Wellcome PhD Programme in Integrated Molecular, Cellular and Translational Biology

School of Life Sciences
University of Dundee
I'm Professor Ron Hay, the Wellcome PhD Programme Lead. Our programme, delivered by world-leading researchers within the School of Life Sciences, trains the next generation of scientists in a first-class environment.

Hosting a successful postgraduate programme is a priority for us and student contributions to our research, environment and culture are highly valued.

Over the course of the programme you will help fulfil the vision of the University of Dundee to transform lives locally and globally through the creation, sharing and application of knowledge.

There are three particular features that define our programme:

1. Our staff are leaders in diverse areas of life science research, and our community is friendly and collaborative.
2. Our scientific technologies are state-of-the-art.
3. The training we provide, together with strong links to industry, means that our students are eagerly sought by employers.

The flexible PhD Programme includes multidisciplinary research in Cell Regulation, Protein Modification, Infection and Immunity and Drug Discovery and Translation. In Year 1, you will acquire practical and theoretical skills in different laboratories and carry out a variety of rotation projects allowing you to make an informed decision for the selection of your main PhD project. Integral to this programme is training in experimental design, data handling and processing, computational biology and ethical standards in scientific research.

Within this 4-year PhD programme, there is also an opportunity to take part in a 12-week Career Enhancing Placement in Year 3. These include industry-style placements in our own Drug Discovery Unit or in public outreach at the local Science Centre.

You will participate in other cohort activities such as the annual Summer School—a great way to interact with your peers across the different years. We will provide training to help you develop skills in research methods, critical assessment and communication and encourage you to participate in outreach events that can provide context for your research.

This brochure will share more details about the programme, our rankings and our students’ perspectives, but if you need any further information, you can contact me directly using the details in the Contacts section.

Finally, if you are successful in joining the programme, I hope that you will find your PhD a challenging but rewarding experience, equipping you with the skills to tackle a variety of future career paths.

Professor Ron Hay
Wellcome PhD Programme Lead
Wellcome 4-year PhD Studentships in Science

The Dundee Training Programme in Integrated Molecular, Cellular and Translational Biology

IMCTB – The Integrated Molecular, Cellular and Translational Biology Doctoral Training Programme is our flagship Wellcome funded PhD scheme. The programme reflects the University’s vision to transform lives locally and globally through the creation, sharing and application of knowledge, and combines training provided by world-renowned scientists with a commitment to improving the working environment and transition support for trainees.

The University of Dundee has outstanding Life Sciences research that makes fundamental discoveries on the molecular and cellular mechanisms underlying health and disease in humans, animals, plants and bacteria and translates that knowledge to address global challenges. Our outstanding international profile is verified by many external benchmarks including being: the only UK institution in top 50 (26th) for research impact on global innovation (Nature Innovation Index 2017); the world’s most influential research institution in pharmaceuticals (Clarivate Analytics 2017); in world top 100 for research quality (Nature Index, 2019); 1st in the UK and 8th globally for ‘Biomedical and Health Science’ publications (CWTS Leiden Ranking 2019). We are also the University of the Year for Student Experience in the Sunday Times Good University Guide 2020.

One key to these successes is our collaborative working environment and outstanding shared technological infrastructure run by expert staff. These internationally recognised strengths include mass spectrometry, cell and tissue imaging, drug discovery and informatics platforms. Students will join our supportive and positive research culture with the opportunity to select research projects centred around four themes:

- Cellular Regulation
- Protein Modification
- Infection and Immunity
- Drug Discovery and Translation

School of Life Sciences Lab, University of Dundee

The only UK institution in the Top 50 for Research Impact on Global Innovation
Nature Innovation Index 2017

The World’s Most Influential Research Institution in Pharmaceuticals
Clarivate Analytics 2017

In the World Top 100 for Research Quality
Nature Index 2019

University of the Year for student experience
The Times & The Sunday Times Good University Guide 2020
**Cellular Regulation**

“The theme of Cellular Regulation speaks to our overall goal here at the School of Life Sciences, University of Dundee. We aim to use cutting edge tools and technologies to unravel the molecular pathways that control the growth, survival, differentiation and function of cells, as this is absolutely fundamental to decipher the mechanisms that underpin human diseases. Ultimately, this knowledge will allow us to elaborate new treatments for many devastating conditions.”

