

## A Quick Guide to Department of Genetics Graduate Admissions

This document is intended as a quick introduction to graduate admissions in the Department and the University. A more detailed description of graduate life in the Department of Genetics can be found on our [Web Site](#) and details of University requirements through the links provided below.

Admission to the University requires completion of the University online Graduate Admission and Scholarship Application Form ([GRADSAF](#)), as described in Section A4.

If you intend to apply directly to a supervisor in the Department (e.g. Gates, Cambridge Overseas & Commonwealth Trusts, Cambridge Home and EU Scholarships or for an award from the Department's Doctoral training grant) you should proceed directly to Section **A**.

The Department also participates in some interdepartmental PhD programmes, for example the Wellcome Trust [Developmental Biology](#) or [Mathematical Genomics and Medicine](#) Programmes. To apply to these interdepartmental programs you will need to enter a preliminary competition before completing the GRADSAF and should follow the instructions in Section **B** below.

### A) Admission to the University

**You are strongly advised to consult the University [Board of Graduate Studies Website](#) for details on entry requirements, fees, funding and the application process.**

You should apply for admission to the University using the University's online [GRADSAF](#) (Graduate Admission and Scholarship Application Form) if you:

- wish to apply for **University-wide funding competitions** (eg Gates, Cambridge Overseas & Commonwealth Trusts, Cambridge Home and EU Scholarships etc – please note that these funding competitions all have very early application deadlines: <http://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/offices/gradstud/prospec/apply/deadlines.html> - funding
- wish to be considered for an award from the Department's doctoral training grant (UK-based students and fees-only awards for students from elsewhere in the EEA);
- have been awarded a specific studentship or programme position in competition;
- wish to apply for a College studentship;
- have an external scholarship; or
- have your own funding.

#### **BEFORE YOU COMPLETE A GRADSAF, READ THE FOLLOWING:**

Each application made using a GRADSAF costs £50 for online or £100 for a paper application. **You are therefore strongly advised to make informal enquiries with the research groups you are interested in applying to before making a formal application to the University.**

#### **A1) Are you eligible to apply for admission to our programmes?**

**Competition for admission to the University of Cambridge graduate programme is intense.** For more details of the University's academic requirements see the [Graduate Prospectus](#): like all departments in the Graduate School, we require all our graduate entrants to have:

- at least a 2.1 in an Honours degree or equivalent (eg CGPA 3.5/4.0) in a relevant subject.
- two outstanding references from senior University staff at your most recent University.
- some research project experience
- Non-English-speaking graduates normally require a recent IELTS test with an overall band score of at least 7.0 with not less than 7.0 in speaking, listening and writing, and 6.5 in reading or an equivalent TOEFL mark if IELTS is not available. See the [University advice](#) on language requirements.

## A2) Which qualification do you want to apply for?

- **MPhil by research (thesis) (BLGEM1)** 1 year.
- **PhD (thesis) (BLGE22)** – minimum 3 years, maximum 4 years full-time. (Applicants interested in part-time PhD study should consult a research group leader well in advance of any application deadlines.)

## A3) What topic do you want to study and who do you want to work with?

*The first question on the GRADSAF application form requires you to choose a course – for research applicants this means specifying which department or institute in which you wish to work.*

For the Department of Genetics, you need to do some serious homework to identify a topic and one or more supervisors in the department with whom you wish to work.

If you have not already decided, you should:

- [Browse our PIs](#) and visit their personal/group page to check details of their research
- If there is a possible vacancy, you can explore the possibility that your plans are of interest to them – **get in contact** (links are in the database)
- If you are interested in more than one supervisor in the Department of Genetics, you can name them as first and second choice in your application, but if you want to apply to supervisors in **different** departments, you will have to make separate applications (one to each department).

## A4) How to apply to the University

Go to <http://www.biomed.cam.ac.uk/gradschool/apply/student/online.html> for full instructions on how to apply online with more general information on applying to the University in the graduate prospectus <http://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/offices/gradstud/prospec/>

## B) Applying for interdepartmental programmes involving the Department

Members of the Genetics Department participate in specific Graduate Programmes and from time to time specific CRUK or BBSRC studentships are available with a named supervisor.

- Refer to the [Wellcome Trust Developmental Biology Programme](#) or the [Wellcome Trust Mathematical Genomics and Medicine Programme](#) for details of the studentship, eligibility criteria, application deadlines and how to apply.
- If you are successful, you will then be required to apply for admission to the University (see section **A** above).
- Remember that you will also have to submit a GRADSAF form before the appropriate funding deadlines described in the university graduate prospectus if you want to be considered for other projects or sources of funding, should your application to these specific programmes be unsuccessful.
- You will not be able to take up the award unless you are also successful in securing admission to the University and you will not be able to apply for a visa (if needed) until you hold an unconditional offer from the University.

For further information specific to the Department of Genetics:

email: [postgrad\\_info\[at\]gen.cam.ac.uk](mailto:postgrad_info[at]gen.cam.ac.uk);

or write to: Postgraduate Admissions Coordinator, Department of Genetics, University of Cambridge, Downing Street, Cambridge, CB2 3EH