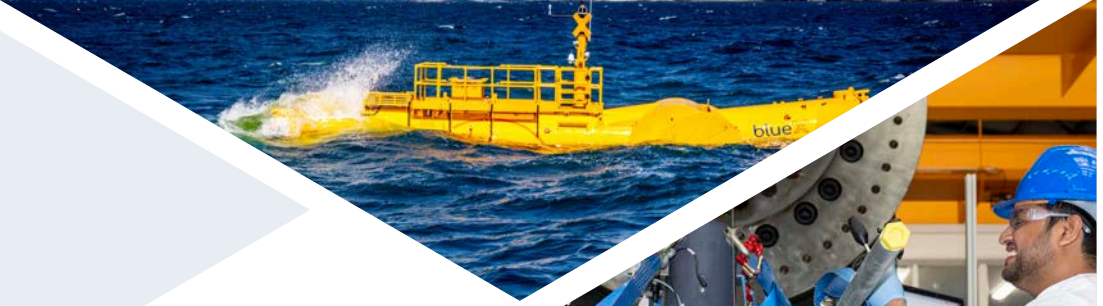

WINNER

THE SCOTTISH GREEN ENERGY AWARDS

CONTRIBUTION TO SKILLS AWARD

THE UNIVERSITIES OF EDINBURGH, STRATHCLYDE & EXETER AND THE SCOTTISH ASSOCIATION FOR FOR MARINE SCIENCES

FOR THE INDUSTRIAL CDT IN OFFSHORE RENEWABLE ENERGY

SPONSORED BY sse Renewables

IDCORE RESEARCH PROGRAMME

Sponsor world-class research and gain competitive advantage

Host a dedicated research engineer for a three year in-depth project of your choice that addresses technical challenges in the offshore renewable energy sector.

THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH

EDINBURGH INNOVATIONS

The projects we are developing now will be coming into operation in the early 2030s – we are expecting a lot of things to change in the offshore wind market between now and then.

As an organisation we are focussed on commercial delivery, but we also need to keep ourselves ahead of the changes that are coming. This is where Jonathan's project comes in. Floating offshore wind on the cusp of commercial deployment and the systems used for mooring them are a key area of risk that we need to manage. With Jonathan we get access to a resource with enough time to address these issues effectively. He has come to us with the right experience and skills to deliver the work, he is enthusiastic and resourceful and through his academic supervisors he gives access to some of the leading academic expertise in this area."

Chris Morris,
Bid Manager, Mainstream Renewable Power

About IDCORE

IDCORE (EPSRC Industrial Centre for Doctoral Training in Offshore Renewable Energy)* aims to attract world-class EngD students and, in partnership with industry, train them to deliver world-class research outcomes that will accelerate the deployment of offshore wind, wave and tidal-current technologies. We want to develop the next generation of thought leaders (Chief Technical Officers, Principal and Lead Engineers) in the Offshore Renewable Energy (ORE) sector. As a direct result, IDCORE has and will continue to deliver UK based technology to solving the energy trilemma by helping to produce secure, affordable, sustainable energy and drive the development of the blue economy.

IDCORE students undertake a year of focused technical and financial ORE teaching at university, so that students have a broad unparalleled training, giving students an understanding of not only engineering issues, but also the societal, economic, business, environmental and ecological context in which they are working. Engineers working in ORE must understand the broader engineering challenges, the needs of stakeholders and investors, and the concerns of regulators and NGOs.

The programme provides training, often from Industry partners, including from leading marine biologists, economists, social scientists and business people we ensure our students have the knowledge and understanding to hold meaningful conversations with, and learn from: stakeholders, regulators, policy makers, financiers and legislators. This cross disciplinary training ensures that our researchers are able to engage with engineers and scientists across a broad range of disciplines and are properly prepared to undertake industry-based research projects. This ensures every researcher starts their company placement equipped to deliver world-class research.

IDCORE also provides companies in the offshore energy industry with access to world-leading academic expertise, from all those in the collaborative partnership including the University of Edinburgh, University of Exeter, the University of Strathclyde, Swansea University and the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS).

IDCORE is recognised across the sector with companies providing multiple testimonies about how impactful their IDCORE research has been, culminating in 2021, when IDCORE won the Contributions to Skills Award at the Scottish Renewables, Green Energy Award.

* Grant EP/Y035119/1

Benefits

- Significant leverage on research investment
- Involvement in research engineer recruitment and training
- High quality researchers dedicated to your organisation
- Participation in IDCORE activities such as the Interdisciplinary Group Project and the annual assembly/company day
- Added value through interaction with other IDCORE research engineers and their sponsors
- Opportunity to coordinate research efforts across the sector
- Collaboration with leading academic researchers and institutions
- Access to world-class research facilities
- A high profile national programme

It should be noted that any Intellectual Property developed through the project will be assigned to the company and all projects will be covered by a studentship agreement including confidentiality and IP clauses.