Dr Greg Findlay
Wellcome Trust/Royal Society Sir Henry Dale Fellow, MRC Protein Phosphorylation and Ubiquitylation Unit, School of Life Sciences, University of Dundee

**Protein Modification**

“Post-translational modifications of proteins are exploited by cells to rapidly respond to changing extracellular factors. Dundee has been at the forefront of understanding reversible protein phosphorylation for decades, attracting significant interest from the pharmaceutical industry for development of protein kinase inhibitors against a range of diseases. In the last decade, several groups at the School of Life Sciences have started to study a range of other post-translational modifications such as ubiquitination, glycosylation and palmitoylation, all of which are increasingly linked to a range of human diseases as a result of a growing body of genome sequences. This is an exciting time to join some of the groups active in this area!”

Professor Daan van Aalten, FRSE
Professor of Biological Chemistry, School of Life Sciences, University of Dundee

Many of the transitions in cellular behaviour are driven by changes in the post-translational modification of proteins. These modifications can be with small chemical entities such as phosphorylation or N-Acetyl Glucosamine or with small proteins such as ubiquitin or SUMO. The MRC Protein Phosphorylation and Ubiquitylation Unit (PPU) is a major research centre for understanding the biological roles of phosphorylation and ubiquitylation, while researchers in GRE study GlcNAc and SUMO modification. Multiple supervisors investigate the biological outcomes of modification using appropriate animal models and have developed proteomic pipelines to facilitate high throughput identification of modification sites. Establishing the mechanisms of modification is an important objective and this is tackled using structural biology, biochemistry and single molecule approaches. As disruption of these processes cause human diseases such as neurodegeneration, cancer, hypertension and immune disorders these pathways are important targets in the search for therapeutics.

**Infection and Immunity**

“It is increasingly becoming clear that our gut and the microbes within it play a central role in our risk of getting many diseases, including metabolic, autoimmune and even neurodegenerative diseases. I study how the gut immune system deals with intestinal infections, and Dundee is a great place to explore this question. We have so many great scientists here working on intestinal pathogens, investigating cell signalling and immune function, and exploring the molecular basis of disease.”

Dr Mahima Swamy
Wellcome Trust/Royal Society Sir Henry Dale Fellow, MRC Protein Phosphorylation and Ubiquitylation Unit, School of Life Sciences, University of Dundee

**Drug Discovery and Translation**

“This theme brings together cutting-edge research in Immunology and Infectious Disease and involves scientists from the divisions of Cell Signalling and Immunology, Molecular Microbiology and the Wellcome Centre for Anti-Infectives Research (WCAIR). The immunology work is relevant to the pathologies associated with cancer, diabetes, infectious disease, autoimmunity and allergy. Engineered animal models allow precise questions relating to defined biological pathways to be addressed in vivo. Use of high throughput proteomics has identified changes to protein levels and protein modifications that take place in immune cells in response to infection. Work in microbiology spans from fundamental science using model organisms to translational research on medically and economically significant pathogens. The overarching purpose is to generate excellent, innovative and internationally recognised research on molecular determinants of bacterial virulence; host responses to microbial pathogens; fundamental physiological processes in microbial cells, including transport and generation of the cell surface; inter-bacterial interactions; and identification of potential targets for antimicrobial intervention and biotechnological applications.

