How to apply

Step-by-step guide on how to make a University application

(Applicant Portal)

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.

4. Look at sources of funding (see pages 3-4 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 on 15 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
   **Wednesday 12 October 2022, at 23:59 (UK time)**

   The PDN application deadline for the **University funding competition** is
   **Thursday 5 January 2023, at 23:59 (UK time)**

6. Apply online via the Applicant Portal:

   **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.

Contextual Admissions pilot
The course to which you are applying is piloting an additional step in the application process for postgraduate study this year. We are including this step to improve contextualised understanding of your application. The additional step will be presented to you as part of your main application process on the Cambridge Graduate Applicant Portal. For more information about what the pilot aims to do and how your data will be used, please see here.

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

**MPhil in Basic and Translational Neuroscience** *(Additional course information)*

From October 2023, the MPhil in Developmental Biology will be one pathway in the multi-pathway MPhil in Biological Sciences by Advanced Study. To apply for October 2023 entry, please see: [https://www.postgraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/courses-directory/mbbimbsby/apply](https://www.postgraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/courses-directory/mbbimbsby/apply)

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.

**PDN SBS DTP PhD Studentship** *(further information)*

Continued on next page...
The **Alexander Crummell fully funded Scholarships** for PhD students and MPhil students are aimed at home (UK fee rate) students with **Black or Black-Mixed ethnicity**, applying for a degree in a science-based subject at the University of Cambridge starting in October 2023. Further information is at:

- AC PhD studentship(s): [https://www.postgradschl.lifesci.cam.ac.uk/funding/alexander-crummell-phd-scholarships](https://www.postgradschl.lifesci.cam.ac.uk/funding/alexander-crummell-phd-scholarships)
- AC MPhil studentships: [https://www.postgradschl.lifesci.cam.ac.uk/funding/alexander-crummell-mphil-scholarships](https://www.postgradschl.lifesci.cam.ac.uk/funding/alexander-crummell-mphil-scholarships)

**The application deadline is: 5 January 2023.**

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**University of Cambridge - MRC DTP iCASE Programme** - closing date 1 December 2022  
**Cambridge Biosciences DTP PhD Programme** - closing date 1 December 2022  
**Centre for Trophoblast Research (see - PhD Studentships)** – closing date 7 November 2022  
**Wellcome Trust/MRC 4 year International PhD Programme in Stem Cell Biology** - closing date 6 January 2023  
**PhD Studentship – Avian iPSCs and Cerebral Organoids (for admission in Easter Term 2023)** - closing date 1 December 2022

Applicants to the MPhil in Basic and Translational Neuroscience course based in the School of Biological Sciences (SBS), who have received a conditional offer of admission to start in October 2023, are eligible to apply for an SBS Master’s Bursary Award in support of their studies here at Cambridge, subject to the eligibility criteria listed on this [webpage](https://www.postgradschl.lifesci.cam.ac.uk/funding/alexander-crummell-mphil-scholarships).

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**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 [PND research themes](https://www.postgradschl.lifesci.cam.ac.uk/funding/alexander-crummell-mphil-scholarships). 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

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**Funding:**

Look into the [costs and fees](https://www.postgradschl.lifesci.cam.ac.uk/funding/alexander-crummell-mphil-scholarships) for postgraduate training in Cambridge.

The University operates a [Postgraduate Funding Competition](https://www.postgradschl.lifesci.cam.ac.uk/funding/alexander-crummell-mphil-scholarships) 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](https://www.postgradschl.lifesci.cam.ac.uk/funding/alexander-crummell-mphil-scholarships), [Gates Cambridge](https://www.postgradschl.lifesci.cam.ac.uk/funding/alexander-crummell-mphil-scholarships), [Vice-Chancellor's Awards](https://www.postgradschl.lifesci.cam.ac.uk/funding/alexander-crummell-mphil-scholarships) and [Cambridge International Studentships](https://www.postgradschl.lifesci.cam.ac.uk/funding/alexander-crummell-mphil-scholarships). 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. See the ["Postgraduate funding at Cambridge" YouTube video](https://www.postgradschl.lifesci.cam.ac.uk/funding/alexander-crummell-mphil-scholarships)

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](https://www.graduate.study.cam.ac.uk/application-process/application-deadlines)

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**The PDN application deadline for the University funding competition is**  
**Thursday 5 January 2023, at 23:59 (UK time)**

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

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**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 vacancies page
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
Full details on whether there is an application fee for the course you are applying to can be found at this link

The PhD in Physiology, Development and Neuroscience course is exempt from the application fee (if you are applying for admission in Michaelmas Term 2023 or beyond).

If you are applying for admission to the PhD in Lent Term 2023 or Easter Term 2023 you will need to pay an application fee of **£75** before you can submit your application.

For MPhil in Biological Sciences (Physiology, Development and Neuroscience) applicants for admission in Michaelmas Term 2023, Lent or Easter Term 2024 you will need to pay an application fee of **£50** before you can submit your application. Note: The Postgraduate School of Life Sciences has a scheme which enables three applications to be made with payment of a single application fee. A list of eligible courses and further information can be found here.

For MPhil in Basic and Translational Applicants for admission in Michaelmas Term 2023, you will need to pay an application fee of **£50** before you can submit your application. Note: The Postgraduate School of Life Sciences has a scheme which enables three applications to be made with payment of a single application fee. A list of eligible courses and further information can be found here.

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.