



Faculty of Engineering PhD@Work Programme FAQs

Q. Where can I find out more information?

A. Please visit the PhD@Work home page for additional information, including a two-page flyer <https://www.strath.ac.uk/engineering/studywithus/phdatwork/>.

Q. How do I apply?

A. Information about how to apply is available on the PhD@Work home page <https://www.strath.ac.uk/engineering/studywithus/phdatwork/>. The Strathclyde academic supervisor, in partnership with the industrial supervisor, will guide the PhD@Work applicant to the online application portal where they can create and submit their application.

Q. We have not identified an academic supervisor. How do we get in contact with a potential academic supervisor for a project at Strathclyde?

A. If you do not already have a relationship with an academic supervisor at Strathclyde, please visit <https://www.strath.ac.uk/engineering/ourresearch/> and search for areas of research and academic supervisors across our eight departments that closely align to your interests. Alternatively, please contact [Carol Brady](#) with a brief description of your company and the proposed project, and we will engage relevant colleagues to help you identify an appropriate academic supervisor to work with.

Q. When can a PhD@Work research project start?

A. The University has built in flexibility to the programme so companies can start doctoral research projects at any point of the year to allow project alignment with the company's research planning and strategy. The start date should be the 1st of a month.

Q. How long is a PhD@Work doctoral research project?

A. PhD@Work candidates will typically join the programme on a part-time basis, spending 50% of their time over six years working towards the PhD. However, depending on the work / research balance, PhD@Work candidates can be taken on a flexible basis between 50-100%.

Q. How would intellectual property (IP) be dealt with on such a project?

A. As the PhD@Work candidate will be based at the company and conducting the majority of research on their business site, IP would normally be assigned to the company. Further details can be found in Strathclyde's standard Postgraduate Research T&Cs.

Q. What fees would be due from the company?

A. The PhD@Work programme has a fee model to suit different individual and organisational needs. Fee levels are based on the nationality of the candidate – either UK or international – and are published annually (see Postgraduate Fees for the appropriate year of entry here <https://www.strath.ac.uk/studywithus/feesfunding/tuitionfees/>). Please contact [Carol Brady](#) if you would like further information on the estimated fee levels for a proposed project. If you have a specific intended start date for a project, please also provide this in the communication to allow us to tailor the fee calculations for you.

Q. Does the PhD@Work programme require a stipend?

A. No. The expectation is PhD@Work candidates will continue to be employed and salaried by their company throughout the programme. A separate stipend is therefore not required.

Q. Are there any other costs associated with the PhD@Work programme?

A. In addition to the fees, it is recommended that a provision is made by the company to financially support the activities of PhD@Work candidate. This may include travel and subsistence for short visits and meetings, spending time on campus as placements, bench fees, lab costs and materials (where applicable), attendance at conferences, etc. It is recommended that you discuss the requirements of the project with either the relevant academic supervisor or contact [Carol Brady](#).

Q. How are agreements between Strathclyde and the company arranged?

Once all parties are content with the provisions of the PhD@Work programme, the academic supervisor will work with the Grants and Contracts team in RKES to arrange an agreement to be signed by all parties, normally through DocuSign. The supervisor will be required to prepare a costing on the Costing & Pricing Module for the full cost to the company. A RKES Contracts Manager/Officer will then be assigned to the project.

Q. How are the fee payments from the company arranged?

A. This would normally be arranged through annual invoicing, the schedule of which will be agreed upon at the outset by all parties and detailed in the agreement. The RKES Contracts Manager/Officer will contact the Finance Team to arrange this.

Q. How is confidentiality maintained?

A. Confidentiality is agreed at the outset of the project by all parties through the application process. When the PhD@Work candidate is in a position to submit their PhD thesis, an External Examiner is required to be appointed. Strathclyde can assist with Confidential Disclosure Agreements (CDAs) / Non-Disclosure Agreements (NDAs) (if required) as aligned with the External Examiner appointment.

Q. Does the University of Strathclyde have policy which covers equality, diversity and inclusion?

A. Strathclyde is a socially progressive institution, which is committed to promoting equality, diversity and inclusion. For further information on the University's policies and initiatives please see here <https://www.strath.ac.uk/professionalservices/accessequalityinclusion/service/equalitydiversity/>.

Q. Is there flexibility for PhD@Work candidates to pause their involvement in the programme for short periods as business-needs arise?

A. Yes, however, continuity is key to any PhD project, especially for part-time PhDs. It is recommended that any pauses are kept to a minimum.

Q. Does supporting staff members via the PhD@Work programme offer any tax benefits for the company or candidate?

A. There may be tax benefits to either the company or the PhD@Work candidate, however, this would be for the company to explore.

Q. Our company offices are based overseas (i.e., outside of the UK). Are our employees eligible to register for this programme?

A. Yes, however the nationality of the PhD@Work candidate (i.e., UK or international) will determine the fee structure (see above).