Application top tips

1. Find the right project and supervisor for you

There are a number of topics advertised for the SSCP DTP call, listed by department. Read through the projects that you are interested in and find out further information about the supervisor(s).

2. Reach out to your supervisor prior to applying

Make contact with the supervisor to discuss the project and whether this would be the right research for you, and to ensure that the supervisor meets your expectations, as well as discussing the expectations from the supervisor. Please remember, for the SSCP DTP 2022 call, you will need to complete the pre-application survey prior to contacting supervisors.

3. Read all material regarding the project, the SSCP DTP application process and the studentship

This will include information on what the SSCP DTP is, the scoring criteria for the application, and the project itself. It will help you prepare for the next stage. If you don't feel like you meet all the requirements of the DTP, there may also be other opportunities through the supervisor.

It is worth also making yourself aware of what the studentship includes. There is some further information on this on the studentship FAQ page. You may also like to explore the Imperial student support pages.

4. Address the project in your application

Tailor your application to show that you understand the project and highlight why this is the right topic for you. An overlap between any research you have done and the project is helpful for your application. You don't have to have direct experience with the tools/techniques described in the project, you can also highlight your ‘transferrable’ skills from other research that you have been involved with, demonstrating skills required for the project through a variety of previous experiences.

This can be done in your cover letter (max. 2 pages).

5. Address the scoring criteria in your application

The selection of candidates for this funding will be based on the scoring criteria. To help your supervisor and your application, make sure that your cover letter, CV, and referees address this.

6. Research your topic

Be prepared for when you may speak to the supervisor. Have a few anecdotes ready to show that you are informed and passionate about the research.

7. Speak to other students who work with your potential supervisor

Other students are often happy to provide advice and help. Find students who work with the supervisor(s), perhaps targeting other SSCP DTP PhD students first, if you want to know more about what research in the group is like.

8. Select your referees carefully
Your referees will be used in the selection process and their references will be important. When choosing your references, you may want to follow guidance from this article.

When submitting references, we ask referees do not use your name or gender specific language – we recommend using initials in place of your name.

9. Plan your time wisely

Ensure that you have everything prepared to meet deadlines, especially noting that Imperial College is closed 24 December - 2 January inclusive.