Your statement should be written in English and should focus on your motivation, research interests and career ambitions in the area of the CDT, rather than on other personal achievements, interests and aspirations.

**Your personal statement must be structured as follows, and answer each of the questions in individual separate sections**

Please be as specific and detailed as possible in your answers.  If possible, please ensure that the word counts are clearly displayed on the document.

Please include the question as headings to each section. The question itself need not contribute towards the word count.

You may also use your personal statement to explain any special circumstances relating to any element of your application that you wish to bring to the attention of the assessors.

1. **Give an overview of your academic education and professional career to date and how it led to an interest in conducting research in the fundamentals of AI? [250 words]**
2. **Describe a research project you have undertaken that involved the development of AI theory or methods. What was the problem you addressed? What was your contribution to the development of AI? Explain why an existing, off-the-shelf solution could not be used?   [Up to 400 words]**
3. **Describe a situation where you once made a programming error. How did you discover the error? How did you trace the source of the error? And how was it resolved? [Up to 250 words]**
4. **What makes the FOAI CDT more appropriate to you than other options for doctoral study? [Up to 150 words]**
5. **How could your interests support one or more of the** [EIT themes](https://www.eit.org/)**? [Up to 150 words]**

1. **\*If you are invited for interview, you will be asked to undertake some technical exercises. In order to help us determine appropriate questions for you, please tell us your current primary area of interest by selecting one option (ONLY) from the following:**
* **Foundations**
* **Applied**
* **Systems**

\*Please note that your response is only to help guide us with the interview process and does not commit you to this area if you were accepted on to the CDT programme. It will be normal for your ideas and goals to change in some ways as you participate in the programme and you are not committed to work in the specific subject area. You should nevertheless make the best effort to demonstrate your current interests and aspirations based on the definitions below:

**Foundations**. Researchers in this domain are primarily focused on deep mathematical analysis for the development and further understanding of concepts that have potential broad application to AI such as learning theory, optimisation and stochastic analysis. They may also undertake mathematical analysis of AI methods whose utility have been demonstrated through empirical studies but where theoretical insight has been absent.

**Applied**. Researchers in this domain are inspired by real-world problems and will focus on developing substantial modifications of foundational concepts to match the particular needs of applications examining issues such as multimodal data integration, missing data, experimental design and causality. They may consider existing heuristically designed AI methods that have demonstrated high performance in applications and reformulate using foundational concepts to improve and extend the use of these approaches.

**Systems**. Researchers in this domain are concerned with the design, deployment and/or maintenance of large scale AI systems. They could apply formal analysis to understand the properties of such AI systems or substantially adapt and develop foundational concepts to assist in the design of better systems. Research may address topics such as scalability, resource use, safety and algorithmic fairness.