

Course Information Sheet for entry in 2024-25: DPhil in Physiology, Anatomy and Genetics



Course facts

Mode of study	Full Time Only
Expected length	3 to 4 years

About the course

The DPhil (a PhD at other universities) in Physiology, Anatomy and Genetics offers a wide range of research topics within a large multi-disciplinary and world-renowned department, spanning a diverse spectrum of research areas from neuroscience, cardiac science, ion channels transporters and signalling, metabolism and endocrinology, development and reproduction to neurobiology of sleep and circadian rhythms.

In the first instance, applicants are advised to identify potential supervisors in Physiology, Anatomy and Genetics, based on their research area of interest. You will then nominate a supervisor on the application form together with the agreed research project title. As science advances, projects may or may not change.

Your research will be conducted at Oxford under the supervision of academic staff who are at the forefront of developments in your chosen research project area. You will explore your research subject area to new depths and have the opportunity to present your findings to members of the international scientific community with whom, one day, you may well collaborate. DPhil students research full-time for three to four years under the supervision of experienced supervisors.

After attending the new graduate students' induction day, you will again meet your supervisor and fellow group members. You will complete an Analysis of your Training Needs (TNA) with your supervisor and then attend any training courses from the divisional flexible skills training programme which you will need in your research project. The courses on the toolkit include a range of workshops and seminars in transferable skills, generic research skills and specific research techniques which may be pertinent to your DPhil research area. You will have access to regular departmental seminars and peer presentation groups for fine tuning presentation deliverance alongside graduate student social events which incorporate informal talks aimed at students. Examples are Public Speaking and Securing Your First Postdoc Job, Careers, Poster Presentation and from seminars talks in various themes from eminent worldwide scientists, to talks on local research being conducted in the department. Special lectures are given to recognise previous famous scientists of the department and will vary in subject.

You will be encouraged to submit termly reports on your progress and report courses undertaken. Your supervisor will also contribute to your termly reports. Students are encouraged to volunteer as one of several student representatives in their second year of study, to sit on various committees, to host seminar speakers and to arrange student social events.

Supervision

Applicants are encouraged to communicate with potential supervisors prior to submitting an application to agree the research topic proposed by the applicant. The allocation of graduate supervision is the responsibility of the Department of Physiology, Anatomy & Genetics and it is not always possible to accommodate the preferences of incoming graduate students to work with a particular member of staff. Under exceptional circumstances a supervisor may be found outside the Department of Physiology, Anatomy and Genetics.

Students are likely to formally meet with their supervisors on a monthly basis while informal meetings are encouraged and may occur more frequently concerning the science. All students in the Medical Sciences Division are required to have a co-supervisor in place once the programme of study is underway.

Assessment

At the end of your first year or start of the second year, you will prepare and undertake the first milestone, Transfer of Status from Probationer Research Student (PRS) status to DPhil status, for which you will submit a written report describing your research to date and plans for the future. This will be assessed by two independent experts, who interview you as part of the process. The Transfer of Status milestone is generally undertaken towards the end of the third term and no later than the fourth term of the programme. At this point of the programme, you should have established relevant methodology and collected some preliminary data.

When you successfully pass the Transfer of Status, your next milestone is Confirmation of Status which will be no later than your ninth term (end of third year). At the Confirmation of Status, you give a full thesis outline and timeline within the application, then at the Confirmation viva, you will give a presentation to outline everything you have completed to date that will be in your thesis. The Confirmation of Status assessment is appraised by two experts. Subject to confirming your status,

you will then write up your thesis for submission and defend the thesis at your Viva Voce examination. The Confirmation of Status milestone is generally undertaken from the eighth term on course and no later than the ninth term of the programme.

Changes to this course

The University will seek to deliver this course in accordance with the description set out above. However, there may be situations in which it is desirable or necessary for the University to make changes in course provision, either before or after you commence your course. These might include significant changes made necessary by any pandemic, epidemic or local health emergency. For further information, please see the University's Terms and Conditions (<http://www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/terms>) and our page on changes to courses (<http://www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/coursechanges>).

Costs

Annual fees for entry in 2024-25

Fee status	Annual Course fees
Home	£9,500
Overseas	£31,480

Information about course fees

Course fees are payable each year, for the duration of your fee liability (your fee liability is the length of time for which you are required to pay course fees). For courses lasting longer than one year, please be aware that fees will usually increase annually. Information about how much fees and other costs may increase is set out in the University's Terms and Conditions (<http://www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/terms>).

Course fees cover your teaching as well as other academic services and facilities provided to support your studies. Unless specified in the additional cost information (below), course fees do not cover your accommodation, residential costs or other living costs. They also don't cover any additional costs and charges that are outlined in the additional cost information.

Graduate students who have reached the end of their standard period of fee liability may be required to pay a termly University and/or a college continuation charge.

The University continuation charge, per term for entry in 2024-25 is £628, please be aware that this will increase annually. For part-time students, the termly charge will be half of the termly rate payable by full-time students.

If a college continuation charge applies (not applicable for non-matriculated courses) it is likely to be in the region of £100 to £600. Please contact your college for more details, including information about whether your college's continuation charge is applied at a different rate for part-time study.

Additional cost information

There are no compulsory elements of this course that entail additional costs beyond fees (or, after fee liability ends, continuation charges) and living costs. However, please note that, depending on your choice of research topic and the research required to complete it, you may incur additional expenses, such as travel expenses, research expenses, and field trips. You will need to meet these additional costs, although you may be able to apply for small grants from your department and/or college to help you cover some of these expenses.

Living costs

In addition to your course fees, you will need to ensure that you have adequate funds to support your living costs for the duration of your course.

The likely living costs for 2024-25 are published below. These costs are based on a single, full-time graduate student, with no dependants, living in Oxford. We provide the cost per month so you can multiply up by the number of months you expect to live in Oxford.

Likely living costs for one month

	Lower range	Upper range
Food	£315	£495
Accommodation	£745	£925
Personal items	£190	£320
Social activities	£40	£95
Study costs	£35	£85
Other	£20	£35
Total	£1,345	£1,955

Likely living costs for nine months

	Lower range	Upper range
Food	£2,835	£4,445
Accommodation	£6,705	£8,325
Personal items	£1,710	£2,880
Social activities	£360	£855
Study costs	£315	£765
Other	£180	£315
Total	£12,105	£17,595

Likely living costs for twelve months

	Lower range	Upper range
Food	£3,780	£5,940
Accommodation	£8,940	£11,100
Personal items	£2,280	£3,840
Social activities	£480	£1,140
Study costs	£420	£1,020
Other	£240	£420
Total	£16,140	£23,460

When planning your finances for any future years of study at Oxford beyond 2024-25, it is suggested that you allow for potential increases in living expenses of 5% or more each year – although this rate may vary depending on the national economic situation.

More information about how these figures have been calculated is available at www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/livingcosts.

Document accessibility

If you require an accessible version of this document please contact Graduate Admissions and Recruitment by email (graduate.admissions@admin.ox.ac.uk) or via the online form (<http://www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/ask>).