



## Fostering Inclusive Doctoral Admissions through A Community of Practice

Ross Forgan, Craig Hinds, Bing Lu, Michelle Palmer, Anna Plassart 3<sup>rd</sup> July, 2025



## Welcome

Introducing the symposium

Why fostering an inclusive doctoral admissions matter?

• Why adopting a Community of Practice approach necessary?







## The EDEPI Programme

RE and OfS funded, one of 13 projects created to tackle inequalities that create barriers to access and participation in postgraduate research

**WP1-** Recruitment



Collaboration between Nottingham Trent University, Sheffield Hallam University and Liverpool John Moores University

Delivery partners: UKCGE, AdvanceHE, GRIT Breakthrough Programmes, NHS

Launched February 2022

**WP2- Admission** 

**WP3- Transition** 









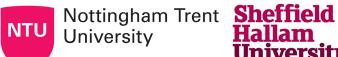




## Time for Change: Equity in Doctoral Admission

'For too long, PGR recruitment has been looking in the rearview mirror - focusing on what's easy to measure educational track record, degree classification and degreeawarding institution. We shifted a long time ago towards using a balance of past experience and future potential in job recruitment and to a wider focus on the **whole person**; their competencies and aptitude to learn and grow and **collaborate**. We need to update our recruitment practices into doctoral education in the same way. Only by doing this can we open up research careers to historically 'locked-out' groups and ensure we really are bringing the most able future researchers into the system.'

-Rebekah Smith McGloin, EDEPI PI, Chair of the UK Council for Graduate Education







**Meet the Chair of Trustees** ocacy routes into ex As Chair of the UKCGE of the Board and Officers to embers and contribute to in graduate education. See the full list of Trustees. "I see a real

opportunity for **UKCGE** to make a meaningful contribution to sector change."



UK Council for Graduate Education "AdvanceHE





## Work Package 2 - Admissions

COLLECT, ORDER, EVALUATE AND REVIEW RESULTS OBJECTIVELY, AND COMMUNICATE WITH CLARITY

# **COMPREHENSION & EVALUATION**

#### ANALYTICAL & PROBLEM SOLVING

Recognise connections and patterns in information/data, text or artefacts

Evaluate information/data, text or artefacts for credibility and accuracy

Make evidence-based judgements based on analysis of information/data, text or artefact

Explain the value/potential contribution of the research to knowledge and those

#### COMMUNICATION

Communicate in writing with clarity and precision using evidence to support your assertions

Tailor communications appropriately to different audiences

Present information and ideas verbally, using active listening

Consider impact of research and how it might reach the widest audiences

#### PLANNING & ORGANISATION

Grasp and order information coming from multiple sources

Set, maintain and ensure a clear direction for a project or activity

Anticipate, think ahead and identify next steps in a project or activity

Adjust objectives and deadlines appropriately as new ideas or issues emerae

ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR PERFORMANCE AND SEEK HELP WHEN NECESSARY

# SOCIO-EMOTIONAL COMPETENCIES

#### MOTIVATION

Show how you plan to actively engage with policy, practice, publications in your proposed area of research to keep up to date

Understand your own personal motivations and demonstrate how these will drive your research

Recognise and take up opportunities for improvement

Willingness to engage fully in the chosen area and contribute to conversations and debates in that field

#### CURIOSITY

Show that you want to ask challenging 'why' questions about your topic

Be prepared to deepen your investigation to shed new light on information/data, text or artefact

Be willing to think deeply about complex ideas and theories in the context of the topic

Value but be prepared to question the knowledge of others

#### RESILIENCE

Take positive steps to maintain a positive work/life balance and seek help when challenges occur

Willingness to admit to errors and challenges and seek appropriate support

Adjust approaches and responses when faced with change or setbacks

Demonstrate the courage to engage with complex ideas and viewpoints



#### POSTGRADUATE RESEARCHER **COMPETENCY-BASED ADMISSIONS FRAMEWORK**

Equity in Doctoral Education through Partnership

GENERATION AND DELIVERY OF OUTCOMES TO A HIGH STANDARD AND COLLABORATION

#### INTEGRITY

DELIVERING RESULTS

Be prepared to carry out your project with rigour and integrity, being committed to a compliance with ethics policy

