

Course Information Sheet for entry in 2021-22: DPhil in Chemistry in Cells: New Technologies to Probe Complex Biology and Medicine



About the course

The Chemistry in Cells programme provides bespoke training for outstanding graduates from a physical/chemical- sciences background, who want to develop and apply quantitative chemical and physical science techniques to contemporary questions in biomedical science.

The course 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 Springboard Phase, students will undertake their full DPhil project for approximately 3.5 years.

Taught transferable skills courses

Induction

An orientation to Oxford, the programme, and relevant facilities. An explanation of the course structure and procedures, expectations and responsibilities, research integrity/reproducibility and code of practice. Cohort bonding and interaction with prospective supervisors will be promoted throughout the week.

Taught science courses

Cells and Systems

This module introduces core concepts in molecular/cell biology for graduate students with a background in physical sciences.

Quantitative Chemical Biology

This module is delivered with our industrial collaborators and provides 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 module is delivered with our industrial collaborators and provides an overview of computational techniques, including coding and machine learning applied to biological questions.

Introduction to Drug Discovery

This module focuses on how to develop bioactive molecules that are suitable for probing biological questions in vitro and in vivo. Some material is delivered by scientists from our industrial collaborators.

Practical science courses

Introduction to Experimental Bioscience

This course is designed for students with a physical sciences background to gain experience in wet-lab biological/biochemical research. It includes hands-on experience in methods and techniques that will be useful in the full DPhil project.

Life Skills for Scientists

This module provides training in transferable skills, resilience, equality diversity & inclusion, and exploration into diverse career opportunities.

Rotations and placements

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

Project week

During project week students visit the laboratories of prospective supervisors to assist decision making on project choice. This approach supports our vision that communication and informed choice promotes a positive DPhil experience and promotes an improved research culture.

Scientific placements

A 16-week Springboard phase is used to tailor training to suit the individual student needs, maximising the interdisciplinarity of the training. After the Springboard phase, students spend 41 months engaged in their substantive DPhil research.

Industrial placements

Students whose projects involve industrial collaboration undertake a 3-month (approx.) placement at our industrial collaborators. This provides 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 are 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 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 is 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.

Assessment

All students will be initially admitted to the status of Probationer Research Student (PRS). Within a maximum of six terms as a PRS student you will be expected to apply for transfer of status from Probationer Research Student to DPhil status.

A successful transfer of status from PRS to DPhil status will require the submission of a report on progress to date on research and future plans. Students who are successful at transfer will also be expected to apply for and gain confirmation of DPhil status within ten terms of admission, to show that your work continues to be on track.

Both milestones normally involve an interview with two assessors (other than your supervisor) and therefore provide important experience for the final oral examination.

You will be expected to submit an original thesis within a maximum of four years from the date of admission. To be awarded a DPhil in Chemistry in Cells you will need to defend your thesis orally (viva voce) in front of two appointed examiners.

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. These may include significant changes made necessary by a pandemic (including Covid-19), epidemic or local health emergency. For further information, please see the University's Terms and Conditions (<http://www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/terms>) and our page on changes to courses (<http://www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/coursechanges>).

Expected length of course

	Full Time Only
Expected length	4 years

Costs

Annual fees for entry in 2021-22

Fee status	Annual Course fees
Home (UK, Republic of Ireland, Channel Islands & Isle of Man)	£8,290
Overseas (including EU)	£27,460

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 2021-22 is £528, 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 2021-22 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 2021-22

	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	£280	£400	£2,520	£3,600	£3,360	£4,800
Accommodation	£655	£790	£5,895	£7,110	£7,860	£9,480
Personal items	£130	£250	£1,170	£2,250	£1,560	£3,000
Social activities	£45	£115	£405	£1,035	£540	£1,380
Study costs	£45	£100	£405	£900	£540	£1,200
Other	£20	£55	£180	£495	£240	£660
Total	£1,175	£1,710	£10,575	£15,390	£14,100	£20,520

When planning your finances for any future years of study at Oxford beyond 2021-22, 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.

Document accessibility

If you require an accessible version of the document please contact Graduate Admissions and Recruitment by email (graduate.admissions@admin.ox.ac.uk) or via the online form (<http://www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/ask>).