**University of Dundee**

Wellcome PhD Programme

The extensive portfolio of our basic mechanistic science generates many opportunities for these discoveries to be translated into useful therapeutics. The role of the Drug Discovery Unit (DDU) is to translate basic science into lead compounds for pre-clinical drug targets. These chemical entities are used as tools to investigate disease pathways and, where appropriate, taken forward as pre-clinical drug candidates. Research interests of the DDU are focused on ‘Neglected Tropical Diseases’ and ‘Innovative targets and pathways’. The DDU has all of the capabilities required for early phase drug discovery: assay development, high throughput screening, cell biology, medicinal chemistry, structural biology, computational chemistry and DMPK. All of these capabilities operate under one management structure to ensure an integrated approach and rapid progress. The drug discovery capabilities of researchers in Life Sciences are enhanced by the presence of the National Phenotypic Screening Centre (NPSC). This is an advanced high throughput facility that focuses on the development and screening of physiologically relevant assays to tackle human, animal, and plant diseases.

**Infection and Immunity**

This theme brings together cutting-edge research in Immunology and Infectious Disease and involves scientists from the divisions of Cell Signalling and Immunology, Molecular Microbiology and the Wellcome Centre for Anti-Infectives Research (WCAIR). The immunology work is relevant to the pathologies associated with cancer, diabetes, infectious disease, autoimmunity and allergy. Engineered animal models allow precise questions relating to defined biological pathways to be addressed in vivo. Use of high throughput proteomics has identified changes to protein levels and protein modifications that take place in immune cells in response to infection. Work in microbiology spans from fundamental science using model organisms to translational research on medically and economically significant pathogens. The overarching purpose is to generate excellent, innovative and internationally recognised research on molecular determinants of bacterial virulence; host responses to microbial pathogens; fundamental physiological processes in microbial cells, including transport and generation of the cell surface; inter-bacterial interactions; and identification of potential targets for antimicrobial intervention and biotechnological applications.
The PhD Pathway

The Integrated Molecular, Cellular and Translational Biology PhD programme, provided by world-renowned researchers from the School of Life Sciences at the University of Dundee, will train the next generation at the forefront of international science research.

- **Year 1 Foundation Training**: Induction, Lab P1, Lab P2, Lab P3, 1:1 Tuition, Lab P4 [Optional 10/11 week mini lab project], Elective Training, Public Engagement and Outreach, Research Project

- **Year 2 Advanced Training**: Core Bioscience Skills, Elective Training, Public Engagement and Outreach, Research Project

- **Year 3 Professional Training**: 12 week Career Enhancing Placement, Elective Training, Public Engagement and Outreach, Research Project

- **Year 4 Consolidation**: Elective Training, Public Engagement and Outreach, Careers Workshop, Thesis writing & submission, Research Project
**Year 1 – Foundation Training**

Year 1 starts with a 5-week induction programme; including practical sessions in cell culture, cell sorting and imaging, protein analysis and proteomics as well as workshops and a self-reflection programme on resilience and wellbeing. This is followed by three 5-6 week rotation placements in laboratories with divergent themes; supplemented with core and elective training elements. Following each placement, you will be asked to submit a short scientific report on the work you carried out.

Super-seminars, each with a focus on one of the programme themes, will also take place during your placements. These seminars are presented by Principal Investigators associated with the programme are an opportunity for you to learn more, and ask questions about, the research being carried out within each theme before making your choice for your main research project. Following your final placement, you will also have the opportunity to undertake a longer, 10-11 week, ‘mini-project’, if you wish. Timelines for Year 1, showing the two routes, are below.

By the end of Year 1 you will have chosen your research project which you will focus on for the rest of your PhD.

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**Year 1 alternative**

By the end of Year 1 you will have chosen your research project which you will focus on for the rest of your PhD.

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**Generic Skills and Specialist Training**

In Year 1, you will also take part in specialist and generic skills training. Some of these sessions are introductory and others, such as those focused on research integrity, resilience and professional development, will continue throughout your PhD.

**Introduction to Statistics for Bioscience**

Introduction to Statistics for Bioscience introduces statistical analysis using the freeware program R and its graphical user interface RStudio, and will enable you to collect, organize and analyse data in order to draw meaningful conclusions. Optional, advanced courses are also available.

**Research Integrity**

Completion of this introductory workshop and online video course is a mandatory requirement for your transfer of ordinance to the MPhil/PhD track.

