

The new Oxford Doctor of Medicine (DM) degree

Briefing for applicants, 24 January 2023

What we will cover:

- Overview
- Format and Eligibility
- Visas, Residency and Fees
- Admissions process
 - Q&As
- Supervision
- Progression and Milestones
 - Q&As

Overview of the new DM:

- Equivalent qualification level to a PhD/DPhil
- ‘Variable intensity’ degree – flexible to allow you to study part-time for some parts of your degree and full-time for others, to enable you to balance time for DM studies with your professional duties
- Your DM research project must be in synergy with your clinical work, but may be undertaken across the whole spectrum of medical science from basic biology to clinical therapies
- All MSD departments can host DM students (except NDORMS)
- Intake = up to 20 new students per year

Format of the degree

- For the **vast majority** of students, the standard route to the new DM will be through the production of a research thesis ('by thesis')
- Exceptionally, research-active clinicians at an advanced career stage may be allowed to submit an integrated thesis ('by publications')

Eligibility

- You must have achieved a medical degree and hold full registration with the UK General Medical Council. (If your degree is from outside the UK, reference will be made to GMC requirements.)
- You must hold an appropriate contract of employment at the time of application at ST1 grade or above (including those who have completed their training) within the University of Oxford, Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust, or in Primary Care within Oxfordshire
- Fully matriculated degree, with college places. (If you are an Oxford graduate, you may be offered a place with your previous college.)

Visas and residency

- The new DM is open to all applicants, regardless of nationality
- However, student visa applications will not be supported. Since it is a requirement that DM applicants must be locally employed at the time of application, applicants who would require a visa for their DM study in the UK *should already hold a skilled worker visa*.
- If a DM student were to leave their employment while on-course as a DM student, and thus cease to hold their skilled worker visa status, *the University would be unable to sponsor a student visa*.
- DM students are exempt from University residency requirements.

Fee liability

- Fees for your DM degree will be collected in two parts:
 - ~75% paid upfront as a 'registration fee'
 - ~25% payable upon submission of the thesis ('submission fee').
- The 'registration fee' for 2023 starters is £9,120; the 'submission fee' will be paid at the rate applicable in the year in which you submit.
- Fee liability is therefore slightly in excess of £12,160.
- University Continuation Charges ('part-time' rate) will become liable after Year 4 for all DM students = in 2023, this rate is £286 per term.

Admissions process (1)

- DM applications will be considered in three gathered fields per year (December, March, June) – next application deadline is **1 March 2023**
- Overseen by the DM Committee, chaired by the DM Director (Prof Chris Pugh), with cross-departmental membership
- The DM Committee is responsible (under the MSD Board) for:
considering DM applications; interviewing shortlisted DM applicants;
approving DM ‘workplans’; assessing whether ‘prior work’ may be allowed to count towards progression to Transfer; considering admissions ‘by publications’; keeping policy/procedures under review.

Admissions process (2)

- Application must be made online, see 'How to apply' at:
[Doctor of Medicine \(DM\) | University of Oxford](#)
- Applications must include: a standard format CV, three references, academic transcripts, statement of research interests, DM research proposal, and a 'workplan' (explained below). See guidance at:
[Application Guide | University of Oxford](#)
- Your application should identify two potential supervisors, with whom you should have discussed your proposed DM project
- The DM Committee may choose to seek additional advice, and questions arising from this may be directed to you for a response prior to shortlisting
- DM interviews will be carried out in accordance with current MSD criteria and best practice, including socio-economic flagging for disadvantage

What might a good DM research proposal look like?

- Problem to be addressed
- Hypothesis / hypotheses
- What is already known
- How the research will add to knowledge
- Why this is important
- Approach(es) to be used / methodology
- Why this / these are appropriate
- Consideration of statistical issues
- Synergies with clinical work
- Anticipated weaknesses / contingencies
- Appropriateness of supervisory team

Admissions process (3) – the ‘workplan’

- You must submit a ‘workplan’, setting out as far as possible how you propose to balance time for DM research and academic training as a student of the University alongside your employment with the NHS, postgraduate medical training and other clinical responsibilities
- Your workplan must specify the periods of time when you plan to work at full-time or part-time intensity on your DM project. The workplan is a key part of the application process and must have been agreed by your employer (and for trainees, by HEE Thames Valley).

Admissions process (4) – ‘prior work’

- *Where relevant*, an applicant may ask for research work undertaken prior to enrolment – ‘prior work’ – to be accounted for as part of their DM. This should be included within the ‘workplan’ section of your application.
- The DM Committee will conduct an assessment of any prior work, employing Assessors as necessary, before confirming any offer of a place
- Prior work must be substantially pertinent to, and coherent with, your proposed DM research. The work must have been performed under the direction of and/or with the approval of one or more of your proposed DM supervisors. The justification for inclusion of prior work will need to be particularly strong if it was undertaken more than 12 months prior.

Questions on eligibility and admissions

Supervision of DM students

- Each DM student is required to have at least two supervisors
Profiles at: [Supervisors — University of Oxford, Medical Sciences Division](#)
As a DM student, you will be expected to independently manage the balance of your time between research and clinical responsibilities
- This will be done in a tri-partite conversation between yourself, your academic supervisors, and those overseeing your clinical activities
- Monthly or termly meetings with your supervisor may be appropriate, given the closeness of the DM project to your clinical environment

What qualifies someone to be a supervisor?

- Time and capacity to undertake regular supervisory meetings
- The supervisory team between them must have:
 - Knowledge of the field of enquiry
 - Knowledge of the methodology to be applied
- At least one supervisor must have previously supervised a doctoral student to completion successfully (either at Oxford or elsewhere)
- Normally, established academics with a record of recent publications and an appropriate contract of employment, or otherwise they must have the agreement of their Head of Department to act as supervisor

Progression and milestones (standard route)

- Duration: no less than 2 years, no more than 8 years
- Transfer to DM Status: no earlier than term 3, no later than term 8
- Confirmation: not normally before term 6, no later than term 18.
- Final submission: no earlier than term 6, no later than term 24.
 - Possible outcomes of viva examination: award of DM, minor corrections, major corrections, reference back (possible MSc(Res) 'exit award'), fail.

The route 'by publications'

- **No separate application process**
 - **In exceptional cases**, candidates who are further on in their career as research-active clinicians may be admitted 'by publications', allowing an accelerated timeline for study. The DM Committee will decide whether an application may be eligible for this route. Applicants will be asked for an outline of publications to be included, statements on authorship, etc. The Committee will consider if publications are of sufficient quality, if the applicant is sufficiently advanced for this route, and if it is feasible for them to work with an Oxford supervisor in the area of the published work.
- Students work with a supervisory team to prepare publications in an 'integrated thesis'-style framework, for *at least 6 terms*, rather than simply submit a series of publications
- *Total fees will be the same*, even if 'by publications' students spend less time on course
- Progression and milestones:
 - Duration: no less than 2 years, no more than 3 years
 - No Transfer of Status milestone
 - Confirmation: not before term 4 and no later than term 6
 - Final submission: no earlier than term 6 and no later than term 9

Questions on Fees, Supervision and Progression

Contacts and further information

All enquiries: dm@medsci.ox.ac.uk

Ready to apply?

Go to 'How to apply' at:

[Doctor of Medicine \(DM\) | University of Oxford](#)

Useful links:

[Doctor of Medicine — University of Oxford, Medical Sciences Division](#)

[Supervisors — University of Oxford, Medical Sciences Division](#)