

Oxford Centre for Emerging Minds Research DPhil Studentships

About Us

The [Oxford Centre for Emerging Minds Research](#) (OCEMR) is focused on conducting world-class research with children and young people that promotes a world where their differences are understood and accepted, strengths are capitalised on, and mental health difficulties are prevented or addressed early.

The Centre is jointly hosted by the Departments of Experimental Psychology and Psychiatry and is located in the Life and Mind Building in the centre of Oxford.

Staff and students in the Oxford Centre for Emerging Minds Research are working together to address our shared values:

- To embed the voices and experiences of children, young people and families throughout our work to ensure it meets the needs of those who stand to benefit, including among families with characteristics that are typically under-represented in services and research;
- To recognise, affirm and capitalise on individual differences (e.g.: neurodivergence) and strengths to promote good mental health and wellbeing;
- To engage policy makers, practitioners, education providers, and voluntary and community sector organisations to ensure that our work is informed by their needs and to ensure rapid implementation in practice;
- To inform the general public about our work to influence the wider narrative about mental health, well-being, and neurodiversity in children and young people in ways that promote understanding, acceptance, and valuing of differences, and ultimately bring benefits to society.

About the Opportunities

We are now inviting applications to undertake DPhils (PhDs) in OCEMR from October 2027. Thanks to generous funding from the Paul Foundation, we are able to offer up to four fully funded OCEMR studentships. The studentships will provide a stipend and fees for three years at the UK home fees rate. Due to our funding, the studentships will need to be completed by October 2030.

We have a number of potential DPhil (PhD) project opportunities all of which contribute towards our shared research aims:

- Understanding how children and young people's strengths, aptitudes and interests can be identified and capitalised on to promote good mental health and development.
- Identifying the key mechanisms that underpin mental health in children and young people and how they can be targeted to promote good mental health and to prevent and treat emerging mental health problems.

Please see potential DPhil projects page for more details.

Candidate profile

We welcome ambitious applicants with at least an upper second-class honours degree (or equivalent) and/or a relevant Master's degree in Psychology or a related discipline that is relevant to your proposed research.

Applicants should demonstrate experience of substantial independent research. Experience as a research assistant or in a clinical setting is desirable. We particularly welcome applicants interested in interdisciplinary research and collaborative work with young people and stakeholders. Excellent communication and collaboration skills are essential. We are committed to equality, diversity, and inclusion and encourage applications from candidates of all backgrounds, particularly those currently under-represented at the University of Oxford.*

Timeline for applications

	Date	Activity
Stage 1	By 14 September 2026	Interested candidates submit applications to ocemr@psy.ox.ac.uk <i>See guidance below</i>
	15 – 25 September	Supervisors to review applications and may contact eligible candidates to arrange informal conversations about DPhil project opportunities.
	Week of 12 October	OCEMR panel interview selected candidates
	By 29 October	All applicants notified of outcome of application for OCEMR funding
Stage 2	November 2026	Candidates selected for OCEMR funding will be required to successfully complete the competitive centralised departmental Graduate Admissions process. Those not prioritised for OCEMR funding will be encouraged to talk to supervisors about other potential routes. Supervisors can still support an application for graduate admission, if applicable. Selected candidates and supervisors work together to prepare for departmental graduate admissions process including developing up project proposal and preparing for interview.
	By 2 December 2026	Candidates and supervisors submit final applications and proposals to Department Graduate Admissions Committee/s

		<i>Further information on departmental processes and procedures can be found here:</i> https://www.psych.ox.ac.uk/study/dphil-and-msc-by-research/prospective-students https://www.psy.ox.ac.uk/study/Graduate-training
	January 2027	Departmental Graduate Admissions Committee interview.
	Spring 2027	Candidates notified of outcome of Departmental Graduate Admissions process.
	October 2027	Selected candidates begin their DPhil projects.

If you have any general enquiries, please contact ocemr@psy.ox.ac.uk and one of our team can be of assistance.

Applicants are requested to submit their CV, academic transcripts and supporting statement to ocemr@psy.ox.ac.uk by midday on 14 September (Stage 1 deadline). Only these three documents will be considered by the panel and no additional documents are required at this stage.

Guidance for applicants for Stage 1 application

In your CV (maximum of 2 pages) please include:

- All undergraduate and masters level exam marks to date
- Any research publications (including pre-prints, under review and in press)
- Any research experience (e.g., placements, internships, independent thesis)
- Names, roles and institutions of 2 referees that you plan to ask to provide references for you. Note your referees will need to speak to your academic achievements and potential, and suitability for graduate work.

In your supporting statement (maximum of 750 words in total) please include:

- Up to 300 words on why you would like to undertake a DPhil and why you are a suitable candidate
- Up to 300 words noting your preferred project(s) (and a second choice if applicable), what interests you about your preferred project(s) and how you are a suitable candidate for the specific project (s).
- The University of Oxford is committed to increasing the participation of students from under-represented backgrounds across all its programmes. Please note any relevant information related to equality, diversity and inclusion.* (up to 150 words)
- As attachments, transcripts of all your undergraduate and post graduate exam results to date.
- Please note the final word count for each section in your supporting statement
- If AI tools are used in this application, they must be consistent with the Oxford University Policy for Using Generative AI in research. Substantive original writing by Gen AI, including either verbatim or closely paraphrased use of Gen AI content is not permissible. If you

choose to use AI tools, please include a statement in your application to confirm you complied with these guidelines.

Submission deadline: 12:00 noon (UK time) on **September 14 2026**

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OCEMR funding and fees

Each OCEMR studentship will provide successful students with a stipend and fees at the Home UK rate, for three years.

You can read more general information about funding and fees status here:

[Fee status | Oxford University](#)

<https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/financial-declaration>

<https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/fees-and-other-charges>

If you receive an offer of a place, your college will require you to complete a Financial Declaration form in order to meet your financial condition of admission. This aims to ensure that you are fully aware of the expected fees and living costs associated with your chosen course of study at Oxford. It is your opportunity to consider very carefully the financial commitment you are entering into and to take full responsibility for it by ensuring that you carefully review the form and the accompanying Essential Information. If you cannot pay your fees and living costs, you will not normally be able to continue your studies.

**The Uniq+ programme website provides some useful information about particular backgrounds currently under-represented amongst students at the University of Oxford*

<https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/access/uniqplus/eligibility-requirements>