

## ***DPhil in Cancer Science Programme 2023 Intake Guidance for Supervisors***

### ***Overview***

With its first intake in 2020, the DPhil in Cancer Science Programme provides research-based doctoral training for cancer researchers from clinical, biological, chemistry, physical, engineering, mathematics and statistics backgrounds. For the 2023 intake, we are seeking to appoint a cohort of approximately 12 students made up of 3 equal-sized cohorts of medical, physical, engineering and mathematical scientists; medicine undergraduates; and clinical trainees.

We are now open to applications for project submissions from cancer researchers across the Oxford University and Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust who are interested in supervising a student/fellow. The deadline for applications is **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2022**. These will be reviewed and 35-45 projects advertised for potential students to apply to from September 2022 until the graduate application deadline in early December. The top-ranked students after interview (late January 2023), will then be allocated their preferred project to start in October 2023.

Each studentship provides:

- Three years of salary for clinicians, or 4 years of stipend for non-clinicians.
- Home tuition fees for three years
- Consumables / Training budget of c£13k p.a.

### ***Supervisor Eligibility***

Before you submit a project for consideration for the 2023 intake, please ensure you are able to meet all of the supervisor eligibility criteria below.

- Each project must have a minimum of two named supervisors, and all supervisors must be independently funded investigators in posts that are expected to continue until the end of the Fellowship (September 2025/6)
- The Primary Supervisor must be laboratory based (this includes data/epidemiology laboratories) and not be supervising a studentship or fellowship that started in 2022.
- Each Primary Supervisor can only submit one project for consideration in this call.
- They should have adequate space and support for the student and a strong track-record of supervising students. Excluding students that failed to transfer, at least 80% of their students in the most recent 5-year cohort must have submitted within 4 years
- The Primary Supervisor is also responsible for ensuring relevant operational groups within their departments are aware of the Fellowship, appropriate contact details are supplied on the project submission form, and endorsements are secured e.g. HR / Personnel, Finance, Director of Graduate Studies, Head of Department
- If any supervisors have previously supervised an Oxford Centre student who has completed their Fellowship, they must have reported to the Centre on the Fellow to the satisfaction of the Committee. If you are unsure if a report is due, or has been accepted, then please email [cancer@medsci.ox.ac.uk](mailto:cancer@medsci.ox.ac.uk).



## ***PPI Review***

Patient and public involvement (PPI) is crucial in all stages of cancer research. It can improve the quality and relevance of your work, helping you better understand and articulate the benefits your research can have for cancer patients. Furthermore, PPI is becoming an increasingly important aspect of the research proposal review processes by external funding bodies.

Project submissions for the CRUK Oxford Centre DPhil in Cancer Science will now be reviewed by a member of the Oxford Cancer PPI group. You will need to include a lay summary to describe your project, explain why your research question is important and outline how you anticipate this will impact patient care in the future (see further guidance below/attached). Acceptance of your project will be contingent on the approval by the PPI group and the scientific review. If your application is successful, you will be allocated a PPI group representative to work with you and your student during the project.

## ***Lay Summary***

The 2-page research proposal should include a **Lay summary** (up to 300 words).

Please provide a summary of the research proposal that

- (i) describes your project
- (ii) explains why your research question is important
- (iii) outlines how you anticipate this will impact patient care in the future.

This will be reviewed by a member of the Oxford Cancer PPI group and so should be written for members of the public rather than researchers or professionals. It should:

- Be written in plain English, avoid the use of jargon and explain any technical terms or acronyms that have been included. Consider using short sentences (15-20 words) and headings to break up the text.
- Clearly articulate the clinical context and future patient/population impact of your work.
- Make clear the type of cancer you are targeting.
- Provide a clear rationale for why this research is being conducted and its design.

## ***Application Process***

Please complete the **attached application form** and return to [cancer@medsci.ox.ac.uk](mailto:cancer@medsci.ox.ac.uk) by **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2022**. Supervisors should outline the fundamental scientific premise of the project, and the clinical/translational relevance of the project and the potential impact on patient care. If you would like to develop a project for a specific trainee already identified, please feel free to do so.

Projects will be ranked based on:

- The quality of the scientific rationale behind the studentship request
- Potential impact of the project on the scientific community or patient care
- The extent to which the project/programme draws together collaborators from different disciplines.
- Track record of supervisor
- Their alignment to [Cancer Research UK](https://www.cancerresearchuk.org) and the Oxford Centre's research strategy
- Worthwhile and important from a patient/public perspective
- Clearly written lay summary

**Please contact [cancer@medsci.ox.ac.uk](mailto:cancer@medsci.ox.ac.uk) with any questions regarding the application process**