

Course Information Sheet for entry in 2021-22: DPhil in Health Data Science (HDR UK/Turing Wellcome)



About the course

The DPhil in Health Data Science (HDRUK/Turing Wellcome) offers highly-qualified students the opportunity to join a unique national doctoral programme combining expertise in three fundamental areas: statistical, computational, and health sciences.

It is not possible to apply to the DPhil in Health Data Science (HDR UK/Turing Wellcome) directly. Students must first have been successful in obtaining an offer to join the HDRUK-Turing Wellcome PhD Programme, applications to which are administered by HDR UK and the Alan Turing Institute (see '*How to apply*' for details).

The DPhil in Health Data Science (HDR UK/Turing Wellcome) is part of a national programme of health data science doctoral courses, the HDRUK-Turing Wellcome PhD Programme in Health Data Science. This national programme is supported by a network of seven UK universities, including Oxford, which are the core partners in Health Data Research UK (HDR UK), an independent and not-for-profit institute dedicated to promoting health data science in the UK, and particularly to providing safe and secure access to health data to support all types of health research. The HDR UK Oxford site's focus is on two of the major strengths of health research at the University: facilitating recruitment and data collection in 21st century clinical trials using electronic health records and mobile devices, and enhancing observational studies of human health through improved collection of participant characteristics (phenotypes) using novel technologies and statistical methods.

The HDRUK/Turing Wellcome PhD Programme in Health Data Science is a joint venture between HDR UK and the Alan Turing Institute, the UK's national institute for data science and artificial intelligence. Particular strengths in Oxford's contributions to the Alan Turing Institute are in statistical modelling and inference, for example in the field of human genetics, where research at Oxford has revolutionised basic medical science, understanding the causes of disease, and drug discovery.

The course is a four year programme aimed specifically at students trained in quantitative disciplines (eg mathematics, computer science, physics), to help boost the number of health data scientists with formal training in these areas. The course provides a stipend, tuition fees (at the Home fee rate), research and travel expenses, and training and career transition support at the end of the course. Students enrolled at Oxford will be part of a national cohort based at each of the partner universities (additionally, Cambridge, University College London, Edinburgh, Belfast, Birmingham, and Manchester).

The first year of the course consists of taught short courses, delivered by each of the partner universities, and short project work, culminating in a 12-week individual project that is intended to lead into the thesis. Year 1 of the course will be based in the Oxford Big Data Institute, a multi-disciplinary hub that focuses on the analysis of large, complex, heterogeneous data sets for research in clinical medicine and population health. The remaining three years of the course will be dedicated to the thesis project, to be completed under the supervision of researchers affiliated with HDR UK or Alan Turing Institute.

Supervision

The allocation of graduate supervision is the responsibility of the Medical Sciences Doctoral Training Centre and it is not always possible to accommodate the preferences of incoming graduate students to work with a particular member of staff.

In the first year, students will attend a training programme delivered (in person, where possible) by each of the partner institutions. Students will be allocated supervisors in their first year to provide academic supervision during the training programme and to facilitate the selection of a thesis project.

From Year 2, students will have thesis supervisors, with whom they will begin to work during their 12-week individual project towards the end of Year 1. Students will be expected to have a minimum of two supervisors, preferably in a co-supervisory arrangement to ensure students can always get adequate support for their research.

Assessment

All students will be initially admitted to the status of Probationer Research Student (PRS). Within a maximum of six terms as a full-time PRS student or twelve terms as a part-time PRS student, students will be expected to apply for transfer of status from Probationer Research Student to DPhil status. This application is normally made by the fourth term for full-time students and by the eighth term for part-time students.

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 their work continues to be on track.

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

Students will be expected to submit an original thesis within a maximum of four years from the date of admission. To be successfully awarded a DPhil students will need to defend their thesis orally (*viva voce*) in front of two appointed examiners.

The frequency of meetings with supervisors will depend on which department the thesis project is based. Commonly, within those departments based with the Medical Science Division, once a fortnight is typical.

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

Students wishing to apply for the DPhil in Health Data Science (HDR UK/Turing Wellcome) must first be in receipt of an offer of a place on the HDRUK-Turing Wellcome PhD Programme in Health Data Science, admission to which is administered by HDR UK and The Alan Turing Institute. The course provides a stipend, tuition fees (at the Home fee rate), research and travel expenses.

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>).