**CAST and specialist facilities Taster Session**

This one-day workshop will introduce you to the dedicated staff and cutting-edge facilities of our multidisciplinary Centre for Advanced Scientific Technologies and other specialisms, including Drug Discovery, human pluripotent stem cells and The National Phenotypic Screening Centre.

**Hands on Writing**

Workshop and six-week step-by-step online course specifically tailored to help PhD students develop good scientific writing skills. It will cover the writing process from pre-writing to proofreading and provide plenty of opportunities to develop and hone effective writing skills.

**Occupational and Professional Development (OPD)**

All University of Dundee postgraduate research students also benefit from the Researcher Development Programme, which is delivered by OPD, Academic Skills Centre, The Careers Service, Revealing Research and the Centre of Entrepreneurship and at a School level to offer postgraduate researchers a range of opportunities to continue their personal, professional and career development.

**Attend the poster presentations by students who are entering the final year of their PhD**

Ask questions and learn. It won’t be long until it’s your turn to present! These lively events provide an excellent opportunity to integrate and network with your peers as well as gain insights into wider research in the School.
Year 2 – Advanced Training

You will meet your Thesis Committee, two independent PIs who will monitor your progress and provide mentorship. Students meet their thesis committees formally twice a year (normally Jan/Feb and June/July) during their studentship in order to monitor and discuss progress. Each student and their supervisor will also be asked to complete and submit a progress questionnaire prior to the presentation by the student.

Transfer of Ordinance
When you register to undertake postgraduate studies at the University of Dundee, you are initially registered under Ordinance 12 (which governs all research degree students) and only transfer to Ordinance 39 (PhD status) following the successful fulfilment of a transfer process at around 9 months into your main project. For this process you attend a transfer preparation workshop. Thereafter you submit a Transfer report (4,000 words) in discussion with your Supervisors, give a short oral presentation (approximately 20 minutes) to an appropriate forum of peers, and undergo a mini-viva with a ‘Transfer Committee’ made up of your Thesis Committee and one other PI.

Progress, training needs, skills and achievement are recorded every 6 months. We value your opinions on the training that is delivered as part of your programme and we will therefore ask for and act on your feedback.

During Year 2, at the time of your Transfer of Ordinance, you will also be given the option to write up your project as an MSc, if you wish.

Year 3 – Professional Training

You will mainly be focused on your personal research project. However, we also expect you, together with your cohort of students, to share your experiences through public engagement activities, work on a team problem-solving activity, and by organising the annual retreat.

Career Enhancing Placement
In your third year, you will have the opportunity to undertake an optional 12-week ‘Career Enhancing Placement (CEP)’. The aim of this is to provide you with an ‘out-of-main-research project’ experience geared towards your individual interests and career aspirations. Positive feedback from other students has shown us that these are extremely valuable for your future career. For example, you might choose to experience our industry style Drug Discovery Unit, the UoD Elevator’s Accelerator Programme or engage the public in a Science Centre. These experiences, and the transferable skills you gain, will enhance future employability.

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Year 4 – Consolidation

Training in the final year of your PhD aims to help you in finishing your research project and write up your thesis. Support and advice on future career choices will be available from your Supervisor and Thesis Committee and you will also have the opportunity to attend careers events.

Year 4

- September: Continuing conversations
- Christmas: Research Project
- April: Continuing conversations
- May: Research Integrity
- May: Research Integrity Workshops

Research Project

Thesis Writing

Network and Cohort Building

The primary aim of the programme is to deliver world-class training to postgraduate researchers and to build vibrant, collaborative and all-inclusive student cohorts. Training and socialising within your peer group enhances the student experience and our postgraduate researchers enjoy multiple networking opportunities from the point of recruitment (interview day facilitates these interactions) and throughout their postgraduate studies.

The induction course is the first point at which students get to know and interact with their peer group. Thereafter there are the regular meetings at compulsory training events (every 2 weeks), the super seminar series (weekly), and the rotation reporting seminars. Current students, already engaged in their PhD projects, help on the induction to encourage interactions between year groups and all the student years come together at the summer school and the annual retreat in the autumn.

