The University of Dundee is one of the UK’s strongest Life Sciences research centres, obtaining the highest overall rating for all UK Universities in Biology in the UK government’s 2014 Research Excellence Framework (REF). Our postgraduate students are essential to achieving and maintaining our world-leading position in life science research.

We pride ourselves on:
- The excellence of our fundamental research
- Our provision of an enriching and stimulating environment with state-of-the-art facilities
- Our effective cross-disciplinary approaches to biological-related questions
- Our friendly and collaborative environment
- Our strong interactions with industry

These features, in combination with our commitment to nurturing the next generation of scientists, allows us to deliver world class postgraduate training. As Dean of Research and leader of a research group, one of my greatest pleasures is watching our research students develop into the highly skilled and independent scientific leaders of tomorrow. Our thriving research community is truly global with postgraduate students at the core of all that we do and achieve. We look forward to you joining us in Dundee to begin the next step in your scientific career.

Prof. J. Julian Blow FRSE FMedSci, Dean of Research, Life Sciences

Life Sciences
University of Dundee

- An internationally renowned centre of excellence and one of the most productive research institutes in Europe.
- Our scientists make groundbreaking contributions to address national and global health challenges and also major environmental issues with real impact.
More than 900 staff and research students, representing no fewer than 60 different nationalities, provides a genuinely global research environment in the heart of Scotland. PhD projects are available in a broad range of subject areas within life sciences and interdisciplinary themes, all supervised by internationally renowned scientists.

Aims of our PhD Programmes:
1. Develop the next generation of life scientists by providing an intellectually exciting and supportive environment.
2. Train students to plan and conduct cutting edge research of the highest quality.
3. Educate in the theory and practice of current and future life science research.
4. Enable development of essential transferrable skills.
5. Provide the platform and opportunities to gain employment upon completion of PhD studies.

Our PhD programmes offer studentships and scholarships to UK, EU and overseas applicants through the Medical Research Council (MRC), Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC), Wellcome Trust, A-Star (Singapore), CAPES (Brazil), Science without Borders (Brazil), CSC (China), Marshall Aid (America) and from the University itself. The 4-year Wellcome Trust programme in particular is open to all nationalities.

Life Science PhD students also benefit from participation in a range of innovative practical training courses including tissue culture, cutting edge molecular biology, quantitative proteomics, specialist cell imaging, advanced data analysis and visualisation and flow-cytometry. Core skills and techniques obtained in these sessions are invaluable in underpinning postgraduate research development. Students also participate in data and research communication events stimulating learning, broadening knowledge and enhancing awareness of the diversity of life science research.

My former advisors were my inspiration and motivation to become a group leader; they got me hooked into science! Now, it is a privilege for me to have the opportunity to transfer my positive energy and great enthusiasm for discovery science to my students.

Alessio Ciulli: Principal Investigator, Biological Chemistry and Drug Discovery

PhD students are the lifeblood of the lab. It is a pleasure to watch them develop from enthusiastic novices into fully-fledged scientists with real control over the ideas and the direction of their project.

Tracy Palmer: Head of Division, Molecular Microbiology
Besides performing research at the highest international standards, the University considers training and nurturing of the next generation of researchers a top priority. Students receive support, both within Life Sciences and at University level, and participate in an extensive range of professional development training, in addition to having access to a dedicated careers advice service.

Life Sciences postgraduate students work in a supportive and collegiate environment with a very strong sense of community. New students join a cohort of 200 PhD students and are strongly supported by their peers via the Life Sciences PhD student association PiCLS. 

picls.lifesci.dundee.ac.uk/index.html

This student-led association has funds to organise many important training and social events, including the annual PiCLS research symposium.

“I realised that Dundee is not only one of the best places to do a PhD because of its excellence in research, but also because of the broad interaction between groups forming an inspiring and supporting scientific community!”

Helena Salmen (Germany), former student in the Hay lab
The University of Dundee has a compact but lively campus, situated in the centre of Dundee, five minutes from the city’s premier retail, leisure, cultural and entertainment facilities, and provides for all aspects of life. There is on-site access to extensive sporting facilities and clubs, including the region’s largest gym, a swimming pool and much more. Dundee recently became the UK’s first UNESCO City of Design, a prestigious global award that recognises the huge contribution the city has made to design and innovation worldwide. This innovation continues through Dundee’s £1 billion, 30-year masterplan to design and create an open, inclusive city of the future. At the heart of this plan is the creation of V&A Museum of Design, Dundee, an impressive new centre of 21st century design for Scotland and the world, due to open in 2018.

“Dundee’s setting is probably more extraordinary than any other city in Scotland or Britain. It is about ideal, as ludicrously ideal, as any city setting could be.”

Stephen Fry, Former Rector, University of Dundee

Cafe - Central library facilities
Our Location

Being at the heart of Scotland’s road and rail network puts spectacular scenery, skiing, championship golf, mountain climbing and sailing within easy reach as well as the major cities of Edinburgh and Glasgow.

Scotland’s four main international airports all operate both national airlines such as British Airways and low cost airlines. This makes it easy to get to all the major centres of the UK and Europe.

www.dundee.ac.uk/general/travel

Besides the value of the first class science on offer, Dundee was also attractive to me because I’m passionate about walking and wanted to live near beautiful countryside.

Jaeger Hamilton (England), former student in the Sargent lab

Contact us

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@clsdundee

Dundee to...

- Edinburgh Airport 1 hour 15 mins
- Glasgow Airport 1 hour 30 mins
- Manchester Airport 5 hours
- Birmingham 5 hours 20 mins
- London 6 hours

Scottish airport flights to:

- Amsterdam Schipol Airport 1 hour 25 minutes
- Paris CDG Airport 1 hour 45 minutes
- London Airports 1 hour
1 Broughty Ferry bay | 2 Pubs, bars and cafés | 3 Dundee Airport