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DEAR STUDENT,

The NIH OxCam Graduate Partnership Programme is a highly selective doctoral research programme that attracts some of the most outstanding students into the biomedical research field.

The Programme has been extremely successful since its inception in 2001. This booklet offers helpful information about the University of Oxford and the application process, which we hope you will find useful as you work through the various steps as an NIH OxCam applicant.

For more detailed information, please visit the NDM website: www.ndm.ox.ac.uk/nih-oxford-cambridge-scholars-programme or feel free to contact us, we would be delighted to help.

I’m an American Immunologist and cell biologist who has been working at Oxford for seven years. As such my own experience is very relevant to US-based students spending time in Oxford, and I’m always happy to share this experience.

Professor Mike Dustin
Program Scientific Director, Oxford

WHY CHOOSE OXFORD?

Oxford University ranked number 1 in the Times Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings for the fourth year running, and at the heart of this success is our ground-breaking research and innovation.

In the THE subject rankings for 2020, Oxford is, for the ninth year running, ranked first in the world for Clinical, Pre-Clinical and Health subjects.

According to the 2014 Research Excellence Framework, the official UK-wide assessment of all university research, Oxford has the largest volume of world-leading research in the country.

Over 91% of Oxford leavers are employed or in further study six months after graduating.

“Graduate students are central to the University’s research efforts. They join our academic staff in working to answer fundamental questions and tackle some of the major challenges facing the world today”
Oxford University doesn’t have a campus—the University and its colleges are spread across the beautiful city of Oxford.

Oxford is one of the most culturally diverse cities in the UK, with a vibrant and cosmopolitan community. Home to two major universities, it has some 40,000 students, almost a quarter of the city’s population, who come from all over the world.

In Oxford, you’re never far away from green spaces—there are parks, gardens and meadows throughout the city, which is also surrounded by rolling countryside. The rivers running through the city give rise to Oxford’s famous traditions of rowing and punting, with miles of scenic waterways to enjoy.

Importantly, Oxford is also well known as a safe city. It has Purple Flag status and the Complete University Guide ranks Oxford in its top ten safest student cities.

Where will I be based?
As a member of the NIH Ox-Cam Programme you are in the privileged position to be able to choose a supervisor from anywhere in the University. Most NIH students will be based in the University Science Area or Old Road Campus.

Where will I live?
Your college will have some graduate accommodation which you can apply for (the earlier the better), otherwise students find their own accommodation. The graduate accommodation office can help with this.

How will I get around?
Oxford is a small city: it’s easy to get where you want to go, with most of the city readily accessible on foot. Cycling is a popular option: Oxford is known as a ‘cycling city’, and many students find it to be a great way to get around. There are cycle shops all over the city, as well as options for hiring a ‘dockless’ bike for short periods. There is also a comprehensive bus service including the Science Shuttle which connects the main science areas.
As a University of Oxford student you will need to pass certain milestones in order to progress through your DPhil.

**Probationer Research Student (PRS)**

All DPhil students are enrolled onto their programme with a PRS status. At an appropriate time before the end of the 4th term from admission, as advised by your supervisors, it will be necessary to apply for transfer to DPhil status. You will need to write up a short report on your work to date and present this to your assessors at a viva. The purpose of the transfer process is to ensure that you have a convincing research proposal, that you are making satisfactory progress in its development, and to satisfy the assessors that the work is potentially of DPhil quality. You will need to pass this milestone by your 4th term even if you are located away from Oxford at the time. You can either come to Oxford to carry out this viva or you can request to carry it out via Skype (or similar).

**DPhil status**

Once you have passed your Transfer of Status you will achieve DPhil status. The next milestone is Confirmation of Status which should take place ideally in your 8th term and not later than your 9th term. The purpose of the confirmation procedure is to determine whether you have made adequate progress since transfer of status and to ascertain whether or not you will be in a position to submit for examination in due course. This milestone involves another viva and can be carried out remotely if needed.

