



School of Computing, Engineering, and the Built Environment Edinburgh Napier University

PHD STUDENT PROJECT

Application instructions:

Detailed instructions are available at:

<https://www.napier.ac.uk/research-and-innovation/doctoral-college/how-to-apply>

Prospective candidates are encouraged to contact the Director of Studies (see details below) to discuss the project and their suitability for it.

Project details

Supervisory Team:

- DIRECTOR OF STUDY: Dr David Brazier (Email: d.brazier@napier.ac.uk)
- 2ND SUPERVISOR: Dr JP Vargheese

Subject Group: Applied Informatics

Research Areas: Human computer interaction

Project Title: A user centred approach to online system support

Project description:

In situations where users are faced with online tasks that require to follow a linear process, such as visa applications or medical health checks, current online facilities offer sufficient support. However, more work can be done for those that fail to find or fully interact with such facilities. Furthermore, in cases of non-linear processes, where outcomes are more subjective and often dependent on a user' experience and capabilities in identifying when enough information has been obtained or a task has been resolved, there remains opportunities to support users from a systematic and educational perspective. A PhD candidate could explore these opportunities in a wide range of contexts, to be determined along with the supervisory team, to establish user focused solutions.

Candidate characteristics

Education:

Minimum 2:1 classification in Computer Science, Library and information science or Information Systems

Subject knowledge:

Systems design and user centred information systems

Essential attributes:

- Experience of carrying out user-centred research.
- Competent at collecting and analysing both qualitative and quantitative data.
- Good written and oral communication skills
- Strong motivation, with evidence of independent research skills relevant to the project
- Good time management

Desirable attributes:

- A strong interest in information behaviours and user focused system design.
Experience of prototype design and development skills.
- Programming competency