

CDT In Biomedical AI

Progression from MScR to PhD

1. Passing the MScR component of the CDT programme

The MSc by Research in Biomedical AI is governed by the University's Postgraduate Assessment Regulations for Research Degrees.

Regulation 46 (2) - *MSc by Research degrees for which the responsibilities of the College Postgraduate Committee are carried out by a Board of Examiners within a School. For these programmes, the provisions of the Taught Assessment Regulations relating to the operation of Boards of Examiners apply instead of the following regulations in the Postgraduate Assessment Regulations for Research Degrees: 2 to 7; 35-38; 41 to 43. MSc by Research degrees are exempt from the following provisions of the Postgraduate Assessment Regulations for Research Degrees: 13-19; 22-25; 33; 44".*

All taught courses (including INFR11197 - Individual Research Project BMAI and INFR11196 - Group Research Project BMAI) are assessed through exams and/or coursework and a mark is awarded for each course. These marks are ratified by the MSc Board of Examiners (BoE) in the School of Informatics, which is usually held in May. The INFR11197 Individual Research Project mark is decided at a second MSc BoE meeting (usually held September), along with the overall MSc by Research award.

To be awarded the MSc by Research in Biomedical AI student must:

- Pass the individual MSc project with at least 50%; and
- Achieve an average of at least 50% across all other components.

Regulation 50 (4) - *In order to be awarded the degree of MSc by Research, students must pass at least 180 credits' worth of courses. This may include the award of credits on aggregate for up to 40 credits. Where credit on aggregate is offered, the provisions of the Taught Assessment Regulations (under Postgraduate assessment progression) apply. Where a mark is awarded for the research project or dissertation, this must be passed at a minimum of 50%. Failure to achieve this standard will automatically result in no award at MSc level being made.*

The Board of Examiners can award an MScR with distinction (**Regulation 52**) or merit (**Regulation 53**) to students who performed particularly well on the programme.

To be awarded MScR with distinction students must:

- Pass the MSc project with at least 70%; and
- Achieve an average mark of at least 70% across all components.

To be awarded MScR with merit students must:

- Pass the MSc project with at least 60%; and
- Achieve an average mark of at least 60% across all other components.

Students whose marks do not meet the requirements to be awarded the MScR degree may be awarded a PG certificate or a PG diploma¹. Students who are not awarded the MScR degree will be withdrawn from the CDT programme and will not be permitted to progress forward onto the PhD component of the CDT.

2. Progressing from MScR to the PhD component of the CDT programme

In order to progress from the MScR to the PhD component of the CDT programme, students must meet all the progression criteria as listed in the Table 1.

Table 1. CDT Biomedical Artificial Intelligence academic progression criteria (MScR to PhD).

Progression Criteria	Further information
Be awarded the MScR degree in Biomedical Artificial Intelligence, demonstrating successful completion to a standard high enough to indicate the desirability of continuing with the PhD research project.	<p>Students would ordinarily be expected to achieve distinction level performances ($\geq 70\%$) in many of their MScR year courses and ideally at least merit level performances ($\geq 60\%$) in all. Where individual mark profiles deviate significantly from these expectations we will discuss progression directly with affected students to determine the best way forward.</p> <p>Note: <i>The PhD component of the CDT programme commences on 01 September each year and so a PhD record will be created in EUCLID before formal award/ratification of the MScR degree by the second BoE. <u>Students should note that this administrative action is not a confirmation of progression to the PhD component.</u></i></p>
Submit a complete PhD proposal form and accompanying project proposal to the CDT Coordinator in collaboration with their prospective PhD supervisor(s) by the required deadline.	The specific deadline will vary slightly each year, but will be clearly communicated to students and supervisors in good time by the CDT management). The CDT team can assist by advising on possible research project ideas and suggesting suitable supervisors, but ultimately the PhD project development is student-driven, aiming to ensure that students make a firm commitment to a PhD supervisor and research direction.
Have their proposal and supervisory team agreed by the CDT Executive.	Students may be asked to revise their research proposal if it falls outside the CDT remit, is unfeasible to complete within the 3-year timeframe or due to lack of necessary resources, or for any other valid reason identified by the CDT Executive. Changes to the supervisory team may also be requested.
Agree to the continuing conditions of their membership of the CDT.	As described here: CDT Student Responsibilities .

¹ The requirements for PG Cert and PG Dip that are set out in the DRPS - *Regulation 8: Postgraduate Awards and Degree Programmes*. <http://www.drps.ed.ac.uk/19-20/regulations/PGDRPS2019-20.pdf>

Where issues might arise in meeting these progression criteria, the CDT Executive are committed to working with students to resolve any issues that may arise during the progression period. Students can raise any concerns at any time with their personal tutor, the CDT coordinator or any member of the executive.