**Thesis submission**

Having transferred to DPhil status within your first six terms and then, secondly, confirmed your DPhil status in your ninth term, you are permitted to submit a thesis for examination.

**Defending your thesis (The oral examination or viva)**

You will need to come to Oxford for this examination and will need to wear academic dress. You will be examined by an internal and external examiner.

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**Support**

As an NIH Ox-Cam student at Oxford you will become a member of:

- The NIH programme
- The University of Oxford
- Your Division (e.g. Medical Sciences Division)
- Your Department (e.g. Nuffield Department of Medicine)
- Your centre / institute / building (e.g. The Jenner Institute)
- Your college (e.g. Keble College)

Each of these memberships come with academic and/or pastoral support. In addition to your two DPhil supervisors (mentors) you will also be assigned an academic tutor from your college. Your supervisory team are there to help you progress through your studies and help deal with any problems should they arise.

Your college will also have someone you can turn to for welfare and pastoral support should you find yourself struggling. There are also various central University support services (such as counselling) that are available to you.

In addition to the academic support from your supervisors and the pastoral support from various parts of the university you will also be able to access a huge amount of research support, specialist IT training, careers advice, skills training and much more to help you get the most out of your DPhil experience.

To top it off there are many clubs and societies to join and the chance to join in the many different sports opportunities from rowing to quidditch!

"The University is committed to providing a safe, supportive environment for all students. The Oxford Student website offers a more comprehensive view of the welfare services and resources."

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The application process

Once you have been made an offer after the February interviews, you can start your Oxford application. We would strongly advise you to apply early (even if you are not sure where you are going to end up) as the earlier you complete your application, the more likely you are to get accommodation.

1. **Apply online** to the *DPhil in Biomedical Sciences (NIH OxCam)* programme
   If you have not yet decided on a supervisor you can list Professor Mike Dustin as your supervisor and we can update this at a later stage.

   We can reuse the references that you gave for your NIH application. Please enter Referee1 (referee1@ox.ac.uk), Referee2 (referee2@ox.ac.uk) and Referee3 (referee3@ox.ac.uk) in the references section and tick the boxes saying that you are happy for the referees to be contacted. This should enable you to submit your application.

2. **Meet your conditions**
   You will need to send in hard copies or certified digital copies of your transcripts to meet your departmental conditions.

3. **College allocations**
   Once you have met your departmental conditions, your application will be passed to the colleges for review. If you apply before 3 March you will automatically be allocated a place. After the March deadline we will need to find a college place for you. Once a college has decided to accept you, you will receive a conditional offer from the college which will ask for evidence of your funding arrangements. This letter will come from NIH.

4. **University Card form**
   Once you have met your college conditions, you will be sent a University Card Form which forms your final contract with the University.

5. **Ready to enrol**
   Upon receipt of your university form your application status will change to ‘ready to enrol’ which you can do in person or remotely to complete the process to become an ‘enrolled’ student.

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**Accessibility**

*The Disability Advisory Service provides information and advice on disability issues and facilitates support for those with, for example, sensory or mobility impairments, long-term health conditions, specific learning difficulties, autistic spectrum conditions or mental health difficulties.*

At Oxford over 3,000 students have declared a disability. We’re committed to making reasonable adjustments and addressing any individual support requirements to make sure that you’re able to participate fully and enjoy a fulfilling university experience.

The University provides an online Access Guide with information on the accessibility of its buildings, gardens, galleries and museums. Before you decide on a College (when you submit an application to the University), you might consider contacting the Disability Advisory Service, which can provide you information on various colleges and housing resources, as well as steps on how to register with the DAS to provide information about yourself that can help the University better work with you.

Once you visit the University, you can consider scheduling visits at buildings you will frequently use. Please also feel free to connect with the Graduate Studies Advisor with any NIH–Oxford-specific questions at nih@medsci.ox.ac.uk.
As a graduate student, your course structure, content, teaching and supervision will be arranged by your University department, and will be the same regardless of which college you belong to.