The annual summer school includes Wellcome funded Biomedical Vacation Scholarships for undergraduate students. A key aim of these scholarships is to widen participation at postgraduate study level for under-represented groups. Our Wellcome post-graduate researchers have the opportunity to engage with these students during their placements through a ‘buddying’ scheme which will include sessions at the start and end of the placement. Our aim is to provide these scholarship students with the best possible experience of working within a life science research environment as well as to benefit from feedback and advice from current PhD students to inform decisions on future study.

Within the School we also have our student-led PhD association, PiCLS. PiCLS allows students across all schemes to interact and has been successfully running for many years. It forms a key part of the School organising a range of activities including sports and social events, PhD retreats, annual symposium, career seminars, monthly social events and ceilidh.

“PiCLS events are great way to meet new people and make new friends. The social events, like our pizza night and ceilidh, are good chance to spend time with other PhD students outside of the lab. We are also involved in organising many public engagement events, seminars and workshops for the benefit of our postgraduate community. If you want to, you can also apply to become a committee member, it’s a great way to build on your planning and organisational skills.”

Anna Segarra Fas
PhD Student, PiCLS Committee Member

Postgraduate students in the Discovery Centre Street, School of Life Sciences
Wellcome PhD Programme
University of Dundee

Mentoring and Support in our Positive Research Culture

The School is proud of its positive culture that has allowed our community to perform to the highest level and as a postgraduate researcher you will join and contribute to this positive environment. Leading the way in supporting diversity, equality and research integrity within the School is our Associate Dean for Professional Culture and we are the proud recipients of an Athena SWAN Silver Award recognising our commitment to gender equality.

Our mentorship arrangements draw on the skills and expertise of diverse groups to provide the best advice possible - you will have access to a group of trained 4th year postgraduate students and you will also be assigned an academic mentor, distinct from your supervisor or members of your Thesis Management Committee.

The University has a variety of services in place to support students and staff whether this is through our Student Services, our various networks (BME, Disabled, LGBTQ+) or within the School itself. We operate zero tolerance on bullying and harassment and have trained advisors as well as staff trained in mental health first aid.

Your support network

The University of Dundee has a variety of services in place to support students and staff whether this is through our Student Services, our various networks (BME, Disabled, LGBTQ+) or within the School itself. We operate zero tolerance on bullying and harassment and have trained advisors as well as staff trained in mental health first aid.

School of Life Sciences Teaching Facility, University of Dundee
What our Postgraduate Researchers think

The Wellcome Committee think that we offer an excellent programme, providing postgraduate researchers with the necessary training and skills, through a variety of ways, to continue their career in life sciences. However, it’s important that you hear from those that have been there before – our current and previous students. We know that undertaking a postgraduate research project is both challenging and rewarding and it’s important to know that you are making the right choice when choosing the PhD programme, and university, you apply to. To help you in your decision, we have included some feedback we have received on our Wellcome programme from our postgraduate research community, both past and present.

“When I was applying for a PhD, I mostly considered Wellcome Trust funded programmes in the UK. The Wellcome Trust PhD programme in Dundee offered the broadest choice of research topics, allowing me to do rotations in different labs and gain valuable experience in various research areas. Moreover, University of Dundee has been considered the top 100 in Life Sciences worldwide over the past several years. Dundee is a great place to live and work in, being rather small and fortuitously located very close to the picturesque Scottish countryside and highlands.”

Andrii Gorelik
Wellcome Postgraduate Researcher

“Coming into the PhD programme I didn’t really know what I want to do. Due to the wide variety of rotations projects, I got to experience different fields of research. Dundee is also a fantastic place to do biology, owing to the vast and varied number of labs it hosts. Help and advice were provided throughout, whether that be getting settled into a PhD or moral support when something isn’t working.”

