

## Course Information Sheet for entry in 2026-27: Transformative Technologies in Pharmaceutical Science (BBSRC CDT)



### Course facts

Mode of study	Full Time Only
Expected length	4 years

### About the course

The Transformative Technologies in Pharmaceutical Science CDT is designed to develop novel methods at the frontier of pharmaceutical sciences. The course examines impactful use of AI and machine learning with high quality datasets to drive understanding and discoveries.

The Transformative Technologies in Pharmaceutical Science CDT (TTPS) is a collaboration between world-leading researchers and supervisors at GSK and the Universities of Oxford, Cambridge, and Southampton. Admissions are conducted centrally through Oxford on behalf of the participating organisations.

TTPS combines taught material with research that you will carry out to produce a substantial, challenging and original thesis. You will have the opportunity to work closely with project teams at GSK with access to both university and GSK facilities. We aim to train future leaders in biotechnology. Success not only means that you will be awarded a doctorate from your chosen university (Oxford, Cambridge, or Southampton), but also that you will have gained the communication, business and social skills to forge new partnerships, and a network to tackle global challenges as a future leader in pharmaceutical science.

### Course structure

An overview of the course structure is provided below. Details of the compulsory elements of the course are provided in the *Course components* section of this page.

In the first six-months you will receive training in the fundamentals of pharmaceutical science at the University of Oxford's Doctoral Training Centre (regardless of whether your doctorate will be from Oxford, Cambridge or Southampton). These short intensive training modules will equip you to take advantage of cutting edge in silico approaches, including machine learning/AI and new data-generating technologies using our pioneering systematic approach to life sciences and biomedical research.

In the second part of the first year, you will conduct two three-month rotation projects in different areas, either of which could turn into a full DPhil project. This gives you the opportunity to try new areas of research before you commit to the three-year doctorate. The rotation projects are supervised by an academic at the Universities of Oxford, Cambridge, or Southampton, alongside a dedicated GSK co-supervisor. This gives you two opportunities to work with, and learn from, world-leading researchers in both academia and industry, while working on impactful research. A major advantage of the programme is that you are not required to choose the substantive DPhil project until after the initial taught training phase, allowing a more informed choice of research project to be made.

During the rotation phase you will be required to undertake at least one rotation with a lead supervisor in the institution you are registered at. You cannot transfer institutions to undertake a substantive doctoral project with a primary supervisor employed by a different institution after acceptance.

To learn more about the research topics you'll have the opportunity to explore, please refer to the *Research areas* section on this page.

You will have the opportunity to access a wide variety of additional training provided across the partnership throughout your doctoral studies.

### Attendance

The course is full-time and requires attendance in Oxford. Full-time students are subject to the [University's Residence requirements](https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/after-you-apply/accommodation/residence-requirements). (<https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/after-you-apply/accommodation/residence-requirements>)

During your first year, you will undertake the majority of the taught components of your training programme in a modern purpose-designed Doctoral Training Centre located in the heart of the University of Oxford's South Parks Road Science Campus, shared by this course and other doctoral training courses.

Following the initial training period, you will either remain at the University of Oxford to complete your DPhil project, or move to either the University of Cambridge or (for 2027-28 entry onwards) the University of Southampton for the remainder of the

course. During this time, you will also complete a three-month placement at a GSK location.

Provision exists for students on some courses to undertake their research in a 'well-founded laboratory' outside of the University. This may require travel to and attendance at a site that is not located in Oxford. Where known, existing collaborations will be outlined on this page. Please read the course information carefully, including the additional information about course fees and costs.

## Resources to support your study

As a graduate student, you will have access to the University's wide range of resources including libraries, museums, galleries, digital resources and IT services.

The Bodleian Libraries is the largest library system in the UK. It includes the main Bodleian Library and libraries across Oxford, including major research libraries and faculty, department and institute libraries. Together, the Libraries hold more than 13 million printed items, provide access to e-journals, and contain outstanding special collections including rare books and manuscripts, classical papyri, maps, music, art and printed ephemera.

