

Application procedures for a DPhil at Oxford – Q & A sessions

Questions on eligibility and application procedure:

Q: What kind of academic background are you looking for? e.g. research, modules we've done

A: We are looking for people with a background in synthetic chemistry – ideally with prior involvement in a project in synthetic inorganic chemistry.

Q: Is an integrated masters or a standalone masters preferred more to a BSc in Chemistry?

A: Every application is evaluated based on merit. If you have done a BSc and are interested on applying to the CDT, we would be very happy to receive and evaluate your application

Q: At the time of application, will a non-official academic transcript provided online by the university (which contains a statement of all my marks on it) be enough, or will I need to acquire an official one from my university?

A: At the time of application that would be enough. If you were successful, we would request an official transcript later during the process.

Q: Is language proficiency waiver applicable to students who studied their Master's and Bachelor's outside UK, but medium of instruction was English?

A: If you can provide proof that your higher education degree was taught completely in English, you would be eligible to apply for a waiver. During the evaluation of your application, a decision would be made on whether the waiver should be granted or not.

Q: Could we apply for a PhD project without having the IELTS certificate and obtain it later?

Yes, you do not need to fulfil this requirement at the time of application, but your offer would be conditional on meeting the English language requirements before the start of the course.

Q: Do the three references have to be obtained and submitted at the same time as the application?

A: For your application to be processed you will need at least two references submitted by the application deadline. Ideally, we would like to have all the references with us when we receive your application, but we will be able to evaluate it from the moment that two references are received.

Q: What kind of references you are you looking for? Would you prefer to have more academic one from professors or professional one from the company supervisor?

A: Generally, we prefer academic references but some industry references are also ok. We would normally require at least two references from academia.

Q: Is the covering letter the same for each of the up to three applications (CDTs and DPhils) or are you able to write separate ones for each?

A: You will have to submit a full and separate application for each of the courses, therefore you will be able to write separate covering letters / personal statements.

Q: If we wish to apply for 2023 entry, would the deadline time-frame be similar to the 2022 entry deadlines?

The exact application deadlines will vary slightly from year to year, but the overall timeline remains the same.

Q: Can I apply to multiple programmes with the same application fee?

Applicants for Centres for Doctoral Training (CDT) courses who have paid the fee of £75 for one eligible application, are entitled to apply for up to two related courses without paying any additional application fees. A list of related programmes can be found [here](#).

Questions on funding eligibility:

Q: Are overseas students eligible for the secured CDT studentship funding, or must they bring funding from other scholarships for which they are eligible to the CDT?

A: In principle they are eligible. In reality, due to the fee level associated to overseas students, almost certainly you will have to apply for a scholarship (university or externally) that would cover for the difference.

A: Do you know what the funding status for EU students with settled or pre-settled status will be?

As a result of the UK's decision to leave the EU, most students from the EU who start a programme of study from 2021/22 onwards will pay fees at the 'Overseas' rate. Students from the EU, EEA and Switzerland who have been granted settled or pre-settled status under the EU Settlement Scheme may be eligible to pay fees at the Home rate if they meet the residence requirements. More information on the implications of Brexit for the University as a whole can be found [here](#).

Questions about the interview:

Q: Is the technical interview centred around the chosen research projects, general inorganic chemistry, or both?

Not so much around the selected projects. Questions are normally open ended, on general inorganic chemistry, and related to manufacturing.

Question related to the offer stage:

Q: If you do not get an offer in the first round would your application be considered for the second round?

A: Potentially yes. We tend to make a certain number of offers from the first group of applications and the next higher scoring applicants are selected as 'reserves' and rolled over to compare against the second round. Lower ranked candidates would most likely be rejected after the first round.

Q: If you receive an offer, how long do you have to accept it?

A: In the case of the CDT, you would first receive an informal offer from the Director. We would normally expect to receive an answer within a couple of weeks, but we can be a bit flexible if needed. The formal letter would come later and there is about a month to reply to that.

Q: If we apply before the 2nd deadline (Jan), around what time would we hear back from the department?

A: In the case of the CDT (with interviews on the 17 and 18Feb) it is very likely that you will hear around the end of Feb/early March.

Question about the CDT programme:

Q: Are there other assessments/examinations throughout the course apart from the thesis?

A: Yes, all of the modules in the first 6 months have assessments within them. Each of the tasks that you will perform will be assessed and the expectation is that you will pass all of those. There is also an opportunity to re-take the modules in year 2 if there was any problem.

Q: You mentioned 'internships' with industrial partners are an option during the course of the DPhil. Could you explain more on how this works in terms of timelines and opportunities?

A: Typically we would be looking at arranging internships during the third year of the DPhil, and the facility would be liked and tailored to each particular project.