

Course Information Sheet for entry in 2021-22: DPhil in Molecular and Cellular Medicine



About the course

As a DPhil in Molecular and Cellular Medicine student you will spend up to four years (eight years for part-time students) in one of the department's many research groups, working on a project supervised by the group's principal investigator. You will take part in the extensive training programme specifically organised for graduate students within the department.

The NDORMS department aims to discover the causes of musculoskeletal and inflammatory conditions to deliver excellent and innovative care that improves people's quality of life. The department consists of three different centres/institutes, the Botnar Research Centre, the Kennedy Institute of Rheumatology and the Kadoorie Centre containing a number of world leading research units. There are two separate graduate programs one for the Botnar and Kadoorie institutes and one for the Kennedy Institute of Rheumatology each with different entry requirements and application procedures.

You will develop your research skills through a range of research training in your first year, including compulsory attendance at our fundamentals in biomedical research lectures in your first week. During the first term you will develop, in consultation with your supervisor, a clear study design for your project.

Your training will be tailored to your particular needs, drawing from the vast range of training available at Oxford and covering specialist scientific methods, techniques and transferable skills. Please note that there is no formal taught component of the DPhil in Molecular and Cellular Medicine; however, you will develop your research skills through a range of research training in your first year. This will include compulsory attendance to core subjects with lectures on a variety of topics such as an introduction to "immunology, inflammation, tissue engineering, clinical trial design, epidemiology, rheumatology, orthopaedics and musculoskeletal disease".

During your first year, you will be expected to attend a minimum of three topic-related modules. Attendance on a two-day Data Analysis: Statistics Designing Clinical Research and Biostatistics course is compulsory to assist you with appropriate research design. You are also encouraged to work with your supervisor(s) on your research-specific literature review and to develop a study design for your thesis within the first term (two terms for part-time students) of your research training.

You will be required to attend and present at postgraduate seminars, not only to develop your presentation skills but also to benefit from the feedback, support and interaction from your University peers and senior academics.

As a member of Medical Sciences Graduate School, you will be entitled to attend various workshops run by the Medical Sciences Skills Training programme. Further academic and pastoral support will be provided for by the Departmental Graduate Studies Team which consist of the Director of Graduate Studies as well as the departmental Graduate Studies Officer and Assistant. Further support is available from your college advisor.

Applicants are strongly advised to visit the department's website (see Further Information and Enquiries) to help them identify the most suitable research topic and related supervisors. Projects are available in both basic and translational science covering a variety of areas related to musculoskeletal and chronic inflammatory conditions.

Supervision

The allocation of graduate supervision for this course is the responsibility of Medical Sciences and the Nuffield Department of Orthopaedics, Rheumatology and Musculoskeletal Sciences (NDORMS) and it is not always possible to accommodate the preferences of incoming graduate students to work with a particular member of staff. Under exceptional circumstances a supervisor may be found outside Medical Sciences and NDORMS.

In the case of students who require specific help to adjust to an academic programme or to a new range of skills, the supervisor will work with them to ensure that they have additional support.

All students must have at least two supervisors (usually a Primary Supervisor and a co-supervisor). At the beginning of your programme, you will meet with your supervisors regularly to finalise your project and agree on an initial programme of research. Within the first three months, you will complete an analysis of your training needs for the duration of your research (TNA) with your supervisor and submit it as part of your compulsory termly reporting.

Regularity of student/supervisor meetings will be agreed between the student and supervisors directly. Every student should meet their supervisors at least once per term; though it is expected that meetings will occur more regularly. A Thesis Committee is a

compulsory second strand of supervisory support in the Kennedy Institute.

Assessment

Your progress will be monitored and assessed regularly via:

1. completion of a termly report by you and your supervisors through Graduate Supervision Reporting (GSR);
2. completion of a 5,000-word transfer report and viva before the end of the fourth term (eight term for part-time students);
3. completion of a 3,000-word literature review by the end of the seventh term (students based in the Kennedy Institute only – 14th term for part-time students);
4. confirmation of your status, by viva and presentation, before the end of the ninth term (18th term for part-time students); and
5. submission of your DPhil thesis (the final stage), which will be assessed by viva at the end of your twelfth term (24th term for part-time students).

Stages 2, 4 and 5 will be assessed by independent senior academics.

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	Part Time
Expected length	3-4 years	6-8 years

Costs

Full-time study

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

Part-time study

Fee status	Annual Course fees
Home (UK, Republic of Ireland, Channel Islands & Isle of Man)	£4,144
Overseas (including EU)	£13,731

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

Full-time study

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.

Part-time study

Please note that you are required to attend in Oxford for a minimum of 30 days each year, and you may incur additional travel and accommodation expenses for this. Also, depending on your choice of research topic and the research required to complete it, you may incur further 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.

If you are studying part-time your living costs may vary depending on your personal circumstances but you must still ensure that you will have sufficient funding to meet these 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>).