

## Applications - EU (for entry in 2020/21)

### EU APPLICANTS

For guidance on your status as a home, EU or overseas/international student please see the relevant pages of the Graduate Studies Prospectus, available at:

<https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/fees-and-other-charges/fee-status>.

Applications for postgraduate study within the Department of Materials are all processed centrally through the Oxford University Graduate Admissions Office. Please find below details of how to apply for a DPhil/MSc(Research) degree.

### GRADUATE STUDIES PROSPECTUS

The University graduate studies prospectus can be viewed at the following website <http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate>.

### DEPARTMENT OF MATERIALS GRADUATE STUDENT ADMISSIONS SELECTION CRITERIA

Your attention is drawn to our Graduate Student Admissions Criteria, available via:

<http://www.materials.ox.ac.uk/admissions/postgraduate/admissionscriteria.html>.

### FEES

The majority of EU students are fully or partially funded by one of the UK Research Councils and/or by industry, or fully funded by the European Commission or European Research Council. Some EU students obtain scholarships from their own Governments or from charitable/educational foundations in their home countries.

For information on fees and living costs see the Graduate Prospectus webpages at:

<http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/fees-funding/fees/>

Further information on living costs can be found at

<http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/living-costs>.

For a standard DPhil programme full fees are payable for 3 years and a continuation charge thereafter, and we advise applicants to budget for 3.5 years living costs, although some students do finish within 3 years.

Please note that if offered a place you will need to self certify that you have enough funds for the entire period of study. (See <http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/financial-declaration/>). It is also important to add a contingency for fluctuating exchange rates.

### SCHOLARSHIPS & STUDENTSHIPS

EU students are eligible for UK research council sponsored "DTP studentships", but normally to cover only their fees; thus EU students who are offered a fees-only studentship must fund living costs from their own resources. An exception to this is for EU nationals who have spent the previous three years in the UK undertaking undergraduate study and therefore meet the residence requirements for full postgraduate studentship support which includes living costs. For Oxford Materials the majority of our DTP studentships are sponsored by the [Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council](#) (EPSRC). In addition, at the time of writing the UK's Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) permits the

University to use up to 10% of our Doctoral Training Grant to award full studentships (fees and living costs) to other EU students – for Materials this normally equates to one studentship per year. In addition we usually have available a number of EPSRC Industrial CASE studentships (fees-only for EU students unless you qualify under the ‘undergraduate’ exception as described above), and EC, ERC and industrially funded project studentships. Details are published on our website, as described below under ‘research topics’.

Overall though, in any one year we have relatively few fully-funded opportunities for EU students, and the limited number of scholarships are extremely competitive, being awarded only to the top students in any country for a given year. To be successful in a scholarship competition, normally you would need to be at or near the top of your year and have some additional evidence of your excellence. Further information about Scholarships can be found on the website at <http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/graduate-scholarships> where an Oxford funding search tool is also available together with details about applying for scholarships. Individual colleges also offer a number of scholarships for which Materials applicants are eligible – please see the individual college webpages or the scholarship webpage for details, **taking care to note the deadlines for such applications**. Note the early deadline of 30 September 2019 for applications for Rhodes Scholarships (Germany) for entry in October 2020.

## APPLICATION

If you wish to apply to the Department, you will need to complete the standard University application form, which can be found on the University’s admissions website at <http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate>. Having first carefully read the application guide you should apply using the online application form. If you have a problem with using the online form, please contact the Graduate Admissions and Funding Office as indicated in the Application Guide. All applications require the payment of an application fee.

Applicants who are also entering separate scholarship competitions must ensure that their University application is submitted in time. The Department of Materials strongly advises scholarship applicants to apply to the University in the first application field (closing date – 15 November 2019) although applicants who apply in the second field (closing date 24 January 2020) will also be considered for scholarships.

## COLLEGE CHOICE

On the graduate application form, you may choose to either (i) indicate that you have no college preference, in which case a college will be selected on your behalf, or (ii) state a college preference. You will not be able to amend your choice after submitting your application. Whether or not you state a college preference will not affect the Department’s assessment of your application. For further information, please refer to the Application Guide at <http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/colleges>. You can find out which colleges accept Materials research students at the ‘colleges’ tab of the relevant course page [www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/courses/mpls/materials](http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/courses/mpls/materials).