Understand the importance of treating data or information confidentially and responsibly

Be alert to and challenge your own biases and assumptions

Show that you respect diverse points of view and can treat others, and their views, with fairness

#### **WORKING WITH OTHERS**

Work effectively with collaborators and supervisors, treating each with respect and keeping them informed of progress

Actively listen to others, share information, and propose suggestions and solutions

Respond appropriately to guidance and feedback from supervisors and collaborators and take action to improve

Seek out and make use of opportunities to collaborate, support others and/or make a positive contribution to your discipline or community in the context of your proposed research project

#### **INDEPENDENCE**

Autonomously meet deadlines and objectives for your own research project

Take responsibility for identifying the technical, personal or professional skills required for a task and take action to develop those skills appropriately

Take initiative to suggest ideas for improvements, sharing ideas in a

Reflect on challenges and successes, and make and implement an action plan to maintain or improve your performance







UNIVERSITY Graduate Education "AdvanceHE







## **Case Study Institution Presentations**









#### THE OPEN UNIVERSITY

From Open Ethos to Inclusive Practice: Rethinking Postgraduate Admissions at the Open University

#### **NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY**

The challenges and opportunities applying the EDEPI Framework to EPSRC PGR recruitment

#### UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW

Adapting competencybased admissions for inclusive cohort-based recruitment

# The Open University

Fostering inclusive doctoral admissions through a community of practice

From Open Ethos to Inclusive
Practice: Rethinking Postgraduate
Admissions at the Open University

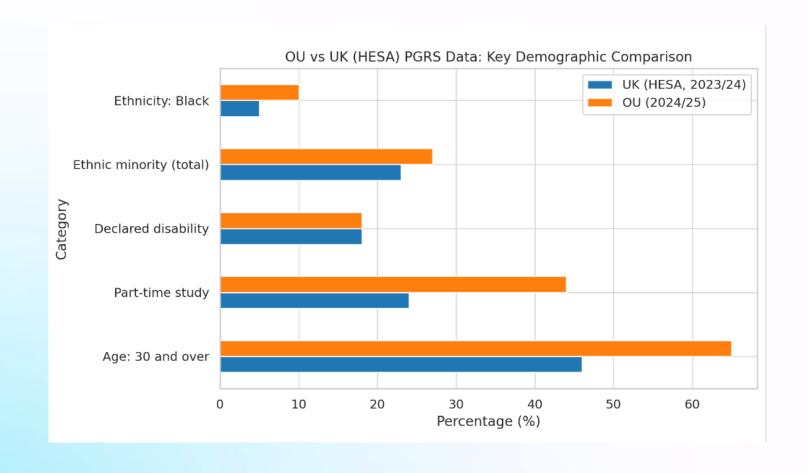
Anna Plassart, 3 July 2025





## The Open University: context

- The OU's founding ethos: openness to people, places, methods, and ideas
- PGR student demographics: unusually diverse
- Existing inclusive practice, esp. for disabled and part-time students





## The Open University: challenges

#### Areas where inclusivity is more limited:

- Lower numbers of international PGR students
- Continued underrepresentation of racially minoritised applicants, especially Black students
- Proportion of disabled students is likely much higher, but undisclosed

#### **Context for demographic patterns:**

- \* Reflects pool of applicants, with element of self-selection
- similar patterns at UG level, despite very low academic barrier to entry



## Postgraduate admissions at the Open University

#### **PGR Admissions process**

- Largely centralised through the Graduate School and central admissions systems.
- ❖ Fragmentation and Accessibility Gaps: Disjointed processes between central services, faculties, schools, and disciplines. overlap in guidance to applicants, inconsistencies, and areas falling through the cracks.
- \* "Bottom up" mapping of admissions practices reveals that implementation varies widely across Faculties, Schools and disciplines.