The University's IT Services is available to all students to support with core university IT systems and tools, as well as many other services and facilities. IT Services also offers a range of IT learning courses for students to support with learning and research, as well as [guidance on what technology to bring with you as a new student \(https://www.it.ox.ac.uk/what-to-bring\)](https://www.it.ox.ac.uk/what-to-bring) at Oxford.

The taught component of the programme is held within the University of Oxford Doctoral Training Centre (DTC). The DTC provides excellent facilities specifically designed to promote interdisciplinary study and currently houses various programmes with multiple seminar rooms available. All students have individual study spaces with access to a computer and appropriate IT support. Social break-out space is provided and there is a small well-stocked library.

The DTC provides opportunities for all cohorts to come together regularly for both academic and social purposes.

The short projects and DPhil projects are hosted in a range of departments across the University or with GSK, as appropriate.

## Supervision

The allocation of graduate supervision is the responsibility of the 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. A supervisor is often found outside the Doctoral Training Centre.

In the first year of the course, students are typically supervised by the programme directors, who will also support students in choosing their doctoral research project. Supervision arrangements for years two to four will therefore be confirmed at the end of the first year when the doctoral project is chosen.

Where possible your academic supervisor will not change for the duration of the doctoral research phase of your course (years two to four), however it may be necessary to assign a new academic supervisor for reasons which might include sabbatical leave, parental leave, or change in employment.

## Assessment

During the first year you will be assessed on each of the taught modules undertaken in the first two terms, as well as completing a project report on each of the two short rotation projects undertaken. Satisfactory achievement will be required for progression to the research stage, assessed by a DTC oral examination (viva) on transfer to the appropriate department.

Assessment during the remaining three years of the programme will follow the regulations of the department in which you are hosted, and will typically involve Transfer of Status and Confirmation of Status as standard. On completion of your thesis you will complete an oral examination (viva).

## Course components

### Compulsory study

During the first six months you will be based at the Doctoral Training Centre (DTC) at the University of Oxford and receive training in the fundamentals of pharmaceutical science.

These short intensive training modules will equip you to take advantage of cutting edge in silico approaches, including machine learning/AI and new data-generating technologies using Oxford's pioneering systematic approach to life sciences and biomedical research.

You can also access a wide variety of additional training provided across the partnership throughout your doctoral studies.

## Work placement

You will complete a three-month work placement at GSK during the course.

## Research areas

You'll have the opportunity to undertake research within the specialised themes of this course, which include:

- reducing drug failure rates
- shortening times to adoption
- shifting towards the early detection, prediction and prevention of disease.

## Research projects

Following the initial training period, you will undertake two three-month rotation projects, either of which could turn into a full DPhil. This gives you the chance to try new areas of research before you commit to the three-year doctorate. The rotation projects are supervised by an academic at the University of Oxford, University of Cambridge, or (from 2027 entry) the University of Southampton, alongside a dedicated GSK co-supervisor. This gives you two opportunities to work with, and learn from, world-leading researchers in both academia and industry, while working on impactful research.

## Further information

Information about [TTPS \(https://tpps.ox.ac.uk/\)](https://tpps.ox.ac.uk/) and the [MPLS Doctoral Training Centre \(https://www.dtc.ox.ac.uk/\)](https://www.dtc.ox.ac.uk/) can be found on their websites.

## Changes to this course

The University will seek to deliver this course in accordance with the description set out in this course page. 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. The safety of students, staff and visitors is paramount and major changes to delivery or services may have to be made if a pandemic, epidemic or local health emergency occurs. In addition, in certain circumstances, for example due to visa difficulties or because the health needs of students cannot be met, it may be necessary to make adjustments to course requirements for international study.

Where possible your academic supervisor will not change for the duration of your course. However, it may be necessary to assign a new academic supervisor during the course of study or before registration for reasons which might include illness, sabbatical leave, parental leave or change in employment.

For further information please see our page on [changes to courses \(//www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/courses/changes-to-courses\)](https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/courses/changes-to-courses) and the [provisions of the student contract \(//www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/after-you-apply/your-offer-and-contract\)](https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/after-you-apply/your-offer-and-contract) regarding changes to courses.

## Costs

### Annual course fees

The fees for this course are charged on an annual basis.