Oxford's colleges have a lot in common. However, each college is unique, and this rich variety is part of what makes the Oxford experience so special. Most graduate students quickly settle in and enjoy their college, even if they chose another college as their preference.

For NIH students the distance from your place of work (most NIH students are based at the Science Area or Old Road Campus) and the number of graduate bedrooms are probably the key factors to consider (see chart on next page).

Our student immigration team are here to help you and guide you through this process. They can be contacted on: student.immigration@admin.ox.ac.uk

As soon as you have completed your application you should also start receiving regular updates from the University about visa applications. Please make sure that you follow the advice. If you are not planning on coming to Oxford at all for the first year and do not plan on getting a visa for year 1, please make sure to let the visa team know this.

You will also need to apply for an ATAS certificate before you can apply for your visa so please make sure that you look out for information about this too.

Please take time to familiarise yourself with visa processes: www.ox.ac.uk/students/visa
### NIH College Chooser

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>College</th>
<th>Accommodation*</th>
<th>Old Road Campus**</th>
<th>Science Area**</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Balliol</td>
<td>Single, en-suite(79) Single, standard(84)</td>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brasenose</td>
<td>Single, en-suite(43) Single, standard(48)</td>
<td>2.9</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campion Hall</td>
<td>Single, en-suite(12)</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christ Church</td>
<td>Single, standard(73) Family(33)</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>1.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corpus Christi</td>
<td>Single, standard(46)</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>0.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exeter</td>
<td>Single, en-suite(87) Single, standard(18)</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green Templeton</td>
<td>Single, en-suite(167) Single, standard(106)</td>
<td>3.4</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harris Manchester College</td>
<td>Single, en-suite(11) Single, standard(6)</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hertford College</td>
<td>Single, en-suite(71) Single, standard(107)</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>0.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jesus College</td>
<td>Single, standard(56) Flats(75)</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keble College</td>
<td>Single, en-suite(227) Single, standard(2)</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kellogg College</td>
<td>Single, en-suite(142) Single, standard(112)</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lady Margaret Hall</td>
<td>Single, en-suite(32) Single, standard(49)</td>
<td>3.2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linacre</td>
<td>Single, en-suite(28) Single, standard(152)</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lincoln</td>
<td>Single, en-suite(109) Single, standard(28)</td>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magdalen</td>
<td>Single, en-suite(27) Single, standard(107)</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Merton</td>
<td>Single, en-suite(93) Single, standard(63)</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oriel</td>
<td>Single, en-suite(42) Single, standard(29)</td>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pembroke College</td>
<td>Single, en-suite(18) Single, standard(17)</td>
<td>2.4</td>
<td>1.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somerville College</td>
<td>Single, standard(29) Single, standard(24)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Anne’s College</td>
<td>Single, en-suite(80) Single, standard(13)</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>0.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Includes on site and off site accommodation (Further accommodation for couples and families may also be available)

** Distance in miles from college (cycle route)

See: [https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/student-life/accommodation?wssl=1](https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/student-life/accommodation?wssl=1)
What about when I am abroad?

You will be an Oxford student throughout your studies and will need to follow Oxford processes even when you are abroad

Important events in your DPhil career where you would be expected to attend in person (but may be able to apply to carry out remotely):

**Registration**
You can register online, but are expected to pick up your University Card from your college. Please let your college know if you will not be picking up your card in person.

**Matriculation**
You have to matriculate in person in your first year (there are normally ceremonies once per term). Most students will matriculate on Saturday of orientation week (10 October 2020). If you will not be able to attend matriculation in your first year, please email nih@medsci.ox.ac.uk to request permission to defer until you will be in Oxford.

**Transfer and Confirmation of Status vivas**
We would prefer you to carry these out in person, but you can attend these vivas remotely with permission from the proctors. Please email nih@medsci.ox.ac.uk to request this.