## Case study 1: Mapping Practice from the Bottom up

### Faculty of Arts & Social Science

- Disciplines have adopted a wide range of informal approaches and resources to provide pre-application support, including different types of writing guidance, examples of successful proposals, draft feedback, podcasts and workshops on Adobe Connect
- The advantage, according to some PGCs, is a more 'individual and involved process' that is sensitive to the highly diverse capabilities and needs of the applicants
- The challenge, however, is that PGSs may end up with an excessive workload:

"the enquiry process has been exhausting [..] Above all, the problem is that students are directed to write to PGCs asking questions that should be answered, clearly and consistently, on an easily findable university or Faculty website [..] The prospectus encourages a piecemeal inquiry process, too, but it is simply creating unnecessary work for us."



## Case study 2: Collaborative Revision of Interview Criteria Faculty of Wellbeing, Education and Language Studies

#### **Integration of EDEPI Competencies in PGR Recruitment**

- When: 2025 PGR recruitment (PhDs and Professional Doctorates)
- Where: Faculty of Wellbeing, Education and Languages Studies
- How: Revised interview criteria and questions aligned with EDEPI principles

#### **Selection Criteria**

- Fit with Faculty's key research themes and targeted projects
- Academic background
- Verbal and writing skills
- Criticality and analytical skills
- Socio-emotional competencies
- Approach to delivering results



### Initial feedback about the framework

- Easy to adapt from old criteria to framework criteria
- > Helpful sample questions for each criterion
- > Need to still keep questions specific to candidate's proposal
- Subject knowledge is key for a good start
- ➤ Need to structure interview questions in a more coherent fashion rather than explore each criterion one by one
- > Should all criteria have equal weight?



## Future work

- Map recruitment practices across Faculties
- Co-develop recommendations on new approaches
- OU has specific interest in disability





# The Open University



# The challenges and opportunities applying the EDEPI Framework to EPSRC PGR recruitment

**Newcastle University** 

Elizabeth Gibson & Craig Hinds (ReNU+ CDT)
Michelle Palmer (EPSRC DLA)



## Introduction to the team

#### Michelle Palmer



Postgraduate Research Manager

**EPSRC DLA Manager** 

#### **Elizabeth Gibson**



Professor of Energy Materials

Newcastle ReNU+ CDT Director

**Craig Hinds** 



**CDT Manager** 

ReNU+ CDT



## Making positive changes

- Reduced Home applicant market requires us to broaden our applicant pool – increase diversity and attract non-traditional backgrounds.
- Our University PGR Committee agreed to pilot new recruitment approaches.
- We are moving away from our sole focus on eligibility criteria (e.g. reducing minimum qualifications previous HEI & experience) and placing more emphasis on 'potential to succeed' and alternative experience.

## Our plan:

- Identified EDEPI competency
   framework as best example available
   Joined network
- Agreed to pilot EDEPI framework via ESPRC Doctoral Landscape Award and ReNU+ CDT
- Report back findings & recommendations for wider institutional implementation







### **EPSRC Doctoral Landscape award - Previously Doctoral Training Partnership**

#### DTP 2024 Awards:

- Funding allocated across 4 Schools
- Difficult to apply and manage a set recruitment process.
- Standard recruitment matrix and criteria provided to all academic selectors
- Still inconsistencies in recruitment process across Units and academic selectors.
- 403 applications 91% international

#### **New DLA 2025:**

- Introduced new EDEPI framework & standard process for all to follow:
  - Held recruitment briefings with colleagues.
  - Directly adapted the EDEPI framework added to a excel matrix document with step-by-step instructions/guidance.
  - Competency-assessment via personal statement (template – questions)
  - Well received by academic colleagues and applicants followed procedure.
  - 455 applications 84% international