Fee status	Annual Course fees
Home	£10,470
Overseas	£34,700

### What do course fees cover?

Course fees cover your teaching as well as other academic services and facilities provided to support your studies. Unless specified in the additional information section 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 costs information below.

### How long do I need to pay course fees?

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 fees will usually increase annually, as explained in the University's [Terms and Conditions \(//www.ox.ac.uk/students/new/contract\)](https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/new/contract).

Graduate students who have reached the end of their standard period of fee liability will be required to pay a University continuation charge and/or a college continuation charge.

The University continuation charge, per term for entry in 2026-27 is £656, 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 will be between £150 and £500, as explained in our [information about continuation charges \(//www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/fees-and-other-charges/continuation-charges\)](https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/fees-and-other-charges/continuation-charges). Please contact your college for more details, including information about whether your college's continuation charge is applied at a different rate for part-time study.

### Where can I find more information about fees?

Our [fees and other charges \(//www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/fees-and-other-charges\)](https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/fees-and-other-charges) pages provide further information, including details about:

- [course fees and fee liability \(//www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/fees-and-other-charges/courses-fees-and-liability\)](https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/fees-and-other-charges/courses-fees-and-liability);
- [how your fee status is determined \(//www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/fees-and-other-charges/fee-status\)](https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/fees-and-other-charges/fee-status);
- [changes to fees and other charges \(//www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/fees-and-other-charges/changes-to-fees-and-charges\)](https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/fees-and-other-charges/changes-to-fees-and-charges); and
- [continuation charges \(//www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/fees-and-other-charges/continuation-charges\)](https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/fees-and-other-charges/continuation-charges).

Information about how much fees and other costs will usually increase each academic year is set out in the University's [Terms and Conditions \(//www.ox.ac.uk/students/new/contract\)](https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/new/contract).

### Additional costs

This course includes compulsory elements that entail additional costs beyond fees (or, after fee liability ends, continuation charges) and living costs. For those students in receipt of a full studentship award, an additional research training support grant (RTSG) to cover costs of associated equipment, research and travel will be provided. Individual research projects come with variable research costs and students will need to discuss these with their supervisor and plan a budget for their project. In some cases students may need to apply for additional funding, either from the RTSG or other sources. Students should always involve their supervisor with such funding requests.

### Living costs

In addition to your course fees and any additional course-specific costs, you will need to ensure that you have adequate funds to support your living costs for the duration of your course.

### Living costs for full-time study

For the 2026-27 academic year, the range of likely living costs for a single, full-time student is between £1,405 and £2,105 for each month spent in Oxford. We provide the cost per month so you can multiply up by the number of months you expect to live in Oxford. Depending on your circumstances, you may also need to budget for the [costs of a student visa and immigration health surcharge](https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/living-costs) and/or [living costs for family members or other dependants](https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/living-costs#field_listing_content_content-item--2) that you plan to bring with you to Oxford (if [dependant visa eligibility criteria](https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/visa/before/family) are met).

### Further information about living costs

The current economic climate and periods of high national inflation in recent years make it harder to estimate potential changes to the cost of living over the next few years. For study in Oxford beyond the 2026-27 academic year, it is suggested that you budget for potential increases in living expenses of around 4% each year – although this rate may vary depending on the national economic situation.

A breakdown of likely living costs for one month during the 2026-27 academic year are shown below. These costs are based on a single, full-time graduate student, with no dependants, living in Oxford.

### Likely living costs for one month in Oxford during the 2026-27 academic year

	Lower range	Upper range
<b>Food</b>	£315	£545
<b>Accommodation</b>	£825	£990
<b>Personal items</b>	£160	£310
<b>Social activities</b>	£50	£130
<b>Study costs</b>	£35	£90
<b>Other</b>	£20	£40
<b>Total</b>	£1,405	£2,105

For information about how these figures have been calculated as well as tables showing the likely living costs for nine and twelve months, please refer to the [living costs](https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/living-costs) page of our website.

### Document accessibility

If you require a more accessible version of this document please [contact Graduate Admissions and Recruitment by email](mailto:graduate.admissions@admin.ox.ac.uk).