

# Network Rail-Sponsored PhD Studentship

Fully-funded PhD opportunity at the Institute of Railway Research (IRR) on:

## Dynamic Analysis of Wind Loads on Overhead Line Equipment (OLE)

The University of Huddersfield's Institute of Railway Research (IRR), in collaboration with Network Rail, is inviting expressions of interest for an industry-focused PhD opportunity.

### Why This Research Matters?

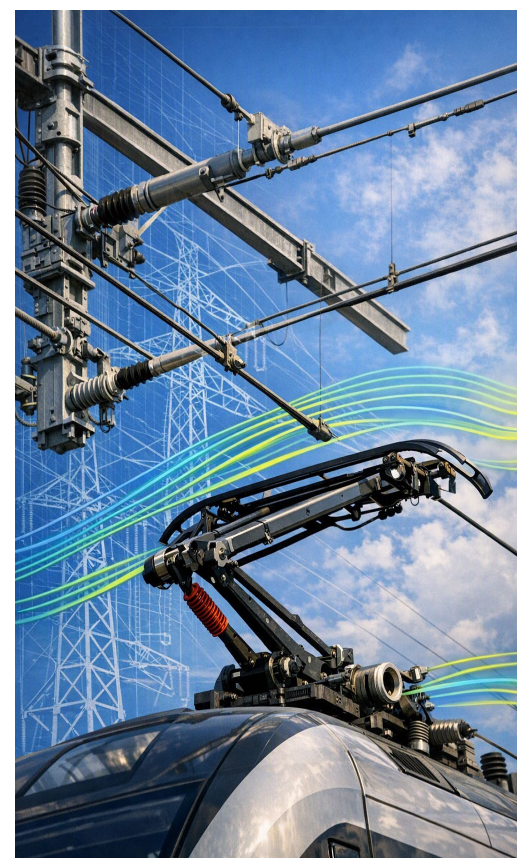
Wind loads can disrupt the pantograph's contact with the overhead wire, risking power loss and costly damage. As climate change brings more extreme weather, this research helps engineers design more resilient railway electrification.

### Project Aim

You'll develop new wind-load modelling capability for PantoCat, an industry-leading simulation tool, working with real Network Rail case studies to build skills valued across the rail engineering sector.

### Industry Impact & Novelty

This is genuinely pioneering research, with strong industry links through Network Rail. The work you develop can directly shape UK's railways while you earn valuable experience, skills and knowledge.



### Studentship Benefits

- ✓ Tax-free stipend of **£22,000 per year for three years**
- ✓ **Network Rail** sponsorship and industrial collaboration
- ✓ Access to **real railway engineering** data and technical expertise
- ✓ Hands-on research experience on real-world infrastructure challenges
- ✓ Open to UK and international students

**Expressions of interest with CV must be submitted by 31 October 2026**

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