## **Example of DLA assessment matrix**

CANDIDATE ASSESSMENT														
lame of supervisor, Sch	ool, and project title	::												
		Comprehension & Evaluation			Socio-emotional competencies			Delivering results						
Applicant name	Applicant Number (Student number must be provided)	Analytical and problem	Communcation	Planning & organising	Motivation	Curiosity	Resilience	Integrity	Working with others	Independence	Total	Comments (optional)	INTERVIEW? Y/N	SCORING Do not remove
Applicant 1											0			
Applicant 2											0			
Applicant 3											0			
Applicant 4											0			
Applicant 5											0			
Applicant 6											0			
Applicant 7											0			
Applicant 8											0			
Applicant 9											0			
Applicant 10											0			
				AE /AE +- h- i-+										
NOTE: These scores are p	oroviaea as a guiain	Score:	es ao not nave to sc	ore 45/45 to be into	erviewea or appoint	ea.						Indicate any reference		
Scoring guidance:	See shortlisting guidance tab	High = 5										highlights or issues		
		Medium = 4												
		Ordinal = 3												
		Low rated = 2												
		Absent = 0												



## **Interview matrix**

INITEDI	ALC: N	AATDIV

INTERVIEW MATRIX	(															
Name of supervisor	, School, and project tit	le:														
We need this information for the EPSRC annual report		Soci	Socio-emotional competencies			Comprehension & Evaluation			Delivering results					Nominated for studentship offer		
Applicant name	Applicant Number (Student number)	Motivation	Curiosity	Resilience	Analytical and problem solving	Communication	Planning & organising	Integrity	Working with others	Independence	General	Total	Comments (optional)	Nominate for funding award (Y/N)	Is the candidate international?	SCORING Do not remove
Interview questions:		Why do you wa	ent to do a PhD?	What do you think the main challenges of doing research are?	Captured through presentation: What relevant skills and experience do you have which you feel would help you undertake this research project?	Describe a situation where you felt you had not communicated well. How did you correct the situation?	of work to do, how do you get it all	What are the risks to your project and how will you mitigate them?	contribution you	Can you give an example that demonstrates your ability to work on and think independently about a research problem?	Any questions for the panel?					
Applicant 1												0				5
Applicant 2												0				4
Applicant 3												0				3
Applicant 4												0				2
Applicant 5												0				0
Applicant 6												0				
Applicant 7												0				
Applicant 8												0				
Applicant 9												0				
Applicant 10												0				
Applicant 11												0				
	are provided as a guidi	l ina matrix, and candid	l dates do not have to s	core 45/45 to be appo	l inted.											
				, , , , , , , , ,									Indicate any reference			
Scoring guidance	See interview guidance tab				High = 5								highlights or issues			
					Medium = 4											
	1				Ordinal = 3											
					Low rated = 2											
					Absent = 0											





- The Renewable Energy Northeast Universities Plus (ReNU+) Centre for Doctoral Training (CDT) is an EPSRC funded collaboration between Northumbria, Durham, and Newcastle Universities aiming to train the next generation of doctoral carbon champions for Net Zero.
- The CDT was funded due to our commitment to 'innovative CDT delivery', particularly our approach to admissions.













#### **Recruitment process**

#### Information sessions for staff and applicants:

- Pre-application workshops (career prospects, demystifying PhD study, signposting DSA support).
- Mandatory assessor training and unconscious bias training.

#### **Competency assessment:**

5 questions adapted from EDEPI project's competency framework. Focus on analytical and problem solving skills. Scoring template provided, including guidance on how to assess competencies.

#### **Selection Process:**

- 1) Academics scored anonymised competency assessments. Scores returned to PS staff.
- 2) Academics provided with named application documents. Scored using same template. Scores returned to PS staff.
- 3) Scores combined to create ranked list weighted 40% competency assessment, 60% application documents. Split into home/international and revealed to academics.
- 4) Interviews. Competency questions revealed in advance to applicants. Additional technical question for discussion in interview. Panel includes CDT management team member for consistency.
- 5) Preferred candidates reported to Institute Director.



## Feedback from academic colleagues

#### **EPSRC DLA**

Feedback requested when assessment matrix returned. *Still collating responses but example below.* 

## Q. Overall, do you find the competency-based assessment process a good recruitment approach? Please explain why

"We felt it was good to clearly factor in transferable skills and evidence-based examples. The competency-based approach potentially provides a more holistic consideration of the candidates, but it does make the applications cumbersome to review and could be considered to **deemphasize scientific ability**, which is really important to assess."

