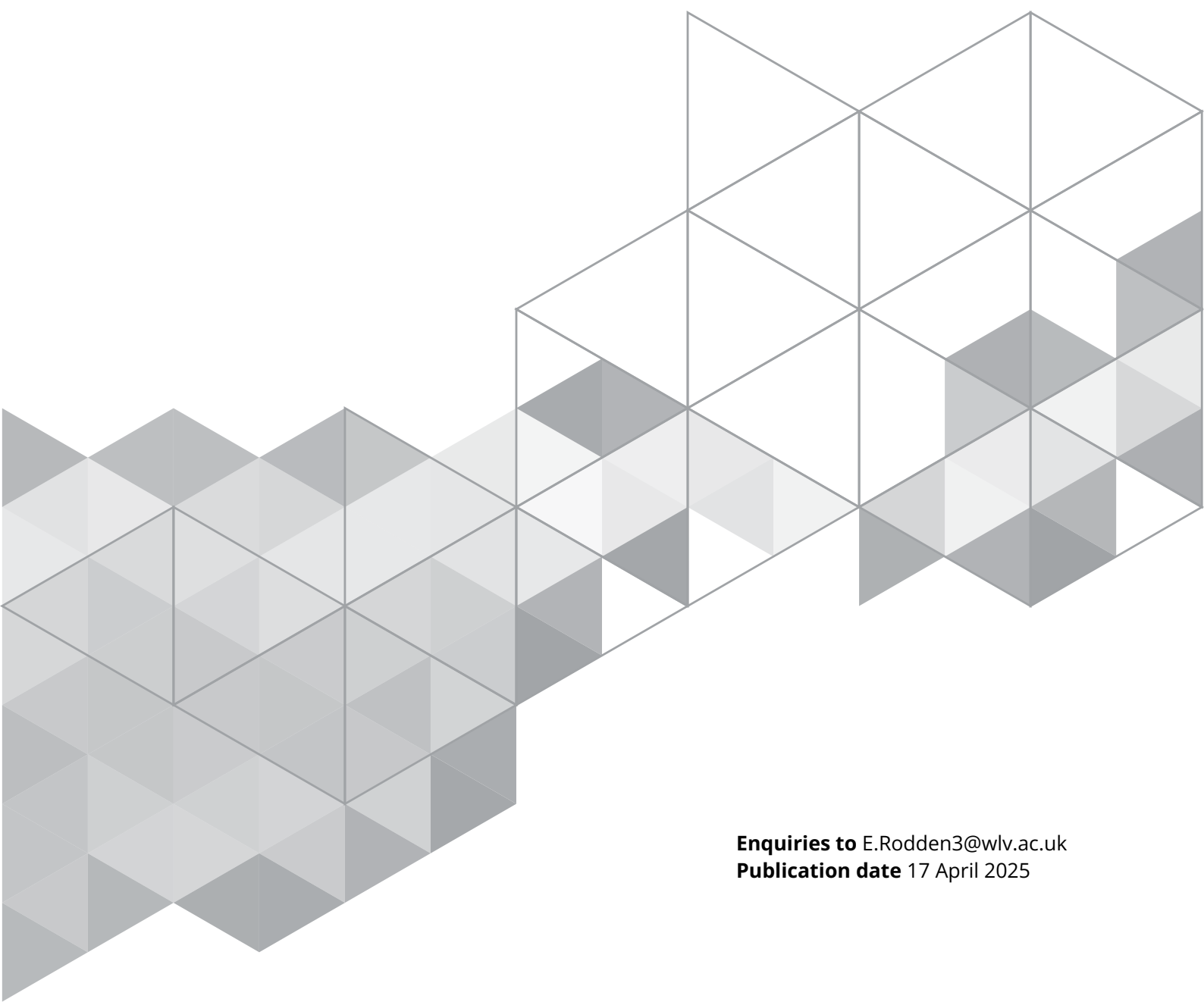


Dr Vinita Nahar

OpenBright Scholarship

PhD Scholarship for Women

Applications of Data Science
and/or Artificial Intelligence



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This document provides comprehensive details about the Dr Vinita Nahar **OpenBright** Ph.D. Scholarship, including eligibility criteria, the application process, and associated terms and conditions. It is intended as a reference for prospective applicants, prospective Directors of Studies, academic staff, and relevant stakeholders, ensuring that all parties are aligned with the scholarship's objectives, **OpenBright**'s mission, and the University of Wolverhampton's policies and procedures. This scholarship has been generously established as a one-time award by **OpenBright** in memory of Dr. Vinita Nahar.