## RESEARCH TOPICS

When completing the application form, under the ‘Supporting Documents’ section entitled ‘statement of purpose/personal statement’, you **must** list in order of preference up to four preferred research topics/supervisors. Guidance can be found on the Department’s website <http://www.materials.ox.ac.uk/admissions/postgraduate.html>. In this part of the application you **must** also include a short statement (up to 400 words) to outline your research interests and to indicate the rationale behind your choice of projects. **We do not require a research proposal.**

On the website mentioned above we describe available projects in two categories, 'funded projects' and 'other projects'. Generally, the projects do not have specific deadlines, as we intend to consider applicants within the University of Oxford's Graduate Admissions standard application fields. Some of the descriptions on this website are of projects that carry earmarked funding and in these cases the eligibility of home, EU and overseas applicants is indicated within the advert. New projects are added from time-to-time, so please review the list regularly.

## CLOSING DATES

Until the middle of March applications will be considered in three gathered fields, as advertised in the Oxford University Graduate Studies Prospectus. Deadlines for the receipt of fully completed applications and references are: 15 November 2019, 24 January 2020 and 3 March 2020. Applications received after 3 March will be considered on an individual basis soon after receipt. **Overseas or scholarship applicants are strongly advised to apply in the November field, home/EU applicants in the January field.** In addition, project studentships with specific closing dates may be advertised on our website.

## FUNDING & PLACES

Please note that funding and places may be exhausted after the first two application fields: applications received after 24 January 2020 will be considered only if places and/or funded projects remain unfilled. We expect to make a small number of offers, to outstanding candidates, following evaluation of the November applications. The remaining good candidates from November will be considered automatically in January, along with the new applicants for that deadline, and we normally expect to offer the majority of available places following evaluation of the January applications.

## EPSRC DTP STUDENTSHIPS

Some of our annual quota of EPSRC DTP studentships may be assigned to specific projects; these 'earmarked' DTP studentships are advertised in our 'Funded Projects' list. Normally any offers for these earmarked studentships will be made to suitable applicants, as judged by our Graduate Admissions Selection Criteria, from either the November or January gathered fields. However, if a suitable good candidate for a project with an earmarked DTP studentship is identified in the November gathered field the studentship may be offered to that candidate without considering applicants in the January gathered field. For each earmarked DTP studentship, prior to final ranking interviews will be held for all eligible applicants shortlisted for that project in the relevant gathered field. We do not assign DTP studentships to specific projects unless this is advertised in advance on our website.

EPSRC DTP studentships that are not either advertised or offered under our 'earmarked' scheme normally will be offered to suitable good applicants for projects advertised in our 'Other Projects' list. One or two of these studentships *may* be offered to world-class applicants (those of similar quality to successful Clarendon Scholarship applicants) following evaluation of the November applications, but normally we expect to award the majority following evaluation of the January applications. Overall there are many more projects advertised in the 'Other Projects' category than the number of DTP studentships we have available. Hence, in a given year, some of the projects without earmarked funding may be designated as ineligible for DTP funding (this will be indicated within the project advert). Prior to final ranking, interviews will be held for all shortlisted applicants eligible for our non-earmarked EPSRC DTP awards.

Normally the most able and suitable applicants, as judged by our Graduate Admissions Selection Criteria, are offered the awards; depending on availability, normally subject to a limitation of no more than one EPSRC DTP studentship per supervisor per year.

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE

It is very important that at the earliest possible opportunity you take steps to meet the University's standard minimum English language requirement (<http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/applying-to-oxford/application-guide>). If you have yet to attain this minimum level any offer of a place we may make to you will be conditional on your achieving the standard minimum requirement. If you do not meet the conditions of your offer by the deadline we set, normally our offer will lapse.

In certain specific circumstances the University permits applicants to request an [English Language Test Waiver](#). It is at the discretion of the Department whether or not to grant such a waiver. If you are eligible for a waiver please tick the relevant box on the application form and upload a brief statement explaining very clearly how you meet the conditions under which a waiver may be requested. Please identify in this statement the source(s) of information by which we can verify that you meet these conditions. Requests for waivers that do not include an appropriate brief statement may not be considered.

Please note that it can take up to three months to obtain an examination date for IELTS or TOEFL, so we strongly recommend all applicants who need an English test to apply for one at the earliest opportunity and preferably sufficiently in advance that you would have time to obtain a date for a retake examination should this be necessary. In this respect please note also that we require not only a minimum overall score in the English test but also minimum scores in the individual components of the tests. By way of an example, for IELTS the **minimum** requirement is an overall score of 7.0 and 6.5 in each component.

Please bear this in mind when choosing your start date on your application form – if in doubt please consult our Graduate Admissions staff [graduate.admissions@materials.ox.ac.uk](mailto:graduate.admissions@materials.ox.ac.uk).