School of Life Sciences - PhD Pre-Application Form

Completion Guide

Before you begin, you can view the questions you will be aside during your pre-application if you wish: a PDF copy of the form is available to download from the School of Life Sciences webpage.

We recommend that you type up your answers in a separate document e.g. Microsoft Word or Google Docs, this will allow you to check spelling and correct errors before entering the text into the online pre-application form.

Once you have started the pre-application online, you can choose to come back to it later if you wish. Selecting the ‘Finish later’ option at the bottom of each page will provide you with a link to your part-completed form, which you can bookmark or email to yourself.

Click Next to begin.

When you click Next, before you begin your pre-application, you will be taken to our Privacy Notice which applies to the data collected during the course of your submission.
Your Pre-Application

Thank you for your interest in joining a PhD Programme or undertaking a PhD project in the School of Life Sciences at the University of Dundee. This online form is your pre-application and it will be in two parts -

Part 1 - Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Questionnaire Part

2 - Application Questions

Part 1 of your pre-application is centered around gathering data and monitoring Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, as well helping us understand how we can support our applicants and successful students. The information you provide in Part 1 will not be used to determine your suitability for the PhD you are applying to. This information will only be available to selected members of the administrative staff and will only be reviewed if you are shortlisted for interview. Shortlisting will be based on the answers you provide in Part 2.

Part 2 will be used by shortlisting panels in assessing the strength of your pre-application. Here we will ask about your education, qualifications and experience. You will tell us which programme/project you are interested in, why you want to study for a PhD in the School of Life Sciences and what you can bring to the programme/project.

If you are successful in securing a place following the pre-application process, you will be asked to submit a formal application to the University of Dundee via UCAS.

Good luck!
Part 1 - Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Questionnaire

In Part 1, we will ask you to provide information on your gender, sexuality and ethnic group, this forms part of our requirement to report on the diversity of our applicants to our PhD Programme funders as well our commitment to the University's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy.

You can find out more information on the policy here, as well as our statement on racism and Black Lives Matter - our commitment to all, here.

In Part 1 we will also give you the chance to tell us about any challenges you have faced in your personal life which may have affected your route through education. This is to help us understand what support might be needed for our PhD interview candidates and successful students and we will take these circumstances into account if you are shortlisted.

All universities in Scotland are committed to widening access to those who have the ability and potential to benefit from higher education, irrespective of their background or economic circumstances (Universities Scotland, UoD Widening Access Policy). We believe that widening access is equally important in postgraduate education. Collecting this information helps us understand the diversity of our applicants and will help us to continually improve participation in postgraduate studies in under-represented groups.

If you do not want to tell us any of the sensitive (Special Category) data requested you can select 'Prefer not to say'.

1. Which University are you studying/did you study at? If you have attended and been awarded a degree by more than one University (e.g. if you did a BSc at one and then did a Masters at another), you can list the Universities here. Please put the most recent/current University first. □ Required
2. If you went to secondary school in the UK, please tell us your home postcode in your final year of school.

3. Are you the first person in your family to go to university?
   - Yes
   - No

3.a. If your application is successful, would you be the first person in your family to do a PhD?
   - Yes
   - No

4. Gender Identity □ Required

5. Sexual Orientation □ Required

6. Ethnic Background □ Required
7. Religion or Belief □ Required

8. Do you have a known disability? □ Required

8.a. Only if you wish to, please give us more information about your disability.

9. Please tell us your date of birth. □ Required

Dates need to be in the format 'DD/MM/YYYY', for example 27/03/1980.

(dd/mm/yyyy)

10. Please tell us which age range you are in. □ Required

- 18-24
- 25-29
- 30-34
- 35-39
- 40-44
- 45-49
- 50-54
- 55-59
- 60-64
- 65+
We understand that routes through education are not the same for everyone. Your experience might be different to others and that might be because your personal circumstances have had a significant effect on your studies.

For example - are you/have you been a carer (unpaid) or are you care experienced? Are you/have you been a Government refugee or asylum seeker? Are you an adult returner to education, or maybe you are a single parent?

If your personal circumstances are, or have been, particularly difficult we want to give you the opportunity to tell us. We want to support you as an applicant/successful candidate and we will take these circumstances into account if you are shortlisted for interview.

