

Course Information Sheet for entry in 2026-27: Chemical Synthesis for a Healthy Planet (EPSRC CDT)



Course facts

Mode of study	Full Time Only
Expected length	4 years

About the course

The EPSRC CDT in Chemical Synthesis for a Healthy Planet (CSHP CDT) is a four-year course focused on training the next generation of synthetic chemists to tackle emerging and future challenges in Human Health, Energy & Materials, and Food Security.

Delivered jointly by the Universities of Oxford and York, the CSHP CDT programme comprises taught courses and a substantive research project. Student cohorts will work together in a four-month training period at both Oxford and York, before embarking on their main PhD projects. These substantive projects will be based at either the Department of Chemistry in Oxford, or the Green Chemistry Centre of Excellence at York.

Our CDT brings together over forty academics across two universities, ten industrial partners that have been substantially involved in the design of the programme and will co-develop and co-supervise PhD projects, and ten SMEs who will offer complementary expertise and training opportunities.

The CDT begins with a four-month taught course, based predominantly in Oxford, which will equip students with the contemporary tools and knowledge in sustainable chemical innovation that will be needed for substantive research projects. Training modules, alongside team-building challenges and personal development activities provide training to appreciate the links between synthetic chemistry and the physical, ecological and human systems of the planet, nurturing the capacity to think and work across discipline boundaries. During the taught course, the entire cohort will spend two weeks at the Green Chemistry Centre of Excellence at the University of York, to receive bespoke expert training in 'Sustainability in Synthesis'.

At the conclusion of the 16-week taught course, the students join the research groups for their substantive projects, which they will have chosen prior to the start of their course. These can focus on any of the three global challenges of Human Health, Food Security, and Energy and Materials.

To learn more about the research topics you'll have the opportunity to explore, please refer to the *Research areas* section on this page.

During all four years of the course students also receive a tailored programme designed to broaden their research and professional skills, including an industrial placement opportunity.

Attendance

The course is full-time and requires attendance in Oxford. Full-time students are subject to the [University's Residence requirements](https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/after-you-apply/accommodation/residence-requirements). ([//www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/after-you-apply/accommodation/residence-requirements](https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/after-you-apply/accommodation/residence-requirements))

As part of the course, you will be required to attend a two-week course at the University of York.

Provision exists for students on some courses to undertake their research in a 'well-founded laboratory' outside of the University. This may require travel to and attendance at a site that is not located in Oxford. Where known, existing collaborations will be outlined on this page. Please read the course information carefully, including the additional information about course fees and costs.

Resources to support your study

As a graduate student, you will have access to the University's wide range of resources including libraries, museums, galleries, digital resources and IT services.

The Bodleian Libraries is the largest library system in the UK. It includes the main Bodleian Library and libraries across Oxford, including major research libraries and faculty, department and institute libraries. Together, the Libraries hold more than 13 million printed items, provide access to e-journals, and contain outstanding special collections including rare books and manuscripts, classical papyri, maps, music, art and printed ephemera.

The University's IT Services is available to all students to support with core university IT systems and tools, as well as many other services and facilities. IT Services also offers a range of IT learning courses for students to support with learning and research, as well as [guidance on what technology to bring with you as a new student](https://www.it.ox.ac.uk/what-to-bring) (<https://www.it.ox.ac.uk/what-to-bring>) at Oxford.

The majority taught courses on the CSHP CDT during the first year will be held in the Doctoral Training Suite in the Rodney Porter Building at Oxford. There is a dedicated student office, with individual desk areas and allocated computers.

You will work in an environment which encourages and inspires you to acquire and develop a wide range of communication, study, and research skills. Workspace will be related to individual circumstances. If undertaking experimental work, you will be provided with space in a laboratory with access to all the required equipment. If undertaking theoretical research, you will have shared office space.

You will have access to the departmental IT support staff, to the Radcliffe Science Library and other university libraries, and centrally provided electronic resources and technical workshops.

Experimental facilities are available as appropriate to the research topic. The provision of other resources specific to your project should be agreed upon with your supervisor as a part of the planning stages of the agreed project.

In the event of the need for pastoral care, support is available from your college, from the project supervisor, and the course management team.

Supervision

The allocation of graduate supervision for this course is the responsibility of the Department of Chemistry 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 Chemistry.

You may also have an industrial supervisor from one of the CSHP CDT partner companies.

Most students typically have the opportunity to meet with their supervisor(s) or a senior member of the research team on at least a weekly basis.

Assessment

All modules during the taught course component involve some aspect of formal assessment, including written reports, problem solving, and group and individual presentations. Throughout the project component of the course, a termly report on the student's progress is submitted by both the student and their supervisor.

You will be admitted as a Probationary Research Student and, at an appropriate stage (normally after four terms), you will undergo a Transfer of Status assessment, to ensure they have the potential to gain a doctorate, in line with the University's graduate student progression guidelines. This assessment is made by independent assessors on the basis of overall performance in the taught course component, together with a project report, a short presentation and an oral examination. Assuming that you satisfactorily transfer to DPhil status, your research proceeds with quarterly reporting throughout the rest of your course.

At the beginning of your fourth year, you must pass the Confirmation of Status assessment, to ensure that you are on track to complete the thesis within a reasonable time.

You will be expected to submit a DPhil thesis within, at most, four years from the date of admission. Your thesis will be read by two examiners, one of whom is normally from Oxford and one from elsewhere, and you will be assessed via the thesis and an oral (viva voce) examination. The examiners will judge, along with other requirements, whether you have made a significant and substantial contribution to your particular field of learning.