> *SSE is proud to partner with the IDCORE research programme. As a long term partner, we are continuously impressed by the level of talent and commitment the research engineers/graduates bring to our teams across all aspects of offshore energy. From renewables to networks, IDCORE is a key partnership for SSE with an exceptional standard for research and talent, bringing Scotland closer to Net Zero.''*
>
> **Dr Gianna Huhn,**
> Head of Future Programmes

Courtesy of **Orbital Marine Power**

Tom's project is actively pursuing an important innovation for us, something that is making a real difference to our development, but which was too early stage for us to have been able to dedicate resources to ourselves at the current stage of our development pathway. In this sense, both IDCORE and Tom have enabled us to accelerate the process and bring it onto our development pathway several years ahead of our original plans. When we conceived the project, we never expected that it would progress as far as trialling a prototype within IDCORE. This is taking it from a medium- to long-term concept to something that we are looking to implement in the short- to medium-term.

The competition for IDCORE students is stiff and we were really disappointed when we didn't manage to secure a further project this year – we will be back!"

Bevan Wray,
Project Engineer, HydroWing

Industry-led research project

IDCORE's projects are developed and driven by the industrial partner with every research project proposed and directed by the sponsoring company. We are looking for companies to provide challenging, needs driven, projects to some of the most challenging areas facing the offshore renewable sector, that require original solutions.

Projects can focus on any aspect of offshore renewable energy and it is hoped that these projects will make an original contribution to the company's activities and practices or to knowledge for the sector.

Consortia (multi-sponsor) projects are also encouraged to enable research topics of wide interest to be addressed. Proposals are expected to fit with the vision of IDCORE as well as with the needs of the industrial sponsor.

Previous students have worked on research projects with sponsors such as Berwick Bank Offshore Wind Farm, Ossian Offshore Wind Farm, EDF, Orbital Marine Power, EMEC, The Crown Estate, HydroWing, Frazer-Nash Consultancy, Quoceant, Xodus, Mainstream Renewable Power, Mocean Energy, Nova Innovation, Offshore Renewable Energy Catapult, Scottish Power Energy Network, SSE, QED Navel, and Wood Group.

How to get involved

Industry partners can gain access to the IDCORE programme by proposing a three-year research project based on specific technology and research challenges. Successful companies are then invited to sponsor an Engineering Doctorate student to work on the project and host the EngD student for a three year research project period, (after a year spent in the host academic institution) in order to provide experience of working in an industrial environment.

The Engineering Doctorate students will be matched through a two day interactive matching process where the companies present to the cohort of students and then interview the students interested in undertaking their project. This matching event ensures that companies are paired with students who have interest in their project and the skills to undertake the project.

Hannah is really good at what she does and is making some significant impact with her research – we are learning things together. For us, value is delivered through our knowledge, skills and competency rather than discrete products and our relationship with IDCORE is certainly helping with this. The primary objective for the project has been to translate our knowledge from other sectors into engagements with the offshore wind sector and in doing so to create new knowledge that we can transfer back in the other direction. Participating in an EngD project has been a new experience for us and one that we are definitely looking to repeat, especially if Hannah is representative of the quality of the researchers we can work with."

Nigel Pready,
Group Leader, Frazer-Nash Consultancy

I am delighted to be a member of IDCORE. The opportunity to learn in a collaborative environment has been incredibly rewarding. The hybrid supervision from both academic and industry gives me the opportunity to make the best of both worlds. This format provides the knowledge and support for us to tackle complex and applied research topics. Our opportunity to work with industry partners means that our research is always relevant. I feel very fulfilled in the knowledge that I will be directly contributing to this industry and see my impact."

Joshua Mitchell,
IDCORE Researcher, 2023 Cohort

What next?

We are currently looking for companies who are interested in projects starting in June 2026. Research engineers will be matched with the projects in February 2026 and they will begin working for their sponsoring companies in June 2026.

The sponsored research engineers will remain placed with the companies until August 2029, working full-time on either a single research project or on several linked projects.

The IDCORE programme provides industry partners the opportunity to sponsor a dedicated research engineer for £20,000 a year for three years.

Project deadline

Open Expression of Interest for project outlines

1 December 2026	**Deadline for submitting project outlines**
18-19 February 2027	**Researcher and Companies Matching Event**
1 June 2027	**Project start date**

To discuss opportunities:

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www.idcore.ac.uk

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SAMS Scottish Association for Marine Science

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