**Defending your thesis / oral examination / viva**
You must come to Oxford for this.

**Award ceremony**
This is where you will be given your degree certificate and your status will be changed to 'Conferred' (the final stage of your degree). You can confer your degree in absentia via student self-service.

NIH students at Oxford: a selection of thesis titles to date

- Protein folding investigated by NMR spectroscopy
- Biochemical Determinants of Nitric Oxide Synthesis in Severe Malaria
- Mechanisms of Clinical Ototoxicity and Inner Ear Protection
- An Autophagy Related Single Nucleotide Polymorphism in Artemisinin-Resistant Plasmodium falciparum
- Insights from Primary Immunodeficiencies: Investigating the Role of GIMAP6 in the Immune System
- Imaging of HIV-1 Spread from T Cells and Macrophages to Astrocytes
- Modulation of immune cell niches for therapeutics in cancer and inflammatory diseases
- Examining the contribution of dentate gyrus granule cells and ambiguity toward the stress response and behaviour of the rodent
- Structural, biochemical and computational studies of TRP channel transmembrane domain modularity
- Molecular biophysics of strong DNA bending and the RecQ DNA helicase
- Alpha-Synuclein in Parkinson’s Disease: Molecular Pathogenesis and Development of Genome Engineering-Based Silencing Approaches
- Characterisation of the Effect of Dopamine on the Neural Coding of Reward-Based Learning and Decision-MakingPre-clinical and clinical evaluation of the malaria vaccines RH5-VLP and PFSPZ vaccine
- The role of type I interferons in regulating intestinal inflammationInvestigation of Genetic Determinants of Drug Response in a Plasmodium falciparum Genetic Cross Using a HighThroughput Screening Method
- The social and biological effects of patient-patient co-presence on health in hospitals using electronic medical records
- Polymer Carriers of Toll-Like Receptor-7/8 Agonists as Vaccine AdjuvantsThree-Dimensional Geometric Image Analysis for Interventional Electrophysiology
- Identifying genetic determinants of impaired PfEMP1 export in Plasmodium falciparum-infected erythrocytes
- Towards the development and evaluation of a transmission-blocking vaccine for Plasmodium falciparum malaria
- Generation of Chimeric P-Glycoprotein for Functional and Structural Investigations
WHERE NIH STUDENTS HAVE BEEN BASED TO DATE

Big Data Institute
Biochemistry
Chemistry
Department of Physiology, Anatomy and Genetics
Department of Engineering Science
Oxford Immunology Group
Institute of Rheumatology
Kennedy Institute of Rheumatology
Ludwig Cancer Research
Nuffield Division of Clinical Laboratory Sciences
Nuffield Department of Clinical Neurosciences
Nuffield Department of Medicine
Nuffield Department of Surgical Sciences
Department of Oncology
Department of Paediatrics
Sir William Dunn School of Pathology
Department of Pharmacology
Experimental Psychology
Department of Psychiatry
Radcliffe Department of Medicine
Said Business School
The Division of Structural Biology
The Wellcome Centre for Human Genetics

KEY DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 March 2020</td>
<td>Next admissions deadline (applications can still be made after this date as long as they are finalised by 21 August 2020)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 - 20 June 2020</td>
<td>Annual workshop and orientation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 August 2020</td>
<td>Admissions close for 2020 entry (all applications must be completed by this date for a 2020 start)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 October 2020</td>
<td>Induction breakfast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 - 9 October 2020</td>
<td>Orientation week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 October 2020</td>
<td>Matriculation (tbc with your college)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 October 2020</td>
<td>Start of Michaelmas Term</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November (tbc)</td>
<td>New starters drinks and prize giving (with dinosaurs!)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 December 2020</td>
<td>End of Michaelmas Term</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 January 2021</td>
<td>Start of Hilary Term</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 March 2021</td>
<td>End of Hilary Term</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 April 2021</td>
<td>Start of Trinity Term</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 June 2021</td>
<td>End of Trinity Term</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 June - 9 October</td>
<td>Long vacation (DPhil students continue to work during this period)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CONTACT DETAILS

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