

Cavendish Laboratory Postgraduate Programmes

Information for applicants

How to Apply

All applications are to be made using the University Application System – all links are available [here](#).

The application deadline to be considered for funding for most courses is 3 Dec 2024, unless otherwise specified. Applicants must ensure that their references are submitted by their referees by the funding deadlines. Applicants can check and update details of referees via the self-service admissions system.

Application links for individual courses and special notes are included below.

The usual minimum requirement for most courses is a II.i degree (or international equivalent), unless otherwise specified. Most students who are admitted however significantly exceed the minimum requirement. For PhD courses the equivalent of a UK masters is usually required. Further details are available within the links for each course.

If you are interested in more than one course, then please submit separate applications for each one.

PhD Programmes

[PhD in Physics](#) – Applicants are encouraged make contact with potential supervisors in research areas they would like to work in prior to applying. You will be asked to name one or more potential supervisors for your PhD. A research proposal IS NOT required for the application. You can learn more about our research themes, research programs and potential supervisors [here](#).

[PhD in Interdisciplinary Nanoscience and Nanotechnology](#) – Applicants do not need choose a supervisor in advance and a research proposal IS NOT required; Details about project selection are available [here](#). This programme has a higher minimum entry requirement ie a First-class Honours Degree or equivalent. It operates two internal review deadlines, on 3rd Dec and 3rd Jan respectively.

[PhD in Sustainable Energy Materials Innovations](#) - A list of projects being offered for Oct 2025 entry will be available via the [course team](#). On the application form, you are expected to identify which project(s) you are interested in being considered for. This programme operates two internal review deadlines, on 3rd Dec and 7th Jan respectively.

[PhD in Computational Methods for Materials Science](#) - Applicants are encouraged to state their preferred choice of research area (this does not have to be highly specific). If a specific supervisor has already been identified, you can name them in your application.

[PhD in 2D Materials of Tomorrow](#) – More details will be available soon

[EPSRC Centre for Doctoral Training in Superconductivity](#) - You are encouraged but not required, to contact potential supervisors at the application stage. The CDT website, open days and individual supervisors' websites provide initial information regarding research directions of the groups involved in the CDT.

Masters Programmes:

[MPhil in Physics](#) - Applicants are encouraged make contact with potential supervisors in research areas they would like to work in prior to applying. You will be asked to name one or more potential supervisors for your MPhil. A research proposal is not required for the application. It is advisable to contact potential supervisors before hand. You can learn more about our research themes, research programs and potential supervisors [here](#)

[MPhil in Data Intensive Science](#) – This is a 10-month cross-departmental programme including taught modules and a project. Application details are available [here](#).

[MPhil in Scientific Computing](#) – This is a 12-month programme with taught and a research elements of equal weighting. Application details are available [here](#).

[MASt in Physics](#) – This is a taught programme in which students who completed undergraduate degrees outside the University of Cambridge work alongside students taking the final year of the integrated undergraduate-and-master's course in Physics. Application details are available [here](#).

[MPhil in Planetary Science and Life in the Universe](#) - This is a 10-month cross-departmental programme including taught modules and a project. This interdisciplinary MPhil is hosted by the Institute of Astronomy. Application details are available [here](#)

[MPhil in Advanced Materials for the Energy Transition](#) - This is an 11-month programme with taught and a research elements. This interdisciplinary MPhil is hosted by the Department of Materials Science. Application details are available [here](#)..

Selection Process

The selection process for all programmes is different – details will be available on each programme's application webpage. Most programmes will conduct interviews (usually online) for shortlisted candidates. Once a decision has been made, applicants are notified of the decision via the application system.

If an offer is made, it is usually a conditional offer to begin with. Admission is not confirmed until a candidate satisfies all conditions mentioned on their formal offer by the University's Postgraduate Admissions Office. You should not take any steps to come to Cambridge before you receive an admission letter from the Postgraduate Admissions Office stating that you have satisfied all conditions.

Funding

All applicants who are offered a place will be considered for University funding, ***provided you tick the relevant boxes when making your application***. Please review the University [Funding Database](#)

to identify the sources you might be eligible for. For a small number of funding sources a separate application may also be required.

The [Gates](#) Scholarships can be applied for within your main University application, but does require an additional personal statement and an additional reference. Please bear these requirements in mind and plan accordingly.

The Department also has a number of scholarships funded by our benefactors. Separate applications for these funds are not required.

Funded places are very competitive, particularly for international students where the number of applicants far exceeds the number of available scholarships. If you are unable to secure a fully funded scholarship, the University will require evidence of adequate financial support for the entire period of the course before admission can be confirmed. Students can supplement their financial support by teaching in the Colleges or in Department practical or examples classes, but the amount that can be earned is not sufficient for full support and cannot be used to satisfy the University's financial condition.

More information on finance is available on the Postgraduate Admissions pages [here](#).

College Choice

Being a member of a College is a very special aspect of the Cambridge Postgraduate experience. All students who are offered a place at the Department will automatically become a member of a College. If you are familiar with the Cambridge College system, you can decide to give your College preferences on your application. You may also choose a college which offers scholarships for your course or nationality. However, submitting an 'open application' without a College preference is just fine. More information on Colleges is available [here](#).

English Proficiency Requirements

If you're not from a majority English-speaking country, you may need to submit evidence that you meet the University's English language requirement before you can be admitted to your course - this is usually through the provision of an English Language test certificate, either IELTS or TOEFL.

You do not need to take the test before you apply. However, if you are made a conditional offer and have not already met our English language requirements, one of the conditions of your offer will be that you pass a test at the required level. Please note that test results are only valid for two years.

International English Language Testing System (IELTS)

The University's preferred test is the International English Language Testing System (IELTS). The minimum IELTS requirement is a minimum overall band of 7.00 with at least 7.0 in each element of the test and 6.5 in reading.

The Princeton TOEFL

If IELTS is unavailable an acceptable alternative is the Princeton TOEFL test. In this test the minimum requirements are 600 in the paper based TOEFL with a minimum of 5.0 in the Test of Written English or 250 in the computer based TOEFL test with 5.0 in the Essay Writing Test.

Details about the English language condition, including acceptable alternative tests, can be found in the [Graduate Admissions website](#).