reflected in grade. We therefore invite you to frame your application in a context that best reflects you.

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