3. Withdrawal from studies process

On rare occasions, a student may fail to meet some or all the progression criteria (as noted in Table 1), in which case the CDT Executive has the discretion to refuse progression to the PhD component of the CDT programme on the basis of unsatisfactory academic progress. In this instance, the student will be withdrawn from the CDT programme. Any decision of the CDT Executive team to not allow a student to progress from the MScR to the CDT's PhD component will be managed under the process as described in the University's [Procedure for Withdrawal and Exclusion from Study](#).

Where the decision has been made not to allow progression, the CDT Director (as the delegated authorising officer for the programme) will invite the student for interview. The interview may be conducted face to face or via an online platform. During the interview, the CDT Director will explain the reason(s) why the student cannot progress onto the CDT PhD programme, and provide the student with an opportunity to make a case for their continuation.

In all cases, the outcome of the interview will be decided in line with the options as described in Table 2, and formally communicated in writing² by the CDT Director to the student and supervisor. The communication will confirm the outcome of the interview, along with the reasons for the decision, and if appropriate any accompanying conditions.

Where the student does not attend the interview, the CDT Director will proceed to make a decision on the case. They will decide which progression decision to apply (Table 2), and will inform the student and supervisor of the decision as soon as possible after the scheduled interview date². The communication will set out clearly and provide justification for the outcome decision.

Table 2: *Progression outcomes for students invited to an interview to discuss unsatisfactory academic progress.*

Outcome / Decision	Further information
(i) The student is permitted to progress to the PhD component of the CDT programme.	<p>The student will be enrolled on the PhD programme, and will be required to meet specific academic targets/outcomes that the student must meet over the course of a defined period of progression monitoring as a way of demonstrating satisfactory academic progress.</p> <p>If the student fails to demonstrate satisfactory academic progress in line with the stated expectations, the CDT Director will inform the student that they will be making a recommendation to the College that the student be formally excluded from studies.</p>
<p>Note: For outcome (i), the exclusion process will be conducted and concluded by the College PGR team, in agreement with Regulations 17-21 of the Procedure for Withdrawal and Exclusion from Study.</p>	
(ii) The student cannot progress to the PhD	<p>Whilst the student may not have met some or all of the BMAI MScR progression criteria of the CDT programme, the CDT</p>

² Formal communications must be sent to the student's (and supervisors) University email addresses.

<p>component of the CDT programme but may be permitted to continue their studies under other options permitted in the University regulations.</p>	<p>Director may allow the student to investigate if there is any possibility of transferring onto one of the School’s standard PhD programmes as an alternative route of study.</p> <p>For this to be permitted, the student must be able to demonstrate that they meet the entry criteria for the alternative PhD programme, find an academic member of staff who is willing to supervise them going forward, and secure an alternative source of funds to support them in completing their PhD.</p> <p>If the student is unable to meet the criteria for programme transfer, the CDT Director will inform the student that they will be formally excluded from studies.</p>
<p>(iii) The student may voluntarily withdraw permanently from the CDT programme. This option will not be available if the student has already been notified in writing of exclusion from studies.</p>	<p>If options (i) and (ii) have been deemed unsuitable, then the student may withdraw voluntarily from the CDT programme by submitting a withdrawal from studies form to the Informatics Graduate School by a specified date.</p> <p>Should the student fail to submit the withdrawal form by the expected deadline, the CDT Director will inform the student that they will be formally excluded from studies.</p>
<p>(iv) The student may be excluded from the University. In such cases, the student's eligibility for an exit qualification will be explored.</p>	<p>Exclusion from studies will only be invoked after other available options have been considered. In this instance, the CDT Director will submit a case for exclusion to College under the terms of <i>unsatisfactory academic progress</i>, providing the necessary evidence to support the case.</p>
<p>Note: For outcomes ii to iv, the exclusion process will be conducted in agreement with Regulations 8-15 of the Procedure for Withdrawal and Exclusion from Study.</p>	

Appeals

In accordance with the University [Procedure for Withdrawal and Exclusion from Study](#), students who have been excluded, irrespective of the reason for exclusion, may lodge an appeal against the exclusion through the normal University appeal procedure.

Appeals should be sent directly to Academic Services at the email address academic.appeals@ed.ac.uk. Details of the appeal procedure can be found at: <https://www.ed.ac.uk/academic-services/students/appeals>