

UK Centre for Doctoral Training in *Communications*



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The Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) has introduced a new structure for postgraduate PhD training in the UK. The conventional 3-year PhD programme is being complemented by an integrated 4-year programme delivered through Centres for Doctoral Training (CDTs). These now provide specialist training across the EPSRC portfolio.

After a highly competitive process, EPSRC has awarded the UK CDT in Communications to the University of Bristol. It will focus on Future Communications: People, Power and Performance. While communications technology is the enabler, the new Centre recognises that it is people who are the creators, consumers and beneficiaries in terms of its broader applications. The Bristol bid was

selected over nine other leading UK universities and is the result of a close collaboration between the Departments of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, Mathematics and Computer Science - all acknowledged as leaders in their field.

Communications technology not only provides personal voice and data services but it also underpins the aerospace, medical, defence and security industries. The UK is a leader in this field with the sector contributing some £129 billion last year. As a consequence, there is a growing demand for high quality communications researchers and engineers, with an immediate need to produce the next generation of innovators who can create future products and services here in the

UK. The CDT has been established with financial support from EPSRC and some 25 UK companies and trade associations to address this demand. With its first intake in 2011, it will host 50 new PhD students over five cycles. As well as producing innovative solutions to key emerging research challenges, it will provide a coherent advanced training network for the communications community nationally, and entrepreneurial engineers to underpin the future of the industry.

WHY BRISTOL?

Bristol has a long-standing reputation for outstanding research in communications and in the training of excellent postgraduate students who go on to become leaders of industry. Through its Centre for Communications Research (CCR),

Bristol has worked for many years on cross-disciplinary research, in particular with the Departments of Mathematics and Computer Science. The new CDT strengthens these relationships, combining CCR expertise with Bristol's world-leading capabilities in statistics and interactivity to address emerging challenges in green communications, reliable end-to-end services and safety critical systems.

THE TRAINING

The CDT will provide training in a state-of-the-art collaborative research environment with close interaction from industry. The Centre will offer a 4-year enhanced PhD with a taught programme in year 1 followed by a 3-year specialised research project. It will be located in dedicated space and will provide access to the best

test and measurement facilities in wireless communications, signal and image processing and HCI. CDT students will become members of a close-knit cohort, working with a team of multidisciplinary academics from engineering, mathematics and computer science as well as with mentors and technical specialists from UK industry.

The Centre will address diverse challenges ranging from theoretical to applied research. The first year provides training in the broad area of Communications and the research skills necessary to undertake cutting-edge research. Students will be able to choose their PhD projects from a wide range of proposals, most of which will be collaborative with industry. The PhD programme will also include a wide range of workshops

and short courses in years 2 to 4, in specialist technical subjects and business skills. Industrial partners will provide access to, and training in, the latest commercial technology.

THE LAUNCH

The official launch of the Centre took place in Bristol on 30th March 2011. Industrial partners and stakeholders joined the academic community to celebrate the launch and hear about the exciting opportunities available for collaborative research and training.

CONTACT

For further information on the UK Centre for Doctoral Training in Communications please visit the website at:
www.bris.ac.uk/cdt-communications.