#### **RENU+ CDT**

"The EDEPI framework gave us confidence in our prioritisation process for post-graduate recruitment by standardising our evaluation of the full range of skills and experiences of our applicants across our multi-disciplinary centre. At the end of the process (although we had to make difficult decisions on the final awards) we felt assured that the selected candidates would be strongly positioned for success in their post-graduate research degrees and would make the most of the opportunities that will be available to them in our doctoral training programme." *Prof Elizabeth Gibson, ReNU+ CDT Institute Director* 



## Reflections

### Benefits:

- Competency based assessment structured candidates' applications.
- Competency framework provided clear guidelines and consistency for assessors.
- Competency framework provided insight into important skills not obvious from a traditional CV, such as problem solving and teamwork.
- The structured narrative gave applicants the opportunity to explain how their experience fitted the project if their degree subject was not an obvious "fit".

## Challenges:

- Much more time consuming than expected at every step of ReNU+ recruitment process, in terms of anonymisation and scoring. Delays waiting for full scores before moving to next step. High volume of applications focused on certain projects.
- At interview, panels found it difficult to balance competencies with technical requirements. H&S and training considerations for those who fall short or required technical skills.
- Concerns over candidates' different levels of confidence, experience, and communication skills in completing narrative assessments.



## What next?

- Need to better understand candidate experience set up feedback form for all applicants (interview and awardees target group).
- Find a balance between academic CV (scientific experience) and competency-based assessment (potential to succeed/remove barriers).
  - Adapt framework to suit scientific areas joint effort between DLA & Renu+
  - Learn from others in EDEPI network
- **Be clear to academic colleagues** what is mandatory and what is flexible within recruitment process (reflect different subject needs).
- How do we elevate the opportunities to undertake a PhD and our search for a wider demographic of doctoral researcher via the competency-based approach? (Marketing, communication, messaging, representatives and role models, style of advert?)



Adapting competency-based admissions for inclusive cohort-based recruitment

The Diveln approach to the EDEPI framework Ross Forgan





## Directors & Management



Dr Caroline Müllenbroich School of Physics & Astronomy



Prof Ross Forgan School of Chemistry



Prof Caroline
Gauchotte-Lindsay
School of Engineering



Andy Todman
External Engagement
Manager

## What is Diveln?

- EPSRC Centre for Doctoral Training in Diversity-Led, Mission-Driven Research
- Aims to foster interdisciplinary and diverse teams to create impactful and innovative research
- Justice, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion embedded across governance, management, and recruitment
- Recruiting students across all STEM subjects in UKRI mission priority areas
- Cohort-based learning where the cohort is primary unit of training:
  - We do not recruit for individual projects; projects are co-created after entry
  - Selection implication: not just individuals but future teams
  - Peer leadership, collaborative problem solving, mentoring, interdisciplinary teamwork, shared ownership of research culture
- Admissions focus on both individual excellence and collective cohort potential



Prof Qammer Abbasi School of Engineering



Sandra Dopico CDT Coordinator



Pascale Watkins CDT Administrator





# Recruitment foundations: EDEPI framework

For competency-based admissions





## Diveln recruitment process

- Adoption of EDEPI competency-based admissions framework
  - Eliminating reliance on degree classification and institutional prestige
- Diveln recruitment is a three-stage process:
  - 1. Triage
    - Pseudo-anonymous review based on eligibility criteria and degree in relevant discipline
  - 2. Application
    - Structured narrative questions and a technical exercise that are assessed independently from each other
    - Application statement assesses baseline PhD readiness using EDEPI criteria
  - 3. Online interviews
    - Structured narrative questions, presentations on favourite scientific subject and PhD ambitions
    - Assessment of fit to Diveln mission, interdisciplinarity, cohort dynamics



