

Applications - Overseas (for entry in 2020/21)

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

FEES

A principal concern for overseas students is funding. 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 <https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/financial-declaration>). It is also important to add a contingency to allow for fluctuating exchange rates.

SCHOLARSHIPS & STUDENTSHIPS

We have relatively few funding opportunities for overseas 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 such as national prizes or awards. 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**. In particular please note the early deadlines for applications for Rhodes Scholarships <http://www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/>. These vary by country of origin, for

example for entry in October 2020 the following Rhodes Scholarship deadlines apply: Rhodes (Australia) 13 September 2019, the Rhodes (Hong Kong) deadline 30 September 2019, the Rhodes (China) deadline 12 October 2019, Rhodes (USA) deadline 2 October 2019 and Rhodes (Canada) deadline 27 September 2019. For Commonwealth Scholarships please see the website at <http://cscuk.dfid.gov.uk/apply> - the deadline is usually early in the academic year and details for some of the scholarships will become available in August 2019.

In addition to the Rhodes Scholarship China scheme, Chinese applicants may also wish to consider the [China Oxford Scholarship Fund](#) (COSF) and the jointly-funded [China Scholarship Council-University of Oxford Scholarships](#) and [China Scholarship Council-PAG Oxford Scholarships](#).

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 and other overseas 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/mps/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 at <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 cycles. 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.

IMMIGRATION, VISAS and ATAS

The Department of Materials strongly advises applicants for scholarships available to overseas applicants, eg Clarendon awards, to apply in the first application field (application deadline 15 November 2019), although those who apply in the second field (application deadline 24 January 2020) will also be considered

Applicants who are unsure of their status should contact the Student Fees Team, details can be found at <https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/fees-funding/fees/status>. Information about immigration and visas can also be found at the same web address. If you have specific questions about visas or immigration, then please see <https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/visa/before> or contact Student Immigration by e-mailing student.immigration@admin.ox.ac.uk.

Please note that it is essential for the visa process that you wait until the Department sends you the agreed research statement for the ATAS certificate (ATAS Certificates are required for all overseas students undertaking a Materials research degree). At the time of writing the UK Government Officers take at least 20-30 working days to process an ATAS application. We stress, you must **NOT** apply for an ATAS certificate without the approved research statement from this Department.

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.

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.

NOTE: Scholarships from some overseas Governments may be awarded only if at the time of applying for the scholarship candidates have already met the English level required by the University to which they have applied.

Students who require a visa will not be able to apply for this visa until they have met all the conditions of their offer, including any English Language requirements. If you do not meet the conditions of your offer by the deadline we set, normally our offer will lapse.

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.