EIT Ellison Scholars

Graduate Ellison Scholars programme Application Guide

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1. Introduction

The application process varies across EIT's research areas. This application guide is for students applying to the Graduate Ellison Scholars programme via the **EIT application platform**.

Please see the table below for details on how to apply to each of **EIT's research areas**:

EIT Research Area	Application Route	Link to Apply
Pathogen Program	Apply for a published DPhil (PhD) project, or submit your own research proposal via the EIT application platform. Selected applicants will then be invited to apply to the University of Oxford.	**Graduate Ellison Scholars programme**
Plant Biology Institute	Apply for a published DPhil (PhD) project, or submit your own research proposal via the EIT application platform. Selected applicants will then be invited to apply to the University of Oxford.	**Graduate Ellison Scholars programme**
Materials and Devices for Life Sciences	Apply for a published DPhil (PhD) project, or submit your own research proposal via the EIT application platform. Selected applicants will then be invited to apply to the University of Oxford.	**Graduate Ellison Scholars programme**
Economics	Submit your own research proposal via the EIT application platform. Selected applicants will then be invited to apply to the University of Oxford.	**Graduate Ellison Scholars programme**
Correlates of Immunity	Submit an initial application to the Correlates of Immunity Programme. Selected applicants may be nominated by EIT to apply to the Graduate Ellison Scholars programme.	**CoI-AI Programme**
AI & Robotics	Apply directly to the CDT in Fundamentals of AI via the University of Oxford's application process. Selected applicants may be nominated by EIT to apply to the Graduate Ellison Scholars programme.	**CDT in Fundamentals of AI**
Generative Biology Institute	Apply directly to the DTP in Generative Biology via the University of Oxford's application process. Selected applicants may be nominated by EIT to apply to the Graduate Ellison Scholars programme.	**DTP in Generative Biology**

Before starting your application, please see these useful resources that may help you to put together a strong application:

- **Selection Criteria**: Learn more about what we look for and how to evidence it in your application.
- **Information Session**: Sign up for a live information session or watch a recorded version to learn more about the scholarship.
- **Project Q&A Session**: Register for a Q&A with EIT project teams to learn more about their research areas and projects.
- **FAQs**: Explore the FAQs on our website to learn more about the Graduate Ellison Scholars programme.

The deadline to complete your application is 5pm (UK time) on 1 December 2026.

If you have any questions or problems completing your application which are not resolved after consulting this guide, contact us at **scholars@eit.org**.

2. What you need to complete your application

1. A valid passport or another form of identification, such as an ID card or a birth certificate.
2. If available, an English translation of your identification document.
3. A transcript detailing information about your degree, including courses taken and grades achieved.
4. Contact details for three referees: two academic referees and one character referee.
5. A **research proposal** of no more than 1500 words demonstrating your skills, expertise, and motivation to contribute substantively and meaningfully to your chosen EIT project or program.
6. A PDF copy of your **CV**.
7. **A portfolio of up to ten entries** demonstrating how well you align with the EIT vision.

3. Create an account

When you first access the **Graduate Ellison Scholars programme application form** you will need to create an account.

Fill in your details under 'Create a New Account' and click on the 'Register' button. The first and last names provided here should match any identifying documentation you provide us with. Your preferred name may match your official first name but will allow us to consistently refer to you in all communications by the name you are most comfortable with. You can save and return to your application any time, using your email address and password.

Once logged in, your application will be created, and the form will open automatically. You must fill in the overview section first, but beyond this point, you can save the form using the 'save' or 'save and next' buttons and will be able to navigate the rest of the form freely.

4. Overview

In this section, you will find a general overview with important links and information. This section must be completed before you can continue with your application. Please ensure that you read the **EIT Education & Scholarships Privacy Notice** and **Application Rules** before confirming that you agree to their terms.

5. Personal details

In this section we will ask for personal details such as your name, date of birth, and nationality as well as contact details and identifying information. We also ask that you provide the URLs for your X/Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn accounts, if you have these.

If you do not have a passport, answer *No* to the question 'Do you have a passport?' and upload an alternative photo ID. We will contact you if we require further information or verification.

Finally, please upload a profile photo. This should be a personal, passport-style photo not exceeding 5MB.

6. Education

In the 'Education' section, you should provide information on any degrees you have started or completed, beginning with the most recent.

6.1. Optional institutional nomination

If you have a nomination from your institution, you can upload it in this section. Nominating institutions should follow any internal processes they have in place and ensure that the nomination letter includes the nominator's role at the institution and how long they have known you. It should also comment on your academic merit and may also include details on how you meet the other **selection criteria** for the Graduate Ellison Scholars programme.

7. Research Proposal

Graduate Ellison Scholars directly contribute to advancing **EIT's research areas and projects**. These projects tackle global challenges through cutting-edge technology, offering Graduate Scholars the chance to collaborate with world-leading experts at EIT and Oxford to develop innovative solutions.

These projects are also published on the University of Oxford's graduate admissions website. Depending on your chosen research area, you can apply for one of the published projects or submit your own project proposal that aligns with the program's research aims and areas of interest.

We strongly recommend reading the information for your chosen research area carefully before applying, as application routes and requirements vary between Research Areas.

Your proposal should clearly outline your project and intended approach and highlight how your background equips you to undertake this work.

Your proposal must not exceed 1500 words, including references. Your word count is visible above the text field and updates as you type.

7.1. Supplementary image

Here you have the option to upload a supplementary image such as an infographic or diagram. Please ensure that you only upload images/graphics and do not include any additional written material in the upload.

7.2. Oxford University entry requirements

In this section, please tick to confirm that you meet the graduate entry requirements for Oxford University.

