



How to apply

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

Please Note: an updated version of this guide will be added to this link in September 2022

1. Check your eligibility (see page 2 of this document)

2. Select your course (see page 2 of this document)

3. Contact supervisor(s) (see page 3 of this document for detailed guidance on finding a supervisor)

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. Admissions for the course starting in October 2023 will open in September 2022.

4. Look at sources of funding (see page 3 of this document)

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

Please note the next round of the University Funding Competition for admission in October 2023, January 2024 and April 2024 will open in September 2022.

Applicants applying for courses starting in January 2023 or April 2023 are no longer eligible for the University Funding Competition.

Gates USA Competition deadline is

Date to be confirmed

The PDN application deadline for the University funding competition is

Date to be confirmed

6. Apply online via the Applicant Portal:

(for applicants applying for admission in January 2023 and April 2023. The next admission round for entry in October 2023, January 2024 and April 2024 will open in September 2022.)

Applicant Portal

Please read on for more detailed guidance

Eligibility and entrance requirements:

Postgraduate 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. *Note:* You do not need to take the language test before you apply. If you are made a conditional offer and have not already met our language requirements, one of the conditions of your offer will be that you pass a test at the required level. Please note that test results only remain valid for two years.

[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 and is also available as a part-time degree. 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

(Note: if applying for entry in October 2023, January 2024 or April 2024, full details will be published from September 2022 onwards)

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

New from September 2022: [The MPhil in Biological Sciences](#) is offered by the Faculty of Biology as a full-time period of advanced study and research, and introduces students to research skills and specialist knowledge in the Faculty's key research areas or 'pathways'. These include:

- Biomolecular Science
- Cell Science
- Crop Science
- Developmental Biology
- Infection Biology & Molecular Immunology
- Reproduction & Embryology

Applications will open in early September 2022 permitting prospective students to apply directly to the pathway of their choice.

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](#)

[Cambridge Biosciences DTP PhD Programme](#)

[Centre for Trophoblast Research \(see - PhD Studentships\)](#)

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

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 MPhil in Basic and Translational Neuroscience

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 (not applicable for January or April 2023 applicants. 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
Date to be confirmed

(for applicants applying for admission in October 2023, January 2024 and April 2024)

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
Date to be confirmed

[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 if applying for entry in January or April 2023. 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.