

FAQs

- **Do students need an industrial partner to do Eng.D.?**

Yes, the Eng.D is an industrially embedded programme which benefits both the candidate and the sponsoring company.

- **Does the industrial supervisor need to have a Ph.D. or Eng. D.?**

The industrial supervisor does not need to have a Ph.D. or Eng. D., but they are expected to be an expert leader in the field.

- **What skills does an Eng. D. provide?**

An Eng. D. provides a challenging, multi-disciplinary and academically rigorous education and training experience leading to a qualification equivalent to a Ph.D.

- **Is Eng. D. qualification better than a Ph.D.?**

An Eng. D. is essentially an engineering Ph.D. with a solid industrial base and an additional taught element. Hence Eng. D. is the same as Ph.D. in terms of qualification but more industrially focused.

- **Can students continue their existing jobs as part of their Eng. D.?**

Yes, the idea is that students continue to work on a single or multiple projects to enhance their skills under the supervision of their industry and academic supervisors. Both the taught component and the project component will enable them to prepare for their thesis defense at the end of year 4.

- **Do students get a stipend during the Eng. D. programme?**

A student/employee's salary with their sponsoring employer will cover their expenses, though there will be no additional stipend paid to the candidate.

- **Who will hold the Intellectual property (IP) of the research?**

IP generated is either shared equally between the RE, Industrial Sponsor, and the Heriot Watt University or if the project is funded by the industry, the IP will be held by the sponsoring company. However, each

case will have an individually tailored IP agreement. There will be a non-disclosure agreement (NDA) in place for commercially sensitive projects. This will ensure that both parties are protected. Details of the NDA can be discussed at the time of signing the contract.

- **Are students able to publish their work in Journals/Conferences?**

Yes, with the consent of their employer/sponsor, students should be able to publish in academic journals and conferences. In some cases, the employer/sponsor may opt for a Patent if deemed feasible.

- **What areas of research can be expected to form part of Eng. D. programme?**

Heriot-Watt University has a range of expertise to suit the individual requirements of its candidates. The research project shall be placed in a business context taking full account of financial, environmental, social, and commercial considerations. Generally, research will be related to topics which improve efficiencies in the construction industry through:

- Reducing costs (construction project lifecycle costs)
- Reducing greenhouse emissions and the production of wastes
- Improving the health, safety and wellbeing of employees and community
- Smart Construction
- Sustainable Development
- Current trends and future opportunities
- Resilient cities
- Energy and water conservation

- **Must students wait for the new academic year in September to start their Eng. D.?**

Students can start in January, June or September throughout the academic year. However, the taught courses are only available during term time, which starts in September and January of each year. Hence, they will only have access to those courses which are being offered at the time of their Eng. D. registration.