## Application stage questions

## POSTGRADUATE RESEARCHER COMPETENCY-BASED ADMISSIONS FRAMEWORK

FEBRUARY 2024

Equity in Doctoral Education through Partnership

and Innovation (EDEPI)

- The 5 questions probe the EDEPI dimensions of:
  - Q1: Motivation (What is exciting about the prospect of doing a doctorate?)
  - Q2: Resilience (Describe a challenge you faced and say how you overcame it)
  - Q3: Curiosity (Discuss your favourite scientific topic, your own engagement and experience with it and what you think are the next big questions to investigate.)
  - Q4&Q5: Fit for CDT & Diveln (What inspirations do you draw from our Catalogue of Possibilities, particularly in terms of working within a team to carry out mission-driven, interdisciplinary and collaborative research? How do you see your participation in a Centre for Doctoral Training such as Diveln helping to fill your skills gaps?)
  - Planning & organization, communication, independence (integral to the application process)

## OMPREHENSION & EVALUATIO

#### ANALYTICAL & PROBLEM SOLVING Recognise connections and patterns in

artefacts for credibility and accuracy

Information/data, text or artefacts and precision using evidence to support your assertions

Evaluate information/data, text or Tailor communications appropriate

Make evidence-based judgements
based on analysis of information/data, verbally, using active listening

Explain the value/potential contribution of the research to knowledge and those who will benefit

#### PLANNING & ORGANISATIO

nunicate in writing with clarity Grasp and order information of from multiple sources

Tailor communications appropriately to different audiences

Set, maintain and ensure a clear direction for a project or activity

Present information and ideas

Anticipate, think ahead and identify

next steps in a project or activity

t Adjust objectives and deadlines appropriately as new ideas or

a positive work/life balance and

seek help when challenges occi

Adjust approaches and response

#### ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR PERFORMANCE AND SEEK HELP WHEN NECESSAR

## CIO-EMOTIONAL COMPETENCIE

#### Show how you plan to actively engage with policy, practice, publications in your proposed area of research to keep

r proposed area of research to keep to date derstand your own personal

these will drive your research

Recognise and take up opportunities

Willingness to engage fully in the choses area and contribute to conversations and debates in that field

## LIVERING RESULTS

#### INTEGRIT

Be prepared to carry out your project with rigour and integrity, being committed to a compilance with ethics policy

Understand the importance of tre data or information confidentially and responsibly

Be alert to and challenge your own blases and assumptions

Show that you respect diverse points of view and can treat others, and their views with follows:

#### **WORKING WITH OTH**

with Work effectively with collaborators are to supervisors, treating each with respeand keeping them informed of progre

Show that you want to ask challenging

to shed new light on information/data

Be willing to think deeply about comple

'why' questions about your topic

Actively listen to others, share information, and propose suggestions and solutions

Respond appropriately to guidance and feedback from supervisors and

Seek out and make use of opportunitit to collaborate, support others and/or make a positive contribution to your discipline or community in the context

#### INDEPENDENC

Autonomously meet deadlines and objectives for your own

Take responsibility for identifying the technical, personal or professional skill: required for a task and take action to develop those skills appropriately

improvements, sharing ideas in a constructive manner

Reflect on challenges and successes, and make and implement an action plan to maintain or improve your performance



## Application exerciseanalysing the penguin dataset

Adelie Gentoo Chinstrap

The state of the s

- Probes EDEPI dimension of analytical and problem solving
- Q6: The dataset provided contains
   measurements from three species of penguins:
   Adélie, Gentoo, and Chinstrap.
   For each penguin, the following features were
   recorded: culmen length, culmen depth, flipper
   length, body mass, and sex. The data also
   includes the island where each penguin was
   observed.
- Instructions:
  - 1. Visualising Culmen Length Across Species
  - 2. Correlation Analysis Across Species
  - 3. Figure Placement and Annotations

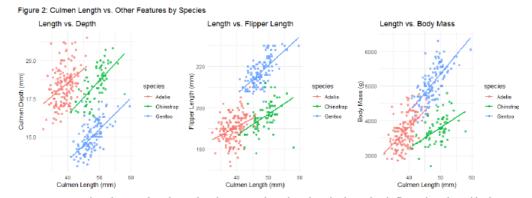
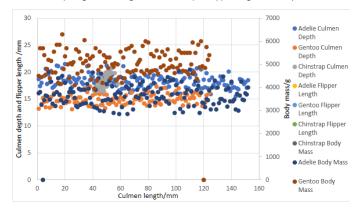


Figure 2: Scatter plots showing the relationships between culmen length and culmen depth, flipper length, and body mass, with linear regression lines by species.

