



GRADUATE ADMISSIONS CRITERIA FOR DPhil AND MSc(research) IN PSYCHIATRY FOR ENTRY IN 2014-15

1. Criteria

Within equal opportunities principles and legislation, applications will be assessed in the light of a candidate's ability to meet the following criteria:

2. Academic ability

Proven and potential academic excellence.

Applicants are normally expected to be predicted or to have achieved a first-class or an upper second class undergraduate degree (or equivalent international qualifications¹) as a minimum. We do not seek a Graduate Record Examination (GRE) or GMAT score but one should be supplied if available.

A previous Master's degree is not required for entry to the DPhil programme.

Appropriate indicators will include:

- Academic references/letters of recommendation, which support intellectual ability, academic achievement, motivation, ability to work in a group.
- Research proposal or personal statement approximately 2 pages long and written in English. This will be assessed for:
 - your reasons for applying;
 - the coherence of the proposal;
 - the originality of the project;
 - evidence of motivation for and understanding of the proposed area of study;
 - the ability to present a reasoned case in English;
 - the feasibility of successfully completing the project in the time available for the course (a maximum of 4 years for a DPhil and 3 years for an MSc);
 - commitment to the subject, beyond the requirements of the degree course;
 - preliminary knowledge of research techniques;

¹ If you hold non-British qualifications, you are advised to check with the National Recognition Information Centre for the United Kingdom (UK NARIC) www.naric.org.uk how your qualifications match these requirements.



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- capacity for sustained and intense work;
- reasoning ability;
- ability to absorb new ideas, often presented abstractly, at a rapid pace.

It will be normal for your ideas subsequently to change in some ways as you investigate the evidence and develop your project. You should nevertheless make the best effort you can to demonstrate the extent of your research question, sources and method at this moment. Your statement should focus on your proposed research rather than personal achievements, interests and aspirations.]

Performance at interview(s): Interviews are not mandatory but are a normal part of the admissions process. Typically, we only interview candidates who satisfy the minimal requirements and whose research interests overlap with an identified member of the academic staff. If you are unable to come to Oxford for an interview it may be possible for it to be conducted by phone, Skype, or video-conference.) Occasionally, we ask for previous reports/papers prepared as part of your undergraduate degree or ask you to complete some pre-admissions tests.

Interviews can be held at any time during the academic year but, for students who wish to be entered into the University of Oxford Medical Graduate school competition for full studentships, interviews will be held between the middle of January and end of February. The interview panel will consist of the Director for Graduate Studies, and at least 2 other senior academic staff. Your potential DPhil supervisor does not automatically attend.

3. Publications

Publications are not required but, if available, will be considered as part of your application.



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4. Other qualifications and experience

Research or working experience related to your proposed area of study may be an advantage.

5. Availability of supervision, teaching, facilities and places

The following factors will govern whether candidates can be offered places:

- The ability of the Department of Psychiatry to provide the appropriate supervision, research opportunities, teaching and facilities for your chosen area of work.
- There are minimum and maximum limits to the numbers of students who may be admitted onto Oxford's research and taught programmes.

The provision of supervision is subject to the following points.

- The allocation of graduate supervision is the responsibility of the Department of Psychiatry and it is not always possible to accommodate the preferences of incoming graduate students to work with a particular member of staff.

Under exceptional circumstances a supervisor may be found outside the Department of Psychiatry

6. English language requirement

Applicants whose first language is not English are usually required to provide evidence of proficiency in English at the standard level required by the University

http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/postgraduate_courses/apply/internat_students.html.]

7. Deadlines and required full set of application materials

Please refer to the Graduate Admissions website

http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/postgraduate_courses/apply/application_guide.html#awhen_to_apply

for information on the deadlines which must be met, and the full set of supporting materials required, in order for applications to be guaranteed to be considered.



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8. Whether you have yet secured funding is not taken into consideration in the decision to make an initial offer a place, but please note that the initial offer of a place will not be confirmed until the college which gives you an initial offer of a place is satisfied that you have sufficient funding to cover your fees and living costs for the standard period of fee liability for your course.

9. Disability, health conditions and specific learning difficulties.

Students are selected for admission without regard to gender, marital or civil partnership status, disability, race, nationality, ethnic origin, religion or belief, sexual orientation, age or social background. Decisions on admission are based solely on the individual academic merits of each candidate and the application of the selection criteria appropriate to the programme of study. Further information on how these matters are supported during the admissions process is available here – www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/disabilities

10. Contacting academic members of staff

We recommend that DPhil and MSc by Research candidates should contact a potential supervisor(s) in the first instance before submitting an application.

11. Other information

- It would be expected that graduate applicants would be familiar with the recent published work of their proposed supervisor.
- In the case of students who require specific help to adjust to an academic programme or to a new range of skills, the supervisor will work with them to ensure that they have additional support.
- Applicants whose proposed project involves contact with patients and/or healthy volunteers will be required to complete Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks.

12. Assessors



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All applications will be assessed by two or more members of the academic staff with relevant experience and expertise. In all cases the Director of Graduate Studies will give approval to a decision.

13. Course webpage

<http://www.psych.ox.ac.uk/study/graduate-studies>