Make sure you understand the **admissions criteria**, including the guidance on **international qualifications** and **English language requirements.** If you are unsure about these requirements, please contact the admissions team for your chosen course; their contact details are provided on the respective course pages.

8. Alignment to EIT

In this section, you are asked to submit your curriculum vitae (CV) and a portfolio evidencing how well you align with the EIT vision. Your portfolio can include up to ten entries, although you are not required to submit the maximum number.

8.1. Personal Statement

Submit a short, recorded video statement, not longer than 3 minutes in length. This is your opportunity to share who you are and what inspires you. In your video, you might want to:

- Tell us what motivates you to pursue research and how the Graduate Ellison Scholars programme would contribute to your broader goals
- Highlight personal experiences, values, or perspectives that shape the way you approach challenges and collaboration

Think of the video as your chance to go beyond the technical details of your proposal and show us your passion, perspective, and drive.

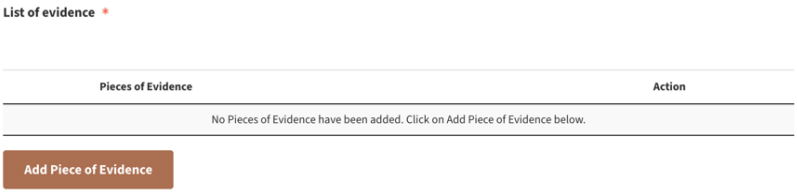
Ensure that the file type is either mp4, avi, or mpeg4 and is no larger than 500MB. If your video is not one of the above file types, or the file size is larger than 500MB, you will not be able to upload your video. You are welcome to use slides, graphics, diagrams etc. but please note that we will not be assessing your video editing or presentation skills.

8.2 CV/Resume

Your CV/resume should outline academic research, publications, and achievements, as well as any other activities relevant to your application. The file must be a PDF; Word docs. cannot be uploaded.

8.3. Adding a portfolio entry

To begin adding an entry, click on the 'Add a Piece of Evidence' button below the table:



Select the type of evidence from the drop down and complete the fields that appear accordingly.

For any type of evidence needing a summary or explanatory text, the word count can be found above the text box in the top left corner and will update as you type. Do not exceed the word limit or you will not be able to submit your application.

Once you have completed the fields for an entry, click on the 'Add' button at the bottom of the page to save your entry.

Repeat this process for as many entries as you would like to add, with a maximum of ten.

9. References

As part of your application, you will need to provide three references: **two academic references** and **one character reference**. More information about the different types of reference, as well as guidance you should follow when requesting references, can be found on the 'References' page of the application form.

Academic references must be provided by individuals who are familiar with your academic work, achievements, and abilities. They could be (this list is non-exhaustive):

- Academic supervisors
- College tutors
- Subject-matter experts or people who know you through subject-related activities

Please note that academic referees cannot be a family member or peer.

Character references must be provided by individuals who know you well in a personal capacity and can speak to your integrity, values, and interpersonal skills. They could be (this list is non-exhaustive):

- Teachers or professors at your school or university
- Employers, including from part-time work or internships
- Project supervisors
- Coaches or mentors

Please note that your character referee cannot be a family member or peer and we can only accept references in English, so you must ensure that you nominate referees who have a high level of English language proficiency. Your character referee cannot be the same person as either of your academic referees.

9.1. Requesting references

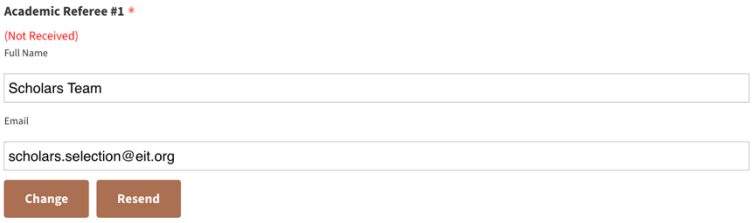
To request a reference, please provide your referee's name and email address. Click the 'Send Request Now' button to send a request for reference. An email will be sent to the email address provided here.

Confirm with your referee that they have received the request and are able to fill in the form by the **deadline of 9 December**.

To track the status of your reference, check the text above the fields you entered your referee's details into. This will read either 'Not Sent', 'Not Received', or 'Received'. You will also receive an email notifying you once a reference has been submitted.

9.2 Changing a reference

To change a reference after you have requested or received it, click the 'Change' button below the reference you would like to change and update your referee's details. References can be changed after your application is submitted but please note that they will be due at the reference deadline of 9 December, so make sure you give plenty of time and notify your referees in advance.



You may need to delete a reference that has already been submitted. To request a reference again from the same referee, click the 'Delete Reference' button:

When the page reloads, your referee's details will be saved, but you can now change them again. Either click the 'Send Request Now' button to request a reference from the same referee, or change the details and send a request to a new referee:

10. Diversity and Inclusion

Selection for the Graduate Ellison Scholars programme is merit-based. It is not a means-tested scholarship. Selection decisions are not made on the basis of an individual applicant's gender, race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, social background, disability, or any other demographic distinction. The information gathered in this section is used to ensure our outreach and selection processes are fair and effective and to support your journey if you become a Graduate Ellison Scholar. For all questions, there is the option to select "Prefer not to answer".

11. Declaration

In this section, we ask you to provide final confirmation that you have read and understood the EIT Education & Scholarship Privacy Notice and Application Rules.

Read each statement and confirm that you understand by clicking the checkboxes beside them.

12. Submitting your application

To submit your application, press the 'Submit' button at the bottom of the final page.

Click the 'OK' button in the pop-up that appears.

13. Contact

If you have any questions or need support with your application, please contact the EIT Education & Scholarships team at **scholars@eit.org**.