



How to apply

Step-by-step guide on how to make a University application (Applicant Portal)

1. Check your eligibility

2. Select your course

3. Contact supervisor(s)

(Applicants for the PhD and MPhil **must** identify a **supervisor** and **agree** on a research project **before** submitting their application. You do not need to identify a supervisor for the MPhil in Basic and Translational Neuroscience or MPhil in Developmental Biology)

4. Look at sources of funding

5. Check deadlines you are working towards (funding or application – whichever comes first)

Please note these deadlines are for applicants for courses starting in Michaelmas 2022, Lent 2023 and Easter 2023. Students starting their courses in Lent or Easter 2022 are no longer eligible for the University Funding Competition.

Gates USA Competition deadline is

12 midday (BST) on Wednesday 13 October 2021

The PDN application deadline for the University funding competition is

12 midday (BST) on Thursday 6 January 2022

6. Apply online via the Applicant Portal:

(for applicants applying for admission in October 2022, January 2023 and April 2023)

Applicant Portal

Please read on for more detailed guidance

Eligibility and entrance requirements:

Graduate study at the University of Cambridge is intense and very intellectually demanding, so the University has high academic entry requirements. You are normally expected to hold or to have achieved by the start of your course:

- minimum of a good 2:1 honours degree from a UK university or an equivalent standard from an overseas university in a relevant biological subject; and
- completion of, or release from, any current training or education course

To check if your international qualification meets the University minimum requirement, please consult the [International section](#) of the University website.

Entry requirements: you should be aware that meeting the University's or departments' minimum academic requirements does not guarantee entry; it is only one of the factors taken into account when academic selectors make their decision. Many other factors are also important, such as suitability for the course, proficiency in English, relevant experience, references, availability of a suitable supervisor, and the number of available places.

Competence in English: if English isn't your first language, you will be required to submit evidence that you meet the University's English language requirement before you are admitted to your proposed course of study.

[FAQ for international students](#)

Widening participation: We are committed to widening participation at postgraduate level.

Decide which course to apply for:

[PhD in Physiology, Development and Neuroscience](#)

[MPhil in Biological Science \(Physiology, Development and Neuroscience\)](#)

The [PhD](#) degree normally involves a minimum of three or maximum of four year course of research, although part-time degrees are now possible. The [MPhil](#) degree is a one year course of research. Both culminate in the submission of a dissertation which is defended in an oral examination. Training involves a combination of instruction from within the research group, learning the skills and developing research experience on a day-to-day basis, and formal training courses. The latter are designed to develop extra technical and transferable skills.

Other courses hosted by PDN

[MPhil in Basic and Translational Neuroscience](#) (Additional course information)

[Mphil in Developmental Biology](#)

There is a single round of admissions each year for the following list of funded programmes and studentships. Deadlines will be published on their webpages.

[University of Cambridge - MRC Doctoral Training Programme](#) (*To be confirmed*)

[Centre for Trophoblast Research](#)

[Wellcome Trust/MRC 4 year International PhD Programme in Stem Cell Biology](#)

[Cambridge 4 year British Heart Foundation Programme in Cardiovascular Research](#)

Finding a supervisor

Applicants for the PhD and MPhil **must identify a supervisor and agree on a research project** before submitting their application.

Find a supervisor and research project area from the groups listed in the [PDN research themes](#)

Make contact with the supervisor(s) by email/telephone to find out more information about possible projects. You are advised to do this as early as possible.

Note: You do not need to identify a supervisor before applying for the following courses: MPhil in Basic and Translational Neuroscience, MPhil in Developmental Biology

Funding:

Look into the [costs and fees](#) for postgraduate training in Cambridge.

The University operates a [Postgraduate Funding Competition](#) to co-ordinate some of the funding opportunities and make the process easier for you as an applicant. You can also use the links below to help you find out which you might be eligible for, and how and when to apply.

[Funding Search Tool](#) *Search awards administered by the University of Cambridge (departments, faculties, colleges, central offices and other internal sponsors)*

There are several funding opportunities at Cambridge for prospective postgraduate students, from a wide variety of sources including the [Cambridge Trust](#), [Gates Cambridge](#), [Vice-Chancellor's Awards and Cambridge International Studentships](#), [Harding Distinguished Postgraduate Scholars Programme](#), [Colleges](#) (check information on individual College websites), Departments (research groups may have specific funding for students from time to time, these will be advertised on this webpage), [Research Councils](#) and central University funds.

There are two deadlines to consider when applying for funding, the application deadlines and the funding deadlines. Application for both is via the same online form but you must apply by whichever deadline comes first. Which this will be depends on the course and your status as explained at this link: <https://www.graduate.study.cam.ac.uk/application-process/application-deadlines>

**The PDN application deadline for the [University funding competition](#) is
[12 midday \(BST\) on Thursday 6 January 2022](#)**

(for applicants applying for admission in October 2022, January 2023 and April 2023)

Students from the USA who wish to be considered for the Gates USA competition need to apply much earlier as their deadline is:

**Gates USA Competition deadline is
[12 midday \(BST\) on Wednesday 13 October 2021](#)**

[External funding](#)

[FindAPhD.com](#) *Helpful information on sourcing funding for graduate studies.*

[Student Loans](#)

[Vacancies pages](#) *Individual studentships may be advertised on the University of Cambridge*

Selecting a College

For guidance and tips on how to select a College see: [overview](#) and [how to choose a College](#)

Making your application

All applications must be made using the:

Applicant Portal

Application fee

The Postgraduate School of Life Sciences has a scheme which enables three applications to be made with payment of a single £75 application fee. A list of eligible courses and further information can be found [here](#). All PDN courses are covered by this scheme.

Information is also provided on eligibility for [application fee waivers](#)

We recommend you read the information at the following links:

[How do I apply](#)

[Graduate Admissions Pages](#)

[Supporting documentation](#)

[University guide to applying](#)

[References](#)

[What happens next](#)

Hopefully most of your questions will be answered. For other queries please refer to our [FAQ guide](#) which is available on our website.