11. Are there any circumstances you want to tell us about?  □ Required

11.a. Please tell us more about your circumstances here.
Part 2 - Application Questions

Part 2 - This section captures information about your academic qualifications, experience and gives you an opportunity to tell us more about why you want to study for a PhD at Dundee. In this section, you can also highlight any extra-curricular activities and achievements you are proud of (academic or otherwise).

The information provided in this section will be used to shortlist applicants for interview. Your responses will be reviewed by a panel of academic staff to determine whether you meet the high standard expected of our PhD student intake - take time to think about your answers and check them over before you submit your application.

12. Are you applying on behalf of someone else? □ Required
   ○ Yes - I am applying on behalf of the applicant (e.g. as an agent)
   ○ No - I am the applicant

12.a. If you are acting on behalf of the applicant, please provide your full name, contact details (email address and telephone number) and tell us your relationship to the applicant.
Applicant Details

13. First Name □ Required

14. Middle Name (if you have one)

15. Last Name □ Required

16. Address □ Required

17. Town □ Required
18. **Postcode** □ *Required*

19. **Country** □ *Required*

20. **Email Address** □ *Required*

   Please enter a valid email address.

20.a. **Confirm Email Address** □ *Required*

   Please enter a valid email address.

21. **Alternative Email address (if you have one)**

   Please enter a valid email address.

22. **Telephone Number** □ *Required*

22.a. **Alternative telephone number**
23. **Place of Birth** □ *Required*

24. **Nationality** (this affects eligibility for some PhD programmes) □ *Required*

25. **UK Residency status** □ *Required*

- I am a British citizen and I will have been ordinarily resident in the UK for 3 years as of September 2021
- I am an EU citizen and I will have been ordinarily resident in the UK for 3 years as of September 2021
- I am not in one of the above categories
Education

In this section, please tell us about your current/most recent degree and your previous qualifications.

26. Type and title of current/most recent degree (e.g. BSc Biochemistry/MSci/MRes). □ Required

26.a. Have you been awarded your degree? □ Required

26.a.i. When do you expect to graduate?

Dates need to be in the format 'DD/MM/YYYY', for example 27/03/1980.

(dd/mm/yyyy)

26.a.i.a. What is your anticipated result (e.g. 1st, 2.1)?

26.a.ii. When did you graduate?

Dates need to be in the format 'DD/MM/YYYY', for example 27/03/1980.

(dd/mm/yyyy)
26.a.ii.a. What was your result (e.g. 1st, 2.1)?

26.b. If you have another degree, please list it here. You should include the title and type of the degree, your result and the year you obtained this degree.

27. Please provide a summary of your other qualifications. You should tell us about the most recent ones first, please include the qualification type, subject and grade (e.g. Highers/Advanced Highers/A-Levels/HNC/HND) and the year you achieved the qualification. □ Required
PhD Programme

Please choose which PhD programme or project you want to apply for from the list below. You can apply to more than one of our programmes if you want to. Please make sure that you answer the specific questions for each programme/project that you select.

You should also check that you are eligible for the programme you are applying to and you can check your eligibility [here](#).

28. Please tell us which PhD Programme you are applying to.  □ Required

- Wellcome 4 year PhD Programme in Integrated Molecular, Cellular and Translational Biology
- MRC 4-Year Programme in Quantitative and Interdisciplinary approaches to Biomedical Science (QIBIOMED)
- China Scholarship Council Programme
- Marshall PhD Programme (USA)
- Other

28.a. If you selected Other, please specify:

[ ]

28.b. Please tell us the name of the supervisor you would like to do your PhD with.  
This question applies if you select ‘Other’, ‘China Scholarship Council Programme’ or ‘Marshall PhD Programme’

[ ]

28.b.i. Please tell us why you have chosen to apply for this project and why you have chosen the specific supervisor above.  This question applies if you select ‘Other’, ‘China Scholarship Council Programme’ or ‘Marshall PhD Programme’

[ ]
If you select ‘Wellcome Programme’ you will be presented with the following questions.

**Wellcome Programme Notes**

You have chosen to apply for a place on our Wellcome 4-Year PhD Programme in Integrated Molecular, Cellular and Translational Biology. By making this choice, you are not applying for a PhD project with a specific supervisor, instead you would join us in Year 1 as a rotation student.

