



## WCIT Bursary in Tech

### Postgraduate research nomination and selection guidelines

#### **The Worshipful Company of Information Technologists and its Charity**

Founded in 1987, the Worshipful Company of Information Technologists (WCIT) takes pride in being the City of London's 100th Livery Company and one of the most relevant in our digital age.

The WCIT Charity is responsible for the Livery's charitable activities and is honoured to have been supported from the beginning of its journey by IT industry leaders such as Dame Stephanie Shirley CH.

The Charity's mission is to unlock the power of IT for good through public education, promoting the effectiveness and efficiency of charities, donating funds and by providing access to technology professionals. In its brief history it has achieved a huge amount, including helping to set up two independent charities – the Charity IT Association and Lifelites – plus establishing, in partnership with the Mercers' company, a new school in Hammersmith. It has supported hundreds of individual causes through grants totalling almost £4.5 million.

Now, in furtherance of its objectives, the WCIT Charity has established a bursary scheme for PhD level students.

The scheme is designed to be as inclusive and as flexible as possible to accommodate the differing backgrounds and requirements of applying institutions when selecting and nominating candidates. Before advertising the bursary scheme and before nomination, please note the following guidelines.

#### **We would particularly like to hear from you if your student...**

- Is currently pursuing or is holding an offer to pursue a PhD.
- Is a student of information technology or computer science, and that is the area of study or research for their PhD.
- Is a UK national ordinarily resident in England or Wales.

- May have some disadvantage (using the definition for higher education applied by the Turing Scheme) or have a strong case for extra financial support (taking into account any existing grants, bursaries or scholarships).
- May be a member of a group which is underrepresented at PhD level (such as an ethnic minority, those with a disability, mature students, and students who are first in their family to attend university).

And is willing to:

- engage with a WCIT liaison appointed by us in order to monitor the student's progress, which is an important means of demonstrating the efficacy and impact of the WCIT Bursary in Tech;
- attend a WCIT Livery Business Lunch during the bursary year (travel costs up to £150 will be reimbursed);
- give a presentation on their area of study or research at the end of the bursary year; and
- when completed and if requested, provide a copy of their thesis, for which the Charity shall reimburse the cost if the request is for a hard copy.

## Bursary details

1. Applying institutions should set up their own internal mechanism for advertising the WCIT Bursary in Tech and for selection of eligible candidates for consideration by the Charity. Please take full account of the guidelines above.
2. This call is for the academic year 2024-2025. We will award one bursary in this period.
3. A 'bursary' is to be considered as one sum granted by the Charity of £5,000 per successful candidate. If there is demonstrable need for an additional sum during the course of the bursary year, the case for such an additional sum should be made through the student's WCIT-appointed liaison.
4. All bursaries are for one year's duration.
5. Nominations can be made in recurrent years on behalf of the same candidate (up to maximum of the first three years of a PhD) on the strict understanding that the Charity cannot make a recurrent three-year commitment to any one candidate at the outset. We do not normally consider a nomination for a fourth year of a PhD if this consists largely of writing up a thesis.
6. Nominations should be made on the accompanying nomination form. Please note, the person identified and signing the form as 'nominator' must be authorised to accept any bursary granted to be received and dispersed by the institution to the successful student in accordance with point 10.
7. The deadline for applications is May 31, 2024.
8. Nominations will be assessed during June and results notified by July.
9. Successful nominees must confirm to the Charity within two weeks of notification whether or not they wish to accept the offer of a WCIT Bursary in Tech, and sign an Acceptance of Bursary letter to confirm this.
10. The Charity will pay the bursary to the institution for immediate disbursement to the successful nominee in full.

11. Payments of any bursary must be accompanied by a notice to the student confirming it as being in respect of the WCIT Bursary in Tech.

If you have any questions relating to the bursary, please contact the WCIT Charity Coordinator at [charity@wcit.org.uk](mailto:charity@wcit.org.uk) or call 020 7600 1992.