

A Quick Guide to the Department of Genetics

2026-2027 Postgraduate Admissions

This document is intended as a quick guide to postgraduate admissions in the Department and the University. A more detailed description of postgraduate life in the Department of Genetics can be found on our Web Site and details of University requirements through the links provided below.

We currently offer two postgraduate programmes
• MPhil by research (thesis) (BLGEM1) 1 year.
• PhD (thesis) (BLGE22) minimum 3 years, maximum 4 years full-time. Part-time PhDs are potentially possible but will not be suitable for all research topics or circumstances.

Before submitting an application, all prospective applicants should contact a relevant [research group](#) leader to discuss potential research opportunities. Applications will only be considered if they are submitted through the University's [Postgraduate Application Portal](#). Further guidance is available in the University Postgraduate Guide.

There is an £85 application fee. However, the Postgraduate School of the Life Sciences allows applicants to apply for up to three courses within a single application, and fee exemptions may be available in some circumstances. [Application fee | Postgraduate Study](#)

If you are:

- applying for a self-funded degree with a supervisor in the Department,
- applying with independent scholarship funding, or
- seeking support through the Cambridge [Postgraduate Funding Competition](#), you are strongly encouraged to contact potential supervisors and discuss possible research projects before submitting a formal application.

Important: The Department does not consider open applications. You must identify and secure the support of a prospective supervisor before applying to the University. Applications submitted without a named supervisor are likely to be automatically rejected. A list of supervisors is available on our website; please check individual profiles to confirm whether they are currently accepting postgraduate students.

The Department also participates in several interdepartmental PhD programmes, including the [Home | Cambridge Biosciences DTP PhD Programme](#). Applications to these programmes must be made according to the guidance provided on their respective websites.

Before applying, you should carefully review the [University Postgraduate Admissions website](#) for information on entry requirements, fees, funding opportunities, and the application process.

Academic Requirements

Admission to postgraduate study at the University of Cambridge is highly competitive. As a guide, applicants to the Department of Genetics are normally expected to have:

- At least a 2:1 Honours degree (or international equivalent, such as a CGPA of 3.5/4.0) in a relevant subject. Details of equivalent qualifications can be found on the University Postgraduate Admissions website. [International qualifications | Postgraduate Study](#)
- Two outstanding academic references from senior staff at your most recent university.
 - If one of your referees is your proposed supervisor, you should provide a third academic reference.
- Research project experience.
- For overseas applicants, evidence of proficiency in written and spoken English. Please refer to the University's English language requirements for further details. [English language requirements | Postgraduate Study](#)

Funding Deadlines
United States GATES Funding Deadline: October 2026
University Funding Competition: December 8 th , 2026
*The University has two different dates, if you are applying to 2nd department, please check their deadline as well.
Please check our Funding page for a complete list of funding deadlines and guidance

Useful Links & Contacts

Topics & Supervisors In Genetics (Dept page)	Genetics Department : pgadm@gen.cam.ac.uk
Postgraduate Admissions Home Page	Postgraduate Admissions Funding
Postgraduate Admissions International Students	Postgraduate Funding Search
Postgraduate Admissions Colleges	How do I find a potential supervisor? – University of Cambridge (zendesk.com)