NST Path to Genetics- Etienne & Jemima

"I came to uni not knowing having really enjoyed all of my A levels in Biology, Chemistry and Maths, I wanted to continue all three, so I took Biology of Cells (BoC), Chemistry, Mathematical Biology and Evolution & Behaviour in first year. I ruled out chemistry for second year but really enjoyed the others and took Cell & Developmental Biology, which is effectively a continuation of BoC from first year, and two new modules – Biology of Disease and Neurobiology. I really wasn't sure what to do for third year as I was enjoying all three of my modules equally, but I came to Genetics because there was a good chance of me getting to do a lab project (but alas, Covid…) and I thought it would keep my options quite open for whatever I wanted to do afterwards. I'm still not sure what that is though, I'm looking to do a Masters to get myself some research experience to see if that's what is right for me, otherwise I have thought about going into finance/tech of some sort."

Etienne Dean 3rd year NatSci

"I had planned to study Genetics before I applied to University – I had read a bunch of Professor Anne Ferguson Smith's papers and was like "cool stuff I wanna do that" so I applied to Cambridge. IA: mathbiol, physiology, chemistry, biology of cells. IB: biochem, neurobiology, and cell and developmental biology – it was all a plan to get either to do gen or development (in PDN – physiology, development and neuroscience). Also, genetics (and epigenetics in particular) is one of the few scientific disciplines where a lot of the leaders are women so this a bonus! My future plans are to go into research and get cracking into a PhD or masters straight out from uni. I've now been informally accepted for a PhD studying the role of imprinted long noncoding RNAs in brain development and response to brain injury."

Jemima Becker 3rd year NatSci

MVST Path to Genetics – Ujjawal & Shivani

"I've always had an interest in Genetics, and understanding why we show the traits we do, as well as as the influence of our environment on our genome and phenotypes. This was furthered through studying genetics topics in biochem in 1st year. I became especially interested in developmental genetics due to its implications for diseases later in life and future generations, so I undertook a summer project exploring the DNA damage response. Through my passion for human health and alleviating disease as a medical student, as well as what I learned in Pathology, I was especially interested in the genetic aspects of diseases, specifically those without clear genetic causes, as it is known that many diseases have a genetic aspect. I decided to study genetics in order to further explore this field, as well as gain further research experience through the project and I hope to undertake further research looking into the genetics of human disease alongside my clinical practice in the future."

Ujjawal Kumar 3rd year Medic

"Genetics was one of my favourite topics in A Level Biology, but despite that I didn't really known what degree I wanted to apply for. I knew I liked science, but the thought of a career in pure research didn't sound that exciting to me. I applied for medicine because it was the perfect blend of science and patient interaction. Oxbridge medicine is more theoretical and research heavy than other unis. Although I was convinced research wasn't for me, I found myself really enjoying this side of the course and , and I found myself really enjoying this aspect and getting involved with research outside of my degree. I developed my interest in the use of genetics in regenerative medicine and oncology. Therefore, when it was time to apply for Pt 2 subjects, I thought genetics would be a perfect foundation for research I may want to do as a doctor. My research project this year is looking tracking spinal cord regeneration, the project is an excellent to specialise in a topic of your interest, there is definitely something for everyone! I founded CGS last year to be a platform for sharing genetics related, research and more. "

Shivani Shukla 3rd year Medic