#### Comparing culmen length to culmen depth, flipper length and body mass







# Diveln adaptation for cohort-based recruitment

**Expanding the EDEPI framework** 





## Interview questions

- Deeper assessment of interdisciplinarity, advocacy, and cohort contributions
- Questions:
  - 1. Presentation on favourite scientific subject
  - 2. "Defense" of penguin analysis
  - 3. Embracing learning opportunities
  - 4. Values alignment with Diveln
  - 5. Embracing cohort opportunities
  - 6. Appetite and experience in interdisciplinary work
- EDEPI dimensions probed: communication, analytical & problem solving, working with others
- Diveln expansion of EDEPI framework with emphasis on suitability for project cocreation, team formation, appetite for interdisciplinary research, communication across disciplines and advocacy



## Diveln competency framework

#### **COHORT-BASED DEVELOPMENT**

#### **Peer Leadership and Initiative:**

- take initiative in leading group activities, discussions, or projects within and across cohorts
- a proactive approach to engaging with cohort opportunities and enhancing the learning experience for everyone
- work effectively within a group, contributing ideas and valuing diverse perspectives

#### Peer mentoring and support

- promoting peer-to-peer learning and mentoring
- supporting the professional growth of fellow students
- capacity to inspire and motivate peers, while also recognizing when to step back and support the contributions of others

## Adaptability and Openness to Feedback/ growth mindset:

- flexibility and resilience when encountering different viewpoints, methods, or disciplines
- willingness to both give and receive constructive feedback
- embrace challenges, learn from setbacks, and continuously develop both personally and academically

## Commitment to Building a Supportive Cohort Community:

- fostering a collaborative, inclusive, and supportive environment within and across cohorts
- actively contributing to a sense of community and a culture of mutual respect and shared learning, ensuring all voices are valued

#### INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH

## Leveraging the Strengths of Different Disciplines:

- draw on insights and methodologies from multiple fields, synthesizing diverse perspectives to generate innovative solutions
- recognize connections between seemingly unrelated concepts and apply them to complex research challenges

## Breadth of understanding with depth in key areas

- intellectual flexibility to explore a wide range of ideas and fields without losing focus on core expertise
- Balancing a wide-ranging curiosity with deep expertise in critical areas, enabling both exploration across various disciplines and focused problem-solving in specialized topics.

## **Effective Communication Across Disciplines:**

- strong communication skills, able to convey complex ideas clearly
- effective communication to enable shared understanding and adaptability when interacting with collaborators from non-specialist backgrounds

## Collaborative Problem-Solving in Interdisciplinary Teams:

 aptitude for working in diverse teams, valuing different perspectives and leveraging the strengths of various disciplines.

#### **ADVOCACY**

## Science and Research in the public discourse

- communicating the value of research to a broader audience
- advocating for the role of science in addressing societal issues
- ability to engage with non-experts and contribute to public understanding of complex scientific issues.

### Societal impact through mission-driven research

- awareness of how their work can contribute to the greater good and a drive to create meaningful, lasting change
- ability to lead or actively participate in missiondriven research projects aimed at addressing societal challenges

### Ethical responsibility and global awareness

- Awareness of ethical responsibility in their research, considering its potential impact on global challenges such as inequality, sustainability, and human well-being.
- awareness of the broader implications of their work for diverse communities

## Diversity, inclusion and research culture

- promoting diversity and inclusion within the research community, advocating for equitable opportunities and inclusive practices
- foster a collaborative and supportive research culture that values diverse perspectives, ensuring that all voices are heard and respected.