Mathew Jones
Wellcome Postgraduate Researcher

“The Wellcome PhD programme at the University of Dundee is well managed from the very beginning. As first year students, we started with a comprehensive induction program which ensures that the students are familiar with key laboratory techniques and data analysis. I particularly enjoyed the three rotations which are a fantastic way of gaining experience in different fields of research, getting to know the labmates and PIs and learning new techniques, all of this before actually choosing and starting our main PhD projects. As Wellcome PhD students, we attend retreats every year which facilitate networking. I always felt very supported during the programme.”

Michaela Omelkova
Wellcome Postgraduate Researcher

Our Covid-Safe Research Environment

Coronavirus (Covid-19) has, understandably, impacted the way that we deliver our PhD programmes and the way we carry out research within our buildings. Our PhD Management Committee, Head of Postgraduate studies, our support teams, including Health & Safety, and all of our academic research staff have worked extremely hard to ensure that our world-leading research can continue in these unprecedented times.

In order to continue to deliver teaching of the highest standard to our postgraduate researchers, and ensure the safety of all members of our academic community, we have moved to a blended model of learning, making use of online resources to deliver seminars and courses where possible, alongside work within the lab.

Before being granted access to our research complex, all postgraduate researchers and staff members are required to complete a short questionnaire, this questionnaire ensures that we are made aware of anyone who may be shielding or who may be at increased risk. You will also be provided with a copy of our Covid-Safe Workplace Procedures document to ensure you have the information you need to allow you to work safely within the buildings.

We continue to take advice from the Scottish Government and will adapt our working practices accordingly as further relaxations, or restrictions, are introduced.

If you have any questions around the impact of Coronavirus on our PhD Programmes, please get in touch (SLS-PhDAdmin@dundee.ac.uk) and we will be happy to discuss further.
Contacts

Administration

The administration for this programme is led by professional services staff within the School of Life Sciences. Please contact them via SLS-PhDAdmin@dundee.ac.uk in the first instance and a member of the team will help with your enquiry.

Programme Management Committee

Professor Ron Hay
Programme Director
e: r.t.hay@dundee.ac.uk
t: 01382 386309

Professor Sarah Coulthurst
Deputy Programme Director
e: s.j.coulthurst@dundee.ac.uk
t: 01382 386308

Professor Miratul Muqit
Deputy Programme Director
e: m.muqit@dundee.ac.uk
t: 01382 388377

Professor Simon Arthur
Deputy Programme Director
e: j.s.c.arthur@dundee.ac.uk
t: 01382 384003

Bullying and Harassment Advisors

Carol MacKintosh
Head of Postgraduate Studies
e: c.mackintosh@dundee.ac.uk
t: 01382 385766

Inke Nathke
e: i.s.nathke@dundee.ac.uk
t: 01382 385821

Louise Stanley
e: l.z.stanley@dundee.ac.uk
t: 01382 386351

Gender Based Violence First Responder

Louise Stanley
e: l.z.stanley@dundee.ac.uk
t: 01382 386351

Governance

Carol MacKintosh
Head of Postgraduate Studies
e: c.mackintosh@dundee.ac.uk
t: 01382 385766

Other opportunities

As a PhD Student at the University, a range of other opportunities are open for you to apply for and participate in. We strongly encourage our students to take advantage of these opportunities and can provide you with any support and guidance that is required.

Competitions

The Max Perutz writing competition - Showcase your writing and communication skills with a prize of £1500 and invitation to science writing master class if shortlisted.

Public Engagement

The vision of the University of Dundee is to transform lives locally and globally. We recognise that we will only reach our full potential to transform lives through a genuine commitment to two-way engagement. This puts engaging with diverse audiences at the heart of everything we do, applying these principles when working with our students and staff, public audiences and external partners.

Sharing and explaining our science is recognised as an integral part of the remit and responsibility of all our scientists.

We are keen to involve members of the public, of all ages and from all educational backgrounds, with our passion for scientific research. Therefore, as part of the Wellcome Programme you will develop and deliver an innovative annual Wellcome postgraduate researcher outreach event, which forms a key part of your core training programme.

We have a dedicated public engagement team to support public engagement activities, which are delivered in a variety of novel and stimulating ways.