The Dr. Vinita Nahar **OpenBright** Scholarship invites proposals for technology-driven research that seeks to address important societal challenges. We are looking for projects that incorporate a substantial technological element and aim to make a positive and meaningful impact on society. Research may span a variety of areas, including but not limited to software development, health technologies, digital inclusion, smart systems, and other emerging technologies that can solve real-world problems. This Scholarship is in line with **OpenBright**'s mission to empower women in technology and promote inclusive innovation. We welcome a wide range of proposals that use technology to create lasting societal change and advance progress in critical fields.

Applications are now invited for a fully funded, three-year Ph.D. Scholarship set to commence in February 2025. The scholarship offers an annual stipend of £19,237, with yearly adjustments in line with inflation, paid directly to the successful candidate. Additionally, the University will cover tuition fees for home students. This scholarship has been generously established by **OpenBright** in memory of Dr. Vinita Nahar, our esteemed colleague, who sadly passed away in 2023.



About OpenBright

OpenBright is a grant-making foundation and a registered charity in England (no. 1190215). Established in 2020, OpenBright supports women in developing university-level research projects through grants and awards. This [website](#) provides more information about their aims and ethos. OpenBright has previously collaborated with the University of Wolverhampton on funding opportunities for women conducting research in technology.



About Vinita

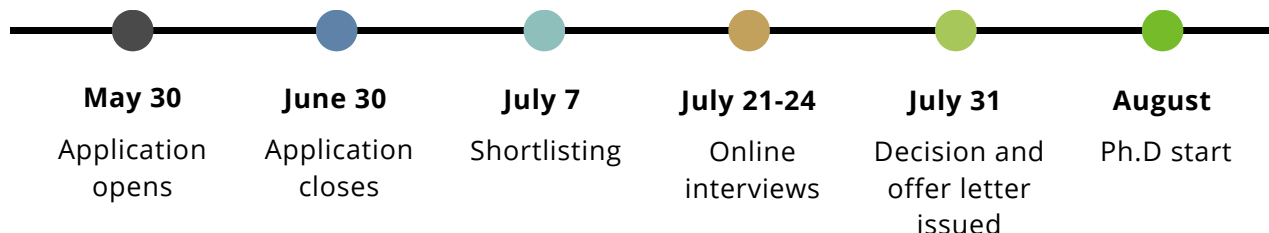
Vinita joined the University of Wolverhampton in 2014 as a postdoctoral researcher in the Research Institute for Language Processing. Her work focused on applying data science and artificial intelligence tools to tackle problems related to linguistics & natural language processing, and all of her work was focused on societal impact to support disadvantaged communities. This included projects to tackle cyberbullying, to better understand holocaust testimonies and to support those with visual impairments and other disabilities.

Vinita was an extremely well-liked and well-respected member of our staff community. She showed an outstanding commitment to her work. She cared passionately about her students and her research, and she worked for several years to support our students through the **OpenBright** scheme which supports awards to women for research in computing.

The University will be supported by **OpenBright** and the Faculty of Science & Engineering to recruit an outstanding female student as the recipient of the scholarship.

The anticipated timeline is as follows:

Timeline, 2025



1. The Successful Ph.D. Candidate

1.1 To be eligible for the Scholarship, applicants must meet the University of Wolverhampton's standard entry requirements for research degrees, which include the following:

- A first or upper second class honours degree, or
- A master's degree, or
- Alternative qualifications or evidence of prior learning or practice, as accepted by the Pro-Vice Chancellor for Research and Knowledge Exchange.

The successful candidate will be selected through the University's standard Ph.D. application process, which includes the following:

- Submission of required documents via the University's online application portal.
- Eligibility checks to verify academic qualifications and ensure compliance with the University's entry requirements.
- Review of the application by the relevant academic department.
- Shortlisting of applicants based on the strength of their application and alignment with the scholarship's objectives.
- Interview with a panel consisting of academic staff and **OpenBright** representatives.

1.2 To reflect the cross-disciplinary nature of the selected project, the successful candidate must have educational or alternative qualifications relevant to the proposed research. Applicants from a wide range of academic backgrounds are encouraged to apply.