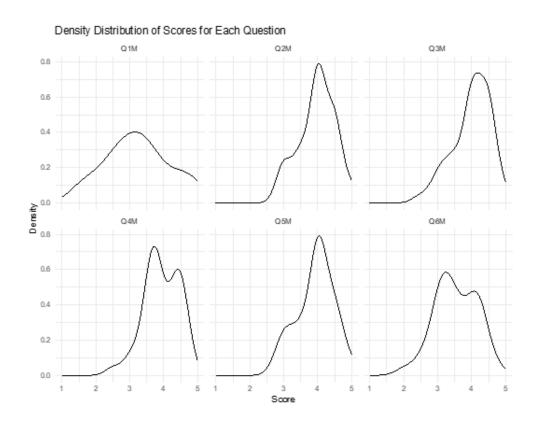


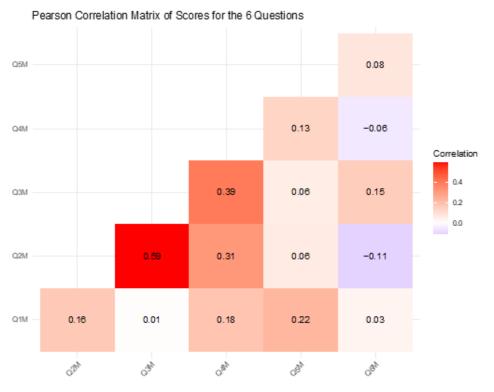
## Impact and reflections





## First cohort- mark distribution?

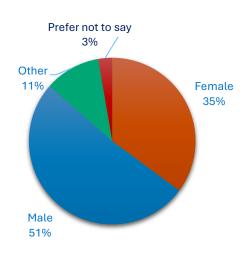




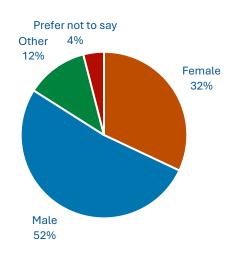


## First cohort - gender

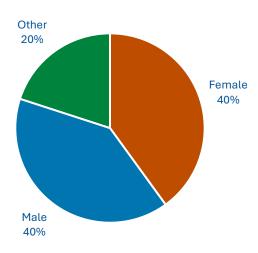
#### All applicants



#### **Shortlisted for interview**



#### Offer holders



- No noticeable bias across our application stages
- Includes subject specificity as well as limited demographic data



## Reflections

#### EDEPI:

- Framework that enables inclusive, evidence-based selection
- Modular and flexible which allowed us to easily adapt and expand
- Providing confidence in equitable, transparent selection
- Can help find gaps in assessment for recruitment

#### Diveln:

- Moving from solely individual excellence to collective cohort potential
- First cohort recruitment completed with 100% offer acceptance rate



## Contact



@DiveIn\_CDT



@diveincdt.bsky.social



/divein-cdt



@DiveIn\_CDT

Visit <u>divein.org.uk</u> for more information

Email: divein-cdt@glasgow.ac.uk





Dr Caroline Müllenbroich Caroline.muellenbroich@glasgow.ac.uk









## **Break 5 mins**

**Next: breakout room discussion** 









## **Breakout Sessions**

- 20-mins small group discussions on challenges, experiences, and insights in applying competency-based recruitment.
- Padlet for feedback and interaction <u>Competency-Based Framework Webinar Discussion</u>
  <u>Board.</u>



## **Questions for Discussion:**

- How do you see the value of considering competencies in fostering inclusive doctoral admissions?
- How could you apply the framework in your own institution to assist PGR recruitment?
- Do you have any feedback on the framework regarding its scope and strength?

\*Use this interactive **Padlet** for (a)synchronous discussion



## Q/A and Closing Remarks

If you want to know more about using the EDEPI competency-based admissions framework, please contact the team for support: EDEPI@ntu.ac.uk





## Connect with us....



in EDEPl@ntu.ac.uk