World Top 250

One of the World’s Top 250 universities

→ Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2020

Citizen Science project at Tayport Community Garden
Applicants are asked to complete a pre-application form via the 'Apply Now' page on the School of Life Sciences website (lifesci.dundee.ac.uk/apply-now). A full copy of the form, as well as completion instructions, are available to view before you complete your pre-application. The School uses Jisc Online Surveys to manage applications.

Academic Qualifications: Candidates for studentships must hold qualifications equivalent to a first or upper second-class honours degree from a UK academic institution. Qualifications, or a combination of qualifications and experience, which demonstrate equivalent ability and attainment will also be considered. For example, a 2(i) degree may be enhanced by the acquisition of a Masters degree.

Please take note of the application deadline, which is specified on the programme webpage.

We encourage potential applicants to provide as much information as possible to support their application (taking note of the word limits that apply). This enables potential supervisors and Programme committee members to assess your application to its full potential. Applications with poorly completed details are unlikely to be taken forward.

How your application is dealt with:
Following the closing date, your application will be reviewed by a panel of academics within the school. The panel will score each application against assessment criteria and top-ranking candidates will be shortlisted for interview. If you are shortlisted, references are then sought and a preliminary interview, often by Microsoft Teams or Zoom, might be requested to clarify certain aspects of your application. At this point you would be asked to describe a research project that you have carried out.

The formal interview with the Management Committee starts with a 15 minute presentation from you covering research in which you have participated. A Q&A session will then follow. You will also have a chance to ask us any questions you may have about the programme.

A lunch and poster session are arranged around your interview that will allow you to see the diverse areas of research linked to the programme, to meet current students and potential supervisors with opportunities for you to find out all about us. This is an opportunity to view our excellent research facilities and to see the campus.

The Academic Management Committee makes the decision on appointments and we send out the offers. If you are successful in securing an offer, you will be asked to submit a formal application via UCAS.

Fees and funding
A tax-free stipend of £19,919 in year 1, rising to £23,997 in year 4 (payable in monthly instalments)

Full payment of tuition fees at the Home/EU and overseas rate.

Costs of training, which are an integral part of this programme, are included as part of your studentship.

A budget of £50,000 to support research costs (consumables) over 4 years, in addition to a total travel budget of £2,500 to support conference attendance.

Transition Fund to support you post-Thesis submission.
Discover Dundee

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 September 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

V&A Museum of Design, Dundee
Dundee is the happiest student community in Scotland. How have we managed this, you ask? Well it could be something to do with our excellent support services which looks after you all the way from fresher’s week to graduation. These include:

- Enquiry Centre
- Careers Service
- Counselling Service
- Student Funding Team
- Disability Services
- University Health Service
- Peer Connections
- Chaplaincy
- Nursery provides place for students who need childcare

We also offer comprehensive academic support so you can always achieve success. Our academic support services are fully integrated and offers lots of workshops, skills training and even one to one tuition appointments.

There are a number of ways in which you can engage more closely with the MRC DTP programme and also wider School/University activities. Participation can enhance your leadership skills and provide greater insight into the operations and management in a Higher Education Institute – valuable assets for your CV and future careers!

- MRC Summer School – this annual event is student-led (primarily by students in their 3rd year) and focuses on three alternating themes: Quantitative Bioscience; Interdisciplinary Interfaces in Biomedicine; Translational and Organismal Biomedicine.
- All of our research divisions have PhD representatives who sit on the divisional management meetings. These can be a great way of getting more involved in your associated division and representing the voice of your peers.
- PiCLS is the School of Life Sciences PhD Students’ Association and it has been successfully running for many years contributing key elements to our postgraduate community. New committee members are always welcome. The chair of the committee (or representative) is invited to sit on the School Research Committee. For further information, contact PiCLS-PHD@dundee.ac.uk
- We are always looking for stories and material for our website and social media channels. If you are a keen blogger or want to contribute to tweets about MRC training events or other activities we want to hear from you.

