ACCE+ DLA candidate application form - 2027/28 entry - University of Liverpool

Please use this online form to apply for an ACCE+ DLA studentship **at the University of Liverpool.** All details regarding University of Liverpool projects are at: https://accedtp.ac.uk/acce-dla-opportunities-at-university-of-liverpool/.

Please do not use this form to apply for a studentship at any of the other ACCE+ DLA partners (University of York or University of Sheffield). Please see the ACCE website for how to apply to a project at these institutions - full details are at: https://accedtp.ac.uk/how-to-apply/.

Please note that if you wish to apply for projects at more than one ACCE institution, you must complete one online form for each institution. The application form for University of Sheffield and University of York are different to this one. You may use this form to apply to University of Liverpool only. You may apply to a maximum of two University of Liverpool projects in each of the Faculty of Health and Life Sciences and the Faculty of Science and Engineering) via this form.

If you apply to more than two projects per faculty, only the first two projects you apply to will be considered; any further application forms received will not be considered.

About this form

This form comprises three sections to complete and one information section. Please read all sections and complete all relevant sections.

Section 1 - personal, work and academic details (for completion). Personal details and details of your previous institution of study will not be used as part of the application selection 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 - additional documents** you need to submit via email, as well as submitting this application form online. ***This section is for your information only. If you are applying to more than one University of Liverpool project, you only need to submit the additional documents required via email, once.*** **Section 3 - project selection details (for completion). Section 4 - personal statement for the DLA (for completion).** 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 who are given support when applying and those who are not.

Before completing the form, please ensure you read all of the questions - a copy of all questions is available in .pdf form on the ACCE website (https://accedtp.ac.uk/how-to-apply/). Please do not complete the .pdf form as your application as it will not be accepted. You do not need to submit a separate CV and personal statement/cover letter as part of your application. Any CVs/personal statements/cover letters received will not be used as part of the selection process.

Information per project, in the form of a recorded webinar or FAQs per project, will be available at the ACCE+ DLA website from early December 2026 (https://accedtp.ac.uk/how-to-apply/).

The closing date for applications is **4.00pm (UK time)** on **Thursday 7th January 2027.**

If any part of your application submission is missing, your application may be rejected.

In addition to this form, you should complete an EDI form, available here (add link)

Section 1 - personal, work and academic details

Full name (please note your first name then surname) *

Email address *

Nationality *

Country of birth *

Country of permanent residence *

Length of current residence (please enter "from birth" if appropriate) *

Previous University name #1 (most recent) *

Name of qualification obtained or to be obtained *

Start date of course *

Completion date (if completed)

Degree classification/percentage/GPA/grade (obtained or achieved to date) *

Please note briefly any highlights from your degree (max 150 words). Please do not note the name of your institution of study in this description. *

Previous University name #2

Name of qualification obtained or to be obtained

Start date

Completion date (if completed)

Degree classification/percentage/GPA/grade (obtained or achieved to date)

Please note briefly any highlights from your degree (max 150 words). Please do not note the name of your institution of study in this description.

Previous University name #3

Name of qualification obtained or to be obtained

Start date

Completion date (if completed)

Degree classification/percentage/GPA/grade (obtained or achieved to date)

Please note briefly any highlights from your degree (max 150 words). Please do not note the name of your institution of study in this description.

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

English Language Qualifications. Is English your first language? *

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No

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

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No

Do you hold a SELT **(non-UK nationals only)**?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No

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

Please note any other English language qualification you hold, including test date/grade or score achieved

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

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No

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

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No

If yes, please note length of time studying in the UK

Passport and visa information. Please note your passport country of issue *

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

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No

Have you previously studied in the UK using a Tier 4 (general) student visa? If so, please provide the issue and expiry dates

Do you have the following status (please select if applicable). Details of UKRI's guidance on student eligibility are in Annex B of this document: https://www.ukri.org/publications/terms-and-conditions-for-training-funding/ukri-training-grant-guidance/#section-annex-b:-international-eligibility-criteria-for-ukri-funded-studentships- *

- ◯ Settled status in the UK
- ◯ Pre-settled status in the UK
- ◯ Indefinite leave to remain or enter the UK
- ◯ I am a British citizen
- ◯ None of the above

Referees. Please note that only referee contact details are required at this time. References will be requested by the ACCE+ DLA administration team only for candidates invited to an interview. Please do not provide full references from your referees at this stage. Please provide your **first referee**'s full name *

Please provide your referee's title *

Please provide your referee's employer (e.g. their University or workplace) *

Please provide your referee's job title/position *

Please provide your referee's email address *

Please provide your **second referee**'s name *

Please provide your referee's title *

Please provide your referee's employer (e.g. their University or workplace) *

Please provide your referee's job title/position *

Please provide your referee's email address *

Section 2. Further details of information required

In addition to the information in this form, please submit supporting documents as follows to University of Liverpool via email (email: acce.dtp@liverpool.ac.uk). Please use the email subject line: ***ACCE+ DLA application [insert your full name]*** so we can match your email submission to your online form submission. Please ensure you use exactly the same first name and surname on this form and on your email. All supporting documents should also be submitted by **4.00pm (UK time)** on **Thursday 7th January 2027.**

Please note that if you are applying to more than one University of Liverpool project, you only need to submit the additional documents required via email, once.

If any part of your application submission is missing, your application may be rejected.

Supporting documents required:

- Your first (undergraduate) degree full or partial transcript
- Your first (undergraduate) degree final certificate (if obtained)
- Any subsequent relevant degree full or partial transcript
- Any subsequent relevant degree final certificate (if obtained)
- A copy of your passport's photo page
- If relevant, your current English language certificate (normally TOEFL or IELTS).

