

Course Information Sheet for entry in 2026-27: Generative Biology (EIT DTP)



Course facts

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

About the course

The Generative Biology Doctoral Training Programme (DTP) is a 4-year DPhil course designed to train doctoral researchers in cutting-edge areas of generative biology.

The DTP will engage its students on original doctoral research projects, guiding and training them to produce significant and substantial contributions to their fields of study. The DTP forms part of the long-term strategic alliance between the University of Oxford and the Ellison Institute of Technology (EIT), which aims to develop innovative solutions and foster future leaders to tackle some of the greatest challenges facing humanity.

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

You will start working on your research project from the outset, developing your research skills through hands-on learning in the laboratory of your supervisor. Supervisors will ensure that a development plan is put in place for every student, guiding them to take full advantage of relevant lecture courses and training modules within the University that will contribute to the academic development of their research.

The DTP will host regular lunchtime seminar sessions, as well as an annual symposium, where you can present your research in an high-trust environment between peers and enjoy social time together. Over time, the DTP will plan for some of these sessions to also include students from other programmes at Oxford to enable networking and knowledge exchange. The DTP will also organise funded retreats where students and supervisors spend a consolidated block of time together as a group, discussing science outside of the normal context and strengthening their working relationships.

Subject to progress, there will also be opportunities for students to suspend status and undertake internships at EIT allowing them experience of working on different projects in a commercially focused environment.

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). (<https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/after-you-apply/accommodation/residence-requirements>)

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.

For students who are admitted to a 'Teal' project, their main place of work will normally be the Generative Biology Institute at the Ellison Institute of Technology, based 4 miles outside of Oxford city centre. Otherwise, students will be based in the lab of their Oxford supervisor, in their home department.

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.

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. A supervisor may be found outside the Department of Chemistry.

All students will have at least one University supervisor to guide and support them throughout the course. Students who are admitted to 'Teal' projects will also have an EIT-based supervisor who takes the lead role in directing the research project. Students admitted to 'Fuchsia' projects may also have an EIT-based supervisor, if their project involves collaborative work between EIT and the University, or they may be supervised solely by their University supervisor(s). Most students typically have the opportunity to meet with their supervisor(s) or a senior member of the research team on a weekly or fortnightly basis.

Assessment

Throughout the 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 that you 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 a project report, a short presentation and an oral examination. Assuming that you satisfactorily transfer to DPhil status, your research proceeds with quarterly reporting on progress throughout the rest of your course. By the end of your third 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.

Course components

To supplement the academic learning objectives of the programme, cohort-level training throughout the programme will develop the transferable skills that are essential for both effective research and the world beyond academia. This will lay the groundwork for you to plan, carry out and present your research to the highest standards. The number of training courses you undertake will be guided by discussions with your academic supervisor.

You will also have the opportunity to undertake training in leadership and innovation, provided by EIT, which can be taken at intervals most appropriate for you and your specific research priorities.

Research areas

Key topics and themes will focus on fundamentals of generative biology, reflecting the breadth and depth of the research experience of the supervisory pool consisting of EIT and University of Oxford investigators. It is anticipated that research proposals will focus on the key challenges in making biology engineerable and therefore have the potential to impact, directly or indirectly, on:

1. The ability to write in the natural language of biology; *and*
2. The ability to understand which DNA sequences will generate biological systems that perform the desired functions.

As part of your application, you will be required to select your preferred projects from two project lists ('Teal' projects and 'Fuchsia' projects, with at least one project chosen from each category).

Students who are admitted to a 'Teal' project will primarily be based in the Generative Biology Institute (GBI) at the Ellison Institute of Technology, Oxford Science Park.

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](https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/courses/changes-to-courses) (<https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/courses/changes-to-courses>) and the [provisions of the student contract](https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/after-you-apply/your-offer-and-contract) (<https://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. For those students in receipt of a full CDT studentship award, an additional research training support grant (RTSG) to cover costs of associated equipment, research and travel will be provided. Students who are not in receipt of a full CDT studentship award will need to cover these course-related costs. Individual research projects come with variable research costs and students will need to discuss these with their supervisor and plan a budget for their project. In some cases students may need to apply for additional funding, either from the RTSG or other sources. Students should always involve their supervisor with such funding requests.

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

If you require a more accessible version of this document please [contact Graduate Admissions and Recruitment by email](mailto:graduate.admissions@admin.ox.ac.uk) (graduate.admissions@admin.ox.ac.uk).