1.3 The successful candidate must self-identify as a woman.

1.4 Applicants for the Scholarship are required to submit the following documents as part of their application:

1.4.1 Research Proposal: A detailed outline of the proposed research, demonstrating its academic merit and potential impact.

1.4.2 Curriculum Vitae (CV): A current CV detailing academic qualifications and relevant experience.

1.4.3 Personal Statement/Letter of Motivation: A statement outlining the applicant's motivation, research interests, and suitability for the proposed project.

1.4.4 Academic Reference: An academic reference supporting the applicant's suitability for research study.

1.4.5 Letter from Prospective Director of Studies: A letter from a prospective Director of Studies confirming the validity of the proposed research.

1.4.6 English Language Proficiency (if applicable): Proof of English proficiency for international students, such as IELTS results.

1.5 A shortlist of candidates will be selected from the pool of applicants. Shortlisted candidates will be invited to attend an interview panel, which will include a representative from the School of Engineering, Computing and Mathematical Sciences, a Research Leader from the University, and a representative from **OpenBright**.

1.6 The scholarship is open to both home and international applicants.

1.6.1 The University will cover the successful candidate's tuition fees up to the value of the home student rate, currently £4,786 per annum for full-time Postgraduate Research programs in the 2024/25 academic year. ([Further funding information](#))

1.6.2 International applicants are eligible to apply; however, they will be responsible for covering the difference between the home tuition fee rate and the international tuition fee rate. For full-time Postgraduate Research Programs in the 2024/25 academic year, the home fee rate per annum is £4,786, and the international tuition fee rate per annum is £15,950. The successful candidate will be responsible for paying the difference, £11,164, per annum.

1.6.3 Tuition fees are subject to annual increases in line with inflation, for the duration of the program, up to the maximum registration period of four years.

1.6.4 The successful candidate in the final stages of their programme may apply for a reduced write-up fee of £1,000, which will be charged for a maximum of 12 months. If the written thesis is not completed and submitted within this 12-month period, full fees will apply for the remainder of the maximum registration period.

1.6.5 For full terms and conditions regarding tuition fees, applicants should consult the Research Student Handbook.

2. The Scholarship Process

2.1 The proposed project should provide the opportunity for the successful chosen woman to engage in collaborative multi-disciplinary research with internal and external groups as part of their studies.

2.2 The proposed project should explore the application of technology to address societal challenges and contribute to positive change. The project may involve collaborative research with both internal and external partners, supporting the university's broader strategic priorities. It should align with the university's goals as outlined in Strategy 2035: Creating Opportunity, Transforming Futures. Key considerations for the proposed project include:

2.2.1 Technological Focus: The project must involve the application of technology to tackle important societal issues. This may encompass artificial intelligence, data science, or other cutting-edge technologies.

2.2.2 Societal Impact: The research should be aimed at supporting disadvantaged communities, addressing global challenges, or contributing to societal well-being. While the focus can vary, projects that engage with accessibility, sustainability, or public health are particularly relevant.

2.2.3 Collaboration and Interdisciplinary Research: Projects that involve collaborative efforts with internal and external partners, or that integrate knowledge across disciplines, are highly encouraged.

For further details, please refer to the full strategy [here](#).

2.3 Stipends will be paid directly by the University of Wolverhampton to the successful candidate in accordance with standard procedures.

3. The Supervisory Team

3.1 The supervisory team for the successful candidate will consist of a Director of Studies (DoS) and at least one Secondary Supervisor (SS), in accordance with University of Wolverhampton's regulations. Key criteria for the supervisory team include:

3.1.1 The DoS should not currently hold the position of Professor.

3.1.2 The team must have experience in supervising Ph.D. students to successful completion.

3.1.3 The inclusion of early career researchers within the team is welcomed, in line with the University's commitment to supporting diverse career trajectories.

3.1.4 Supervisory teams with external collaborations, either with other academic institutions or industry partners, are particularly encouraged.

Applications for the Dr. Vinita Nahar **OpenBright** Ph.D Scholarship should be submitted through the University of Wolverhampton's online application portal [here](#). The application deadline is **Monday 30th June, 2025**. All required documents, including the research proposal, CV, and academic reference, must be uploaded via the portal.

For informal inquiries or additional guidance on the application process, please reach out to Emily Rodden at E.Rodden3@wlv.ac.uk.

We look forward to receiving your application and wish you the best of luck.