

## Course Information Sheet for entry in 2016-17

### DPhil in Biochemistry

#### About the course

This programme aims to train students in cutting-edge laboratory research applying techniques in bionanotechnology, biophysics, computational biology, microscopy, molecular biology, structural biology and systems biology to a broad range of fields including cell biology, chromosome biology, drug discovery, epigenetics, host-pathogen interactions, membrane proteins, ion channels and transporters, and RNA biology.

Applicants are strongly advised to visit the Medical Sciences Graduate School website to help them identify the most suitable course and supervisors.

You will be admitted directly to a particular research area led by departmental members who will be appointed DPhil supervisors. If you are admitted to a particular research supervisor you will not normally do laboratory rotations. You will be based in a research lab and undertake research on a subject agreed with your supervisor.

There are no taught courses examined by written papers, however you will have access to a wide range of lecture courses at taught master's level and foundation or preliminary level, as appropriate. If you have changed fields, this will allow you to fill in gaps in your background knowledge. There is also a wide range of courses and workshops which you can attend to acquire skills that will be necessary for the prosecution and presentation of your research, as well as your professional development as a research scientist.

You will begin your course as probationary research student (PRS) and near the end of the first year you will write a report to transfer to DPhil (PhD) status. To transfer your status you must make a formal application which will include a research report and statement of future research plans. You will also take an independent assessment by two assessors. Continuation in the programme is subject to passing the Transfer of Status exam.

After eight terms of study you will need to apply formally to confirm your DPhil status. You will be required to present your on-going work in a formal context where it will be reviewed by two independent assessors. Continuation in the programme is subject to successfully completing the Confirmation of Status.

The length of the programme ranges from 3 to 4 years with the exact duration depending on the following factors as judged by your supervisor(s) and assessors:

focus and rate of your research development and progress

achievement of acceptable focus and scope of thesis

publication quality research

length of available funding



A small proportion of DPhil students (about 5%) submit their theses within 3 years from starting, however on average most students submit within 3.5 years. By the end of the fourth year, 70-90% of students have submitted their theses.

Research areas for the DPhil in Biochemistry currently include:

molecular biochemistry and chemical biology

structural biology of cell surface and nuclear signal transduction processes, cell adhesion, cell cycle, membrane proteins, receptors and ion channels, drug design, protein folding and dynamics

modelling and simulation of biological membrane systems

bionanotechnology and its application to cancer

targeting viral morphogenesis in antiviral strategies

integrative systems biology (dynamics of molecular regulatory networks, multidimensional optical proteomics)

bacterial and parasite respiratory proteins

bacterial cell biology, protein transport

control of eukaryotic gene expression

kinase signalling to gene induction

mRNA localisation in *Drosophila*

epigenetic control of chromatin and gene expression

developmental epigenetics

DNA recombination and repair

bacterial chromosome dynamics

sister chromatid cohesion

genetic modelling of human disease

genetics of nematode immunity and development

cell biology of innate immunity in *Drosophila*

genetic defects of mitochondrial energy metabolism

cell proliferation and cell fate determination during *C. elegans* development

### **Changes to courses**

The University will seek to deliver each course in accordance with the descriptions 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**

3 to 4 years

### **Annual fees for entry in 2016-2017**

Fee Status	Tuition fee	College fee	Total annual fees
Home/EU (including islands)	£4,121	£2,933	£7,054
Overseas	£18,770	£2,933	£21,703

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. For details, please see our guidance on likely increases to fees and charges.

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 college continuation charge.

The University continuation charge, per term for entry in 2016/17, is currently £440, 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 to non-matriculated courses) it is likely to be in the region of £100 to £400 per term. Please contact your college for more details.

### **Additional cost information**

There are no compulsory elements of this programme that entail additional costs beyond fees 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 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 2016-17 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
<b>Food</b>	£265	£298	£2,384	£2,673	£3,177	£3,565
<b>Accommodation</b>	£469	£667	£4,221	£6,002	£5,627	£8,006
<b>Personal items</b>	£119	£244	£1,073	£2,187	£1,429	£2,915
<b>Social activities</b>	£60	£107	£539	£960	£718	£1,280
<b>Study costs</b>	£36	£73	£314	£661	£418	£880
<b>Other</b>	£19	£44	£197	£410	£265	£547
<b>Total</b>	£970	£1,433	£8,727	£12,894	£11,636	£17,191

When planning your finances for any future years of study in Oxford beyond 2016-17, you should allow for an estimated increase in living expenses of 2% each year.

More information about how these figures have been calculated is available at [www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/living-costs](http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/living-costs).

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