In their first year, rotation students go through our PhD Induction Programme which lasts around 5 weeks, students then choose three short placements from a pool of supervisors. Each placement lasts around 5-6 weeks and is a great opportunity to learn a range of practical and theoretical skills in different areas. There is also an opportunity to undertake an optional rotation project following the placements, this project lasts around 11 weeks. The experiences gained across the three placements, and optional longer rotation, are really beneficial when the time comes to choose your main PhD project.

You will find more information on the Wellcome Programme, as well as the names of the supervisors associated with this programme, [here](#).

28.c. Please tell us which PhD supervisors you would be most interested in doing a placement with. You can choose up to six and you should put them in order of preference with your top choice first.

28.c.i. Our Wellcome programme combines training in molecular, cellular and translational biology along with strong quantitative skills training. Can you tell us what interests you about participating in a programme of this nature?
If you select ‘MRC Programme’ you will be presented with the following questions.

**MRC QIBIOMED Programme Notes**

You have chosen to apply for a place on our MRC 4-Year PhD Programme in Quantitative and Interdisciplinary approaches to Biomedical Science (QIBIOMED). By making this choice, you are not applying for a PhD project with a specific supervisor, instead you would join us in Year 1 as a rotation student.

In their first year, rotation students go through our PhD Induction Programme which lasts around 5 weeks, students then choose three placement projects from a pool of supervisors. Each placement lasts around 12 weeks and is a great opportunity to learn a range of practical and theoretical skills in different areas. The experience gained across the three projects is really beneficial when the time comes to choose a main PhD project in Year 2.

You will find more information about this Programme [here](#).

28.d. Please tell us which PhD supervisors you would be most interested in doing a placement with. You can choose up to six and you should put them in order of preference with your top choice first.

28.d.i. Interdisciplinarity and quantitative skills training are key components of our MRC DTP programme with each project supervised by two group leaders in different areas. Can you tell us what interests you about participating in a programme of this nature?
Application Questions

29. Why do you want to do a PhD? Please tell us more about your decision to apply, why you want to study in Dundee and which areas of research excite you.

Required

30. Have you had any hands on research experience before? Tell us more about it below - how did you get this experience (e.g. summer project/placement), what was the project and what contributions did you make? (Max. 300 words)

Required

31. Our programmes promote academic excellence, with diverse student cohorts working in an inclusive environment. What will you bring to your chosen PhD Programme?

Required

32. Please tell us about any achievements that you are particularly proud of and you want to highlight to the panel. These can be academic or non-academic achievements.

33. Do you have any other significant experience that you want to tell us about? This can be academic or non-academic (we aim to recruit inclusively and so if you have significant non-academic experience, you can tell us about it here). We want to encourage you to write about what is relevant to you but you could include examples of experience in presenting and sharing knowledge, collaboration/team-working skills, evidence of your commitment to scientific research or your commitment to other activities/groups you may have been involved with.
References

Please provide us with the names and contact details of two referees that we can get in touch with if you are shortlisted for one of our PhD programmes. You should tell us how you know the person listed e.g. lecturer.

34. Referee - Name □ Required

34.a. Email address □ Required

Please enter a valid email address.

34.a.i. Confirm email address □ Required

Please enter a valid email address.

34.b. Contact telephone number

34.c. Relationship to you - how do you know this referee?

Question 35 is a duplicate of Q.34 where you can enter the details for your second referee.
Additional Information

36. If you are successful, would you want to be able to study for your PhD part-time?  
☐ Required

36.a. What hours/days would you like to study?

37. Have you applied, or are you planning to apply, to a PhD Programme at another University? This will not affect our decision.  ☐ Required

38. Have you applied to do a PhD with us before?

☐ Yes  
☐ No  
☐ Prefer not to say

38.a. Which year did you apply?

39. If there is anything that you want to tell us about that hasn't been covered in the previous questions, please let us know here.
Pre-Application Complete!

Thank you for submitting your PhD pre-application.

The PhD Office receive a large number of applications so we may not get back to you unless you are shortlisted for interview.

If you have any questions or need to get in touch with us, please email us at sls-PhDAdmin@dundee.ac.uk