



Course Information Sheet for entry in 2020-21

DPhil in Chemistry in Cells: New Technologies to Probe Complex Biology and Medicine

About the course

The Chemistry in Cells Programme will provide bespoke training for outstanding graduates from a physical/chemical-sciences background, who want to develop and apply quantitative chemical and physical science techniques to research at the interface with biomedicine.

The programme supports four years of DPhil study. The first term of the programme will provide training in research and transferable skills. This will include both taught and practical courses, and the opportunity to meet prospective supervisors and career mentors. Following a 16-week rotation period, students will undertake their full DPhil project for approximately 3.5 years.

Taught transferable skills courses

Induction: Orientation to Oxford, the programme, and relevant facilities. Explanation of course structure and procedures, explicitly lay out expectations and responsibilities, research integrity/reproducibility and code of practice. Cohort bonding and interaction with prospective supervisors will be promoted through 'star speaker' slots throughout the week.

Life Skills for Scientists: This new module will provide training in transferable skills, resilience, equality diversity & inclusion, and explore diverse career opportunities.

Taught science courses

Cells and Systems: This existing module introduces core concepts in molecular/cell biology for graduate students with a background in physical sciences.

Quantitative Chemical Biology: This new module will be delivered with our industrial collaborators (AstraZeneca, GSK, Merck, and OxStem) and will provide an overview of different quantitative chemical biology techniques, tools and statistical analysis used to study and manipulate biological systems.

Computational Approaches for Chemical Biology: This new module will be delivered with our industrial collaborators and will provide an overview of computational techniques, coding and machine learning in biology.

Introduction to Drug Discovery: This module introduces the practice of pharmaceutical discovery from drug-target discovery to clinical trials. Some material will be delivered by industrial scientists.

Practical science course

Introduction to Experimental Bioscience: This course is designed for students with a physical sciences background and little experience with wet-lab biological/biochemical research. It will include hands-on experience in method development techniques.

Rotations and placements

Our programme will allow students to gain experience in a range of environments through a variety of placements, which will feed into the substantive DPhil project:

Project week: during project week students will visit the laboratories of prospective supervisors to assist decision making on scientific rotation and project choice. This approach supports our vision that communication and informed choice will promote a positive DPhil experience and promote an improved research culture.

Scientific rotations: a flexible 16-week rotation phase will be used to tailor training to suit the individual student needs, maximising the interdisciplinarity of the training. After the rotation phase, students will spend 41 months engaged in their substantive DPhil research.

Industrial placements: students whose projects involve industrial collaboration will undertake a 3-month (approx.) placement at our industrial collaborators. This will provide students with experience of working in an industrial setting. Work undertaken on the placement will prioritise techniques and approaches that are relevant to the project, but which are not available within Oxford, ensuring that students maximise the skills gained within their DPhil. Students will be supported during their industrial placements by industrial mentors and visits from Oxford supervisors.

Clinical placements: all of the directors have been inspired to conduct medically-relevant research by interactions with patients. To provide a clinical perspective on research all students will undertake a placement in a hospital or other clinical setting. This will further inspire students to address major societal needs in their work.

Flexible career placements: flexible funding to support short-term postdoctoral activities will be available.

Supervision

The allocation of graduate supervision is the responsibility of the Medical Sciences Doctoral Training Centre (MSDTC) and it is not always possible to accommodate the preferences of incoming graduate students to work with a particular member of staff. A supervisor is often found outside the department.

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

Mode of study	Full Time Only
Expected length	4 years

Costs

Annual fees for entry in 2020-21

Fee status	Annual Course fees
Home/EU (including Islands)	£7,970
Overseas	£26,405

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.

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 2020-21 is £508, 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.

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 2020-21 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	£270	£385	£2,430	£3,465	£3,240	£4,620
Accommodation	£630	£760	£5,670	£6,840	£7,560	£9,120
Personal items	£130	£245	£1,170	£2,205	£1,560	£2,940
Social activities	£45	£110	£405	£990	£540	£1,320
Study costs	£40	£95	£360	£855	£480	£1,140
Other	£20	£55	£180	£495	£240	£660
Total	£1,135	£1,650	£10,215	£14,850	£13,620	£19,800

When planning your finances for any future years of study at Oxford beyond 2020-21, 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.