

MSD Statement of Provision for Graduate Research Students in the Medical Sciences Doctoral Training Centre (MSDTC)

4-year DPhil programme in Cardiovascular Science

1. What arrangements will be put in place for supervising the graduate's work?

Rotation year:

First year students will have a Laboratory Mentor in whose lab the student will do one of their minimum of two lab rotations. All students will be assigned an Academic Mentor (currently Prof David R. Greaves, Director of Cardiovascular Sciences D Phil programme. The Academic Mentor is responsible for agreeing a bespoke taught component of the first year and overseeing progress of lab rotations

During DPhil:

You will have a named supervisor or supervisors, with overall responsibility for the scientific direction of your work on behalf of your department. Your supervisory team will include:

- your supervisor
- Departmental Director of Graduate Studies
- senior members of research staff within your laboratory
- the Cardiovascular Science programme director (currently Prof David R. Greaves)
- the MSDTC Director

You should expect to have a one to one formal meeting with your primary supervisor at least once a term where your research and progress will be reviewed and the contents of the termly submitted supervision report discussed and agreed. You should also have more frequent meetings with a member of your supervisory team.

2. What induction arrangements will be made?

The main induction to the programme is provided at the start of the first term and it is a requirement that students attend this. Laboratory Mentors will arrange more specialised inductions subsequently and in particular where research is carried out in other departments. There are induction events for the MSDTC and Medical Sciences Division in the first term.

3. What workspace will be provided?

Workspace will be related to individual circumstances. If undertaking experimental work, you will be provided with bench space in a laboratory and write up space.

4. What IT support/ library facilities/ experimental facilities will be available?

You will have access to:

- IT support via the University Computing Services
- Library services such as the Radcliffe Science Library and the Cairns Library
- Training courses via the Oxford Learning Institute
- Experimental facilities as appropriate to the research topic

The provision of other resources specific to your project should be agreed with your Laboratory Mentor and lab rotation supervisor(s) as a part of the planning stages of the agreed project.

5. Which research seminars will be available?

Students will have access to the seminars that individual research groups or groups with common areas of interest organise for their own members and others. Students will also have access to other departmental seminars and colloquia.

All first year students are expected to attend and give oral presentations at two Cardiovascular Science mini-symposia held in Oxford within the first year and attend graduate tutorials organised by the Cardiovascular Science programme director. There is also an opportunity to attend a National Meeting of British Heart Foundation funded cardiovascular science graduate students

6. What access to research funds will be available?

There are four British Heart Foundation studentships available to this programme. These studentships include allowances for research consumables and up to £1,000 travel for conferences and training during the 4-year course of the studentship.

7. What formal graduate skills training will be provided?

Students will have the opportunity and are strongly advised to attend a variety of skills training sessions offered by the MSDTC programmes and the Medical Sciences Division, covering transferable and research skills. Details of courses will be emailed via the MSDTC

<http://www.medsci.ox.ac.uk/skillstraining>

A portfolio of online training courses is available via this site, as is the Research Skills Toolkit, which suggests tools, tips and techniques to support researchers in their work.

The Cardiovascular Science programme will have 2-3 compulsory graduate tutorials per term covering how to choose a good scientific problem, how to read a primary research paper, journal clubs, how to write and review grant applications, how to give a good oral presentation.

8. What opportunities will be available for developing and practising teaching skills (for second and third year graduates)?

The University supports the development of research students who wish to follow an academic career, including training in teaching skills. Information about the Division's 'Preparation for Academic Practice' activities can be found at <http://www.medsci.ox.ac.uk/skillstraining>

Students can attend the Pathology Demonstrator Training Course and undertake small group teaching in BM Principles of Pathology classes organised by Prof Greaves

9. What arrangements for accommodation, meals and social facilities, will be made, on a year round basis?

Department: Students can use the department cafeteria facilities in the host department(s). This encourages interaction between research groups in the department. Departmental seminars and colloquia bring students together with academic and other research staff in the department to hear about on-going research, and provide an opportunity for networking and socialising.

College: Many colleges will be able to provide you with at least one year's accommodation. Generally speaking your college will provide meals throughout the year, but provision will vary from college to college, especially during vacations, and you will need to familiarise yourself with your college's detailed arrangements. In addition there are usually self-catering facilities available in graduate accommodation. You will be a member of the Middle

Common Room (MCR), or equivalent, of your college, which is the main social centre for graduates. The MCR provides a common room and usually organises a programme of social events throughout the year. The college will also provide a bar, some computing facilities and a library, and may often have dedicated funds for research (conference and field grants). It also represents the interests of its members to the college through an elected Committee or through elected representatives to College Committees. Again, details will vary from college to college. Graduates are also welcome to participate in all other social and sporting activities of the college. Please see individual college websites for further details about all aspects of college provision.

Central: Graduate Research Students may become members of the University Club in Mansfield Road, and participate in the range of sporting activities provided by the University.

10. What arrangements are in place for pastoral and welfare support?

Department: Within your host Department, your supervisor and Director of Graduate Studies are available to offer support. The MSDTC Director and Administrator and the programme directors are also able to offer support. Student views and concerns can be communicated to the Department, the MSDTC and/or the Divisional Graduate Joint Consultative Committee.

Scheme: The Academic Mentor on the Cardiovascular Science scheme is available to listen to your concerns and suggest suitable sources of support.

College: There is an extensive framework of support for graduates within each college. Your college will allocate to you a College Advisor from among its Senior Members, usually in a cognate subject, who will arrange to see you from time to time and whom you may contact for additional advice and support on academic and other matters. In college you may also approach the Tutor for Graduates and/or the Senior Tutor for advice. The Tutor for Graduates is a fellow of the college with particular responsibility for the interests and welfare of graduate students. In some colleges, the Senior Tutor will also have the role of Tutor for Graduates. Each college will also have other named individuals who can offer individual advice. The University also has a professionally staffed confidential Student Counselling Service which offers assistance with personal, emotional, social and academic problems.

Central: The University provides a Student Counselling Service (<http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/welfare/counselling>) and Careers Service (<http://www.careers.ox.ac.uk/>).