Wellcome PhD Programme

Discover the University of Dundee

Cost of Living
Dundee offers excellent value for money with the cost of living around 14% lower than the UK average. To have a look at a typical student budget at Dundee, please visit: uod.ac.uk/livingcosts

Come and visit us
Open days are the best way for you to get a real feel for the University before you apply. During your visit, there will be lots going on including: information stands; demonstrations in departments; tours of the campus and departments; student life presentations; and student finance talks.

Everyone is welcome to attend, including parents, partners, teachers and careers advisers. Our postgraduate open days are advertised on our website, we’d love to welcome you to our campus. Sign up at dunder.ac.uk/opendays

Individual visits
While we encourage you to come to one of our organised open days, we recognise that this is not always possible. Individual visits take place almost every month and include a tour of the campus and student accommodation led by a student ambassador. The tour usually takes around 45 minutes and offers the opportunity to see the campus facilities, get a feel for the University and speak to a current student about university life.

A member of admissions staff will be available after your tour to answer any questions you may have about applying. To find out more and to book your place visit: dunder.ac.uk/opendays
Where we are

Being at the heart of Scotland's road and rail network puts spectacular scenery, skiing, championship golf, mountain climbing and sailing within easy reach.

The major cities of Edinburgh and Glasgow are a short trip away. Scotland's four main international airports all operate 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. dunde.ac.uk/travel

Scottish airport flights to:

- Amsterdam Schiphol Airport - 1 hour 25 minutes
- Paris CDG Airport - 1 hour 45 minutes
- London Airports - 1 hour

Dundee to:

- Edinburgh - 1 hour 10 mins
- Glasgow - 1 hour 30 mins
- Manchester - 5 hours
- Birmingham - 5 hours 20 mins
- London - 6 hours
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- Ranked top in the UK for biological sciences research in the Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2014
- Ranked No. 5 in the UK for impact of scientific research - CWTS Leiden Rankings 2019
- Ranked top in the UK for biological sciences research in the Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2014
- Ranked top in the UK for impact of scientific research - CWTS Leiden Rankings 2019
- Ranked top in the UK for biological sciences research in the Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2014
- Ranked top in the UK for impact of scientific research - CWTS Leiden Rankings 2019

World Top
- World Top 50
  - World Top 50
    - The only UK university ranked in the world top 50 of the 2017 Nature Innovation Index
- World Top 50
  - World Top 50
    - The only UK university ranked in the world top 50 of the 2017 Nature Innovation Index

NO. 5 in the World
- Ranked No. 5 in the UK for impact of scientific research - CWTS Leiden Rankings 2019
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Top 4 research grant income
- Fourth highest proportion of research grant income to total income of any UK university
- Fourth highest proportion of research grant income to total income of any UK university
- Fourth highest proportion of research grant income to total income of any UK university
- Fourth highest proportion of research grant income to total income of any UK university

Top 100
- World Top 100
  - World Top 100
    - Ranked top in the UK for research quality
- World Top 100
  - World Top 100
    - Ranked top in the UK for research quality
- World Top 100
  - World Top 100
    - Ranked top in the UK for research quality
- World Top 100
  - World Top 100
    - Ranked top in the UK for research quality

1st in UK
- First faculty in the UK to be awarded a Gold Engage Watermark by National Co-ordinating Centre for Public Engagement 2017
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Top 5 in the UK
- Ranked top in the UK for student satisfaction
- Ranked top in the UK for student satisfaction
- Ranked top in the UK for student satisfaction
- Ranked top in the UK for student satisfaction

TOP 50 in the World
- Ranked top in the UK for student satisfaction
- Ranked top in the UK for student satisfaction
- Ranked top in the UK for student satisfaction
- Ranked top in the UK for student satisfaction

TOP 100 in the World
- Ranked top in the UK for student satisfaction
- Ranked top in the UK for student satisfaction
- Ranked top in the UK for student satisfaction
- Ranked top in the UK for student satisfaction

World Top 250
- We are one of Times Higher Education’s world top 250 universities and UK University of the Year for Student Experience (The Times & The Sunday Times Good University Guide 2020)
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*Stats were correct in February 2020