

# OXFORD MATERIALS POSTGRADUATE APPLICATIONS FOR ENTRY IN 2024/25

## INTERNATIONAL APPLICANTS (INCLUDES EU APPLICANTS)

For guidance on your status as an International student or a UK / Republic of Ireland student and on your fee status (Overseas or Home) please see the [fee status pages](#) of the Graduate Studies Prospectus.

Additional information is available for [EU applicants](#) .

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 or MSc(Research) degree.

## GRADUATE STUDIES PROSPECTUS AND OXFORD MATERIALS POSTGRADUATE STUDIES WEBPAGES

The on-line [University of Oxford Graduate Studies Prospectus](#) includes important information for Materials Science Applicants.

The [Oxford Materials Postgraduate Admissions](#) webpages provide important further details.

## DEPARTMENT OF MATERIALS GRADUATE STUDENT ADMISSIONS SELECTION CRITERIA

Your attention is drawn to our [Graduate Student Admissions Criteria](#)

## COURSE FEES AND LIVING COSTS

The on-line University of Oxford Graduate Prospectus includes information on [Course Fees](#) and [Living Costs](#) .

For our standard DPhil programme Course 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 by means of a [financial declaration](#) that you have enough funds for the entire period of study. It is also important to add a contingency to allow for fluctuating exchange rates.

**A principal concern for international students is funding.** Depending on your country of origin, you may be able to obtain scholarships from your own Government or from charitable/educational foundations in your home country.

## SCHOLARSHIPS

We have relatively few funding opportunities for international 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 [Funding and Scholarships](#) can be found on the website, where an on-line **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](#). These vary by country of origin, for example for entry in October 2023 the following Rhodes Scholarship deadlines apply: Rhodes (India) 1 August 2023, Rhodes (Australia) 8 September 2023, Rhodes (Hong Kong) 29 September 2023, Rhodes (China) 18 September 2023, Rhodes (USA) 4 October 2023 and Rhodes (Canada) 28 September 2023. Deadlines for other eligible countries can be found at [Rhodes Constituency Information](#).

In some years [Commonwealth Scholarships](#) may be available for research students.

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](#). For the latter scholarships select from the A to Z listing at the link provided.

Applicants from Germany may wish to consider the Studienstiftung des Deutschen Volkes and Stiftung der Deutschen Wirtschaft schemes which provide funding for up to 3 years. See also a [list of institutions in Germany that provide funding for doctoral studies](#).

Applicants from Italy may wish to consider the [Ermenegildo Zegna Founder's Scholarship](#).

## STUDENTSHIPS

Subject to the limitations described in the paragraph below, international students are eligible for UK research council sponsored "DTP studentships" and EPSRC sponsored "i-CASE studentships", which cover the full costs of Course Fees and a maintenance stipend. For Oxford Materials the majority of our DTP studentships are sponsored by the [Engineering & Physical Sciences Research Council](#) (EPSRC). The current, 2023/24, minimum annual stipend is £18,622. As described below under 'RESEARCH TOPICS', details of individual projects and their funding are published on our website.

At the time of writing the UKRI permits the University to use up to 30% of our EPSRC Doctoral Training Grants to award full studentships (course fees and living costs) to international students – for Materials this normally equates to two or three studentships per year.

In addition usually we have available a number of industrially-funded project studentships. As described below under 'RESEARCH TOPICS', details of individual projects and their funding are published on our website.

## APPLICATION

If you wish to apply to the Department, you will need to complete the standard Oxford University Graduate Application Form, which can be found via the University's [Graduate Admissions Application Guide](#). 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 Office as indicated in the Application Guide. To submit an application requires the payment of an [application fee](#) but, as detailed on the webpage, application fee waivers are available for applicants from low-income countries and for UK applicants from low-income backgrounds.

Applicants who are also entering separate scholarship competitions must ensure 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 10 November 2023) although Materials applicants who apply in the second field (closing date 19 January 2024) also will 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 [Colleges](#) pages of the Application Guide. You can find out which colleges accept Materials research students at the 'College Preference' tab of the relevant [course page](#) [DPhil in Materials or MSc(Research) in Materials].

## RESEARCH TOPICS

When completing the application form, in the 'Supporting Documents' section entitled 'Statement of purpose/research proposal/personal statement', [DPhil in Materials](#) applicants **must** list in order of preference up to four preferred research topics/supervisors and [MSc\(Research\) in Materials](#) applicants **must** list in order of preference up to two preferred research topics/supervisors. Please see the Oxford Materials website for information on the [Materials Projects Available](#) to 2024/25 entrants. Normally, up to these limits, each lead supervisor you identify will consider your application and we guarantee that at least one of these will do so.

In this part of the application form 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.**

For further information see the "How to Apply" section of the prospectus entry for the relevant Materials programme [ [DPhil in Materials](#) or [MSc\(Research\) in Materials](#) ].

On the website mentioned above we describe the available projects in two categories, 'Funded Projects & Potentially-funded Projects' and 'All 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 secured earmarked funding and in these cases the eligibility of Home and International applicants is indicated within the advert. New projects are added from time-to-time, so please review the list regularly.

## CLOSING DATES

Until early 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 noon (UK time) on : 10 November 2023, 19 January 2024 and 1 March 2024. Applications received after 1 March will be considered on an individual basis soon after receipt.

**International applicants are strongly advised to apply in the November field, although applications from international candidates may be submitted in later fields too. Materials applicants for scholarships and/or for funded projects are advised to apply in the November field.** In addition, studentships with specific closing dates may be advertised on our website.

## FUNDING and PLACES

### OFFERS OF PLACES

Please note that funding and places may be exhausted after the first two application fields: applications received after 19 January 2024 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.

Funded projects will remain advertised until we have received a firm acceptance from a candidate to whom the project has been offered.

#### 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 & Potentially-funded Projects' list. Normally any offers for these earmarked DTP studentships will be made to suitable applicants, as judged against our Graduate Admissions Selection Criteria, from either the November or January gathered fields. 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. Normally 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 'All 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 'All 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 eligible applicants, as judged against our Materials Graduate Admissions Selection Criteria (see 'Entry Requirements'), are offered the awards; depending on availability, normally subject to a limitation of no more than one EPSRC DTP studentship per lead supervisor per year. In addition, normally the lead supervisor for an applicant who holds an offer of a Clarendon Scholarship will not be able also to recruit an applicant who is offered one of our annual quota of EPSRC DTP studentships\*.

\* This restriction excludes advertised *earmarked* EPSRC DTP studentships.

#### IMMIGRATION, VISAS and ATAS

Applicants who are unsure of their fees 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](mailto:student.immigration@admin.ox.ac.uk).

Please note that is essential for the visa process that you wait until the Department sends you the agreed research statement for the ATAS certificate (With the exception of nationals of a small number of countries, ATAS Certificates are required for all international students undertaking a Materials research degree). At the time of writing the UK Government Officers take at least 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](#) . 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. For 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).