# **A close-up of a logo Description automatically generatedA blue and white logo Description automatically generatedEPSRC DLA application – Competency-based assessment**

# **Personal statement template**

**Overview**

Newcastle is committed to generating a diverse and inclusive doctoral community. We are looking to attract applicants from all backgrounds and believe this begins with the application process.

EPSRC DLA applications will be assessed not only on previous qualifications but will place a greater emphasis on prior experience, enthusiasm for research, and the ability to think and work independently. Excellent analytical skills and strong verbal and written communication skills are also essential requirements. A Masters qualification is not required if you have a minimum 2:1 at UG level or can evidence alternative experience in a work or research-based project. If you do not have a 2:1 UG degree, please contact us to discuss: [doctoral.college@ncl.ac.uk](mailto:doctoral.college@ncl.ac.uk)

We are adopting the EDEPI Competency-based framework: [Postgraduate-Researcher-Competency-Based-Admissions-Framework-and-Guidance.pdf](https://www.ntu.ac.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0019/2315413/Postgraduate-Researcher-Competency-Based-Admissions-Framework-and-Guidance.pdf)

**Instructions**

Please complete the questions in sections 1 - 3 below.

Please upload this file as part of your application as your personal statement. *If we do not receive this completed form your application will not be considered.*

AI notice: We have experienced reading AI generated answers and would strongly recommend you express your responses to the questions in your own voice. Our review panels are looking for genuine insights and authenticity is key in highlighting who you are, your passions and what drives you. Using AI may undermine the unique perspective you bring to your application and could detract from the opportunity to make a meaningful connection with the review panel.

**To apply**

[Sign in · Newcastle University Admissions Portal](https://applyto.newcastle.ac.uk/SignIn?returnUrl=/)

As part of your application, you must:

* Complete the PhD application form on the university application portal.
* Upload this competency assessment form where the application portal asks for a Personal Statement.
* Where a research proposal is requested, please enter the research title.
* Upload a CV
* Upload copies of previous qualifications, and language (if required)
* If you have any questions, please contact [doctoral.awards@ncl.ac.uk](mailto:doctoral.awards@ncl.ac.uk)

## **EPSRC DLA application**

## – Personal Statement & competency assessment

*Please complete this and upload this as part of your application documents.*

**Section 1. Your details**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name:** |  |
| **Project Title (advertised):** |  |

**Section 2. Personal statement**

1. Tell us about yourself, including your previous life experience (personally, academically, and work-based) including circumstances that have held back your progress, that has led to you wishing to pursue a PhD qualification. (500 words max)

Click or tap here to enter text.

1. Why this research project? (150 words max)

Click or tap here to enter text.

1. Do you consider yourself to have a protected characteristic? (<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/equality/equality-act-2010/protected-characteristics>) If yes, please provide details below. (150 words max)

Click or tap here to enter text.

**Section 3. Competency-based questions (150 words max each)**

1. Describe a situation you have encountered in either work or in a project where you had a number of alternatives to choose from. How did you go about choosing one? (150 words)

Click or tap here to enter text.

1. Tell us about the most effective presentation you have made. What was the topic? What made it difficult? How did you handle it? (150 words)

Click or tap here to enter text.

1. Tell us about a goal have you set for yourself that you have successfully achieved. How did you stay motivated? (150 words)

Click or tap here to enter text.

1. Describe a situation where you demonstrated that you can constructively handle setbacks. (150 words)

Click or tap here to enter text.

1. Tell us about a work or project situation where the rules and guidelines were not clear? Describe the situation. How did you feel about it? How did you react? (150 words)

Click or tap here to enter text.