

Course Information Sheet for entry in 2018-19

Synthetic Biology (EPSRC and BBSRC Centre for Doctoral Training)



About the course

The EPSRC and BBSRC Synthetic Biology Centre for Doctoral Training (SynBioCDT) is a four-year doctoral programme that offers training in the new field of synthetic biology, the 'engineering of biology'. This centre is a collaboration between the universities of Oxford, Bristol and Warwick. Applications are encouraged from students with a wide range of academic backgrounds, including engineering, biology, biochemistry, physics, plant sciences, chemistry, statistics, mathematics and computing.

This doctoral training programme combines the fundamental understanding of biological systems with the principles of engineering, so as to create the next generation of industrial and academic leaders in this nascent field. The CDT focuses on the design and engineering of biologically based parts, novel devices and systems, as well as the redesign of existing natural biological systems across all scales for molecules to organisms.

SynBioCDT builds on the multidisciplinary expertise offered by the research environment at the Universities of Oxford, Bristol and Warwick to provide training to cover all aspects of this extremely broad remit, including not only individual cells, but also self-assembled biomimetic systems, engineered microbial communities and multicellular organisms.

The training programme has been created in partnership with industrial, academic and public-facing organisations and includes responsible innovation, transferrable skills and outreach activities. SynBioCDT will endow you with the necessary skills to fulfil the potential of synthetic biology and to have a strong impact in this area.

The first seven months of the course are devoted to acquiring advanced theoretical and technical skills that form the backbone of synthetic biology, drawing from the engineering, mathematical, physical, chemical and biological sciences through a combination of intensive lecture courses and project work. Each taught module lasts for either one, two or three weeks and is assessed using a method appropriate to the course, for example, presentations, group assignments or assessed written work. This will be complemented with relevant research and communication skills training throughout the four years of the programme.

After completion of the taught training phase, two exploratory research projects of eleven weeks' duration each are undertaken, at least one of which will be in the institution to which the candidate is admitted (Oxford, Warwick or Bristol). The DPhil project then follows, also based primarily in the host institution.

Changes to courses

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 registration. For further information, please see the University's Terms and Conditions.

Expected length of course

4 years

Costs

Annual fees for entry in 2018-19

Fee status	Tuition fee	College fee	Total annual fees
Home/EU (including Islands)	£4,260	£3,112	£7,372
Overseas	£19,915	£3,112	£23,027

The fees shown above are the annual tuition and college fees for this course for entry in the stated academic year; 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.

Tuition and college 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 tuition and college fees).

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 2018-19 is £468, 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 £400 per term. Please contact your college for more details.

Students admitted by the University of Oxford are liable for 12 terms of fees. Students admitted by the University of Warwick or the University of Bristol are enrolled at the University of Oxford for three terms in the first academic year of their programme and are liable for three terms of fees at the University of Oxford.

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 tuition and college 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 2018-19 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 1 month		Likely living costs for 9 months		Likely living costs for 12 months	
	Lower range	Upper range	Lower range	Upper range	Lower range	Upper range
Food	£258	£361	£2,318	£3,245	£3,090	£4,326
Accommodation	£536	£677	£4,824	£6,093	£6,432	£8,124
Personal items	£118	£263	£1,066	£2,364	£1,421	£3,152
Social activities	£41	£123	£369	£1,105	£492	£1,474
Study costs	£39	£85	£348	£765	£464	£1,020
Other	£22	£47	£202	£419	£269	£559
Total	£1,014	£1,556	£9,127	£13,991	£12,168	£18,655

When planning your finances for any future years of study at Oxford beyond 2018-19, you should allow for an estimated increase in living expenses of 3% each year.

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

Please consult the University of Warwick website or the University of Bristol website for further information about living costs while studying at these institutions.