Research areas

The CDT's host institutes – the Department of Chemistry at the University of Oxford, and the Green Chemistry Centre of Excellence at the University of York – offer a truly diverse range of research interests that spans many fields of chemical synthesis and technological innovation. The CSHP CDT programme will take advantage of many complementary themes to develop cutting edge chemistry, while focusing on training that embeds sustainable, circular chemistry in the mindset of our cohorts.

Students in the CSHP CDT undertake a 44-month substantive research project in sustainable synthetic chemistry, focussing on any of the three global challenges:

- Human Health
- Food Security
- Energy and Materials

To enable significant and long-term research goals to be tackled, research projects will be clustered into four Project Fields:

- Reaction Innovation
- Rethinking & Upcycling Feedstocks, Solvents and Waste
- Intersecting with Pharma/Agrochemistry
- Intersecting with Organic Materials.

The CSHP CDT has established an integrated academic-industry training partnership. In addition to contributing to the design and delivery of the programme, our partners co-develop and co-supervise PhD projects, with all projects involving a 2–4-month placement at industry partner sites, providing access to partner facilities and the expertise of their employees.

Before applying to the CDT, applicants are encouraged to read through the available research projects and list their three preferred projects in order of preference in their application form. Applicants will need to apply directly to the host institution of their preferred projects.

Changes to this course

The University will seek to deliver this course in accordance with the description set out in this course page. 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 registration. The safety of students, staff and visitors is paramount and major changes to delivery or services may have to be made if a pandemic, epidemic or local health emergency occurs. In addition, in certain circumstances, for example due to visa difficulties or because the health needs of students cannot be met, it may be necessary to make adjustments to course requirements for international study.

Where possible your academic supervisor will not change for the duration of your course. However, it may be necessary to assign a new academic supervisor during the course of study or before registration for reasons which might include illness, sabbatical leave, parental leave or change in employment.

For further information please see our page on [changes to courses](http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/courses/changes-to-courses) (<http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/courses/changes-to-courses>) and the [provisions of the student contract](http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/after-you-apply/your-offer-and-contract) (<http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/after-you-apply/your-offer-and-contract>) regarding changes to courses.

Costs

Annual course fees

The fees for this course are charged on an annual basis.

Fees for the 2026-27 academic year at the University of Oxford

Fee status	Annual Course fees
Home	£10,470
Overseas	£34,700

What do course fees cover?

Course fees cover your teaching as well as other academic services and facilities provided to support your studies. Unless specified in the additional information section 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 costs information below.

How long do I need to pay 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 fees will usually increase annually, as explained in the University's [Terms and Conditions \(//www.ox.ac.uk/students/new/contract\)](https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/new/contract).

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

The University continuation charge, per term for entry in 2026-27 is £656, 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 will be between £150 and £500, as explained in our [information about continuation charges \(//www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/fees-and-other-charges/continuation-charges\)](https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/fees-and-other-charges/continuation-charges). 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.

Where can I find more information about fees?

Our [fees and other charges \(//www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/fees-and-other-charges\)](https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/fees-and-other-charges) pages provide further information, including details about:

- [course fees and fee liability \(//www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/fees-and-other-charges/courses-fees-and-liability\)](https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/fees-and-other-charges/courses-fees-and-liability);
- [how your fee status is determined \(//www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/fees-and-other-charges/fee-status\)](https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/fees-and-other-charges/fee-status);
- [changes to fees and other charges \(//www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/fees-and-other-charges/changes-to-fees-and-charges\)](https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/fees-and-other-charges/changes-to-fees-and-charges); and
- [continuation charges \(//www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/fees-and-other-charges/continuation-charges\)](https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/fees-and-other-charges/continuation-charges).

Information about how much fees and other costs will usually increase each academic year is set out in the University's [Terms and Conditions \(//www.ox.ac.uk/students/new/contract\)](https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/new/contract).

Additional costs

This course includes compulsory elements that entail additional costs beyond fees (or, after fee liability ends, continuation charges) and living costs. During the taught element of the course, all students will be required to spend two weeks at the University of York for a bespoke course on the concepts of 'Sustainability in Synthesis'; travel and accommodation costs for this will be covered by the CDT for those students in receipt of a full CDT studentship award. In addition, 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. CDT-funded studentships come with an additional research training support grant (RTSG) to contribute to costs of associated research and travel during the substantive project.

Living costs

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

Living costs for full-time study

For the 2026-27 academic year, the range of likely living costs for a single, full-time student is between £1,405 and £2,105 for each month spent in Oxford. We provide the cost per month so you can multiply up by the number of months you expect to live in Oxford. Depending on your circumstances, you may also need to budget for the [costs of a student visa and immigration health surcharge](https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/living-costs) (<https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/living-costs>) and/or [living costs for family members or other dependants](https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/living-costs#field_listing_content_content-item--2) (https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/living-costs#field_listing_content_content-item--2), that you plan to bring with you to Oxford (if [dependant visa eligibility criteria](https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/visa/before/family) (<https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/visa/before/family>) are met).

Further information about living costs

The current economic climate and periods of high national inflation in recent years make it harder to estimate potential changes to the cost of living over the next few years. For study in Oxford beyond the 2026-27 academic year, it is suggested that you budget for potential increases in living expenses of around 4% each year – although this rate may vary depending on the national economic situation.

A breakdown of likely living costs for one month during the 2026-27 academic year are shown below. These costs are based on a single, full-time graduate student, with no dependants, living in Oxford.

Likely living costs for one month in Oxford during the 2026-27 academic year

	Lower range	Upper range
Food	£315	£545
Accommodation	£825	£990
Personal items	£160	£310
Social activities	£50	£130
Study costs	£35	£90
Other	£20	£40
Total	£1,405	£2,105

For information about how these figures have been calculated as well as tables showing the likely living costs for nine and twelve months, please refer to the [living costs](https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/living-costs) (<https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/living-costs>) page of our website.

Document accessibility

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