Please submit your documents in the following format only: Each document should be submitted as a separate attachment and should be named as follows: *[candidate name - [document]];* for example: ***Jones, Jamie - Bachelor transcript; Jones, Jamie - Bachelor certificate.***

- Please submit .pdf documents where possible.
- Do not submit photos of certificates.
- Do not combine documents into one single .pdf.

Applications not meeting these criteria may be rejected.

Section 3. Project choices

Please use this online form to apply for an ACCE+ DLA studentship **at the University of Liverpool.** All details regarding University of Liverpool projects are at: https://accedtp.ac.uk/acce-dla-opportunities-at-university-of-liverpool/.

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If you apply to more than two University of Liverpool projects in each faculty, please note that only the first two projects you apply to will be considered; any further application forms received will not be considered

Project choice: please select from the options below *

Please select at most 4 options.

- [ ] FACULTY OF HEALTH AND LIFE SCIENCES: Dr Francesco Del Carratore - Britain's soil microbiome atlas: disentangling management and climate drivers of below-ground biodiversity
- [ ] FACULTY OF HEALTH AND LIFE SCIENCES: Dr Hannah Rowland - Can evolutionary history predict which aquatic insects are most vulnerable to climate warming?
- [ ] FACULTY OF HEALTH AND LIFE SCIENCES: Dr Jakob Bro-Jorgensen - Dominance hierarchies, complex signalling and mating strategies in the endangered endemic mountain nyala antelope of Ethiopia and implications for population viability
- [ ] FACULTY OF HEALTH AND LIFE SCIENCES: Professor Wayne Dawson - Enhancing detections of invertebrates to improve biosecurity in the South Atlantic
- [ ] FACULTY OF HEALTH AND LIFE SCIENCES: Dr Tin Hang Hung - From seed to stand: is tree planting eroding the genetic diversity of the UK's native trees?
- [ ] FACULTY OF HEALTH AND LIFE SCIENCES: Dr He Zhao - Generative AI for Forecasting Coastal Ecological and Geomorphic Change
- [ ] FACULTY OF HEALTH AND LIFE SCIENCES: Dr Caroline Millins - Optimising landscape restoration and management to maximise biodiversity and minimise tick-borne pathogen spill-over
- [ ] FACULTY OF HEALTH AND LIFE SCIENCES: Dr Raj Whitlock - The response of a species-rich grassland ecosystem to 34 years of simulated climate change
- [ ] FACULTY OF HEALTH AND LIFE SCIENCES: Dr Stewart Plaistow - When are nanoplastics dangerous? Predicting nanoplastic risk across freshwater landscapes
- [ ] FACULTY OF HEALTH AND LIFE SCIENCES: Dr Jenny Hodgson - When is a plan for connectivity under climate change good enough?
- [ ] FACULTY OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING: Dr Rachel Jeffreys - Benthic-pelagic coupling and organic matter quality in the Clarion Clipperton Zone
- [ ] FACULTY OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING: Professor Neil Macdonald - Can we quantify the benefits of Natural Flood Management?
- [ ] FACULTY OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING: Professor Nicoletta Leonardi - Coastal Salinization and Its Ecosystem–Socioeconomic Impacts Across European Coastal Regions
- [ ] FACULTY OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING: Professor John Wheeler - How on Earth do we get deformed phenocrysts?
- [ ] FACULTY OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING: Dr Leo Clarke - Impacts and sustainability of small-scale, inshore and static gear fisheries
- [ ] FACULTY OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING: Dr Kennedy Osuka Edeye - Predatory fish declines in coral reef ecosystems: understanding the socio-ecological implications
- [ ] FACULTY OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING: Dr Joe Wynn - The ecology and mechanism of very rapid changes in songbird migration
- [ ] FACULTY OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING: Dr Andrew Hacket-Pain - Tree carbon investments in a changing climate: mycorrhizal fungi, soils and beech seed masting
- [ ] FACULTY OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING: Professor Kate Parr - Understanding savanna woody encroachment: impacts and restoration

Section 4. Personal statement 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 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.

By following this five-question 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 webpage at: https://accedtp.ac.uk/how-to-apply/ for more information.

Please ensure that you do not note your previous institution/s of study in the below questions and that the answers are anonymous (i.e. you don't include identifying details such as your name) as far as possible.

Please answer the questions below and note the word counts.

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. *

Please enter at least 100 characters

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 (max 300 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. *

Please enter at least 100 characters

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 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, 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. *

Please enter at least 100 characters

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). Here you should outline: - One project that you led, were involved in, or just another person's science 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 scientific research? *

Please enter at least 100 characters

Is there anything that affected your academic journey so far that we should take into account? (optional) (Suggested limit: 200 words total) We recognise that some candidates face barriers that affect their ability to access opportunities or demonstrate their potential fully. This can include but is not limited to: a long-term health condition or significant illness; bereavement; caring responsibilities; financial disadvantage; being the first in your family to attend university; or experiences related to a marginalised identity (for example, racial or ethnic background, LGBTQ+ identity, disability, or gender). For each factor, please give a brief, factual account of: what the factor was, the period it affected (if relevant), and how it affected your application. Greater detail than that with which you are comfortable providing is not necessary, and you're welcome to describe the impact without naming a specific diagnosis or identity if you'd prefer not to. Examples can be found here [link] Any information provided may be taken into account during assessment, but will not guarantee a particular outcome. Leaving this section blank will not disadvantage your application.

Widening Participation. For Home candidates only - would you like to be considered as a widening participation candidate?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No

Widening Participation. For Home candidates only - please select below which widening participation criteria you meet (please select all that apply)

- ☐ You come from a home where neither parent/guardian attended University
- ☐ You are from a minority ethnic background
- ☐ You have been in receipt of widening participation support at or prior to attending your first degree

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