

GRADUATE ADMISSIONS CRITERIA FOR D.PHIL IN COMPUTER SCIENCE FOR ENTRY IN 2012-13

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) in either a four-year honours degree in a relevant subject or a BSc/BA degree followed by excellent performance in a Master's degree in a relevant subject, where relevant subjects typically include computer science or mathematics.

For applicants with a degree from the USA, the minimum GPA we seek is 3.6 out of 4.0. We do not require a Graduate Record Examination (GRE) score or a GMAT score.

However, entrance is very competitive and most successful applicants have first-class degree or a distinction at master's level.

Academic references/letters of recommendation, which support intellectual ability, academic achievement, motivation, and (where appropriate) ability to work in a group.

Research proposal

Your research proposal should be in English only and should be approximately two pages. This will be assessed for:

- your reasons for applying;
- the coherence of the proposal which should have a clear statement of the research topic or area; evidence that you have read and understood key material;
- the originality of the project – there must be scope for new ideas and a scientific method;
- evidence of motivation for and understanding of the proposed area of study;
- the ability to present a reasoned case in English;
- description of a problem, why it is worthy of investigation and ideas for how it can be tackled and the feasibility of successfully completing the project in the time available for the course (a maximum of four years);
- commitment to the subject, beyond the requirements of the degree course;
- preliminary knowledge of research techniques;
- capacity for sustained and intense work;
- reasoning ability;
- ability to absorb new ideas, often presented abstractly, at a rapid pace.
- you should have thought about a potential supervisor

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 reading and research. Your

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.

proposal should focus on your ideas for research rather than personal achievements, interests and aspirations.

Performance at interview(s) Interviews are normally held as part of the admissions process. Candidates are considered against the academic ability criteria and also the research proposal. If you meet the academic criteria and there is a supervisor interested in your research proposal then you will be invited for interview. For candidates in the UK the interview is likely to be held in the Department of Computer Science; if you are overseas the interview will be by skype or telephone. There will be a minimum of two interviewers and if you are applying for a scholarship there will be a member of the Departmental Scholarship Committee present at the interview.

4. Availability of supervision, teaching, facilities and places

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

- The ability of the Department of Computer Science 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.
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The provision of supervision is subject to the following points.

- The allocation of graduate supervision is the responsibility of the Department of Computer Science 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 joint supervisor may be found outside the Department of Computer Science
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5. 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.

6. 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.

7. 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.

8. 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.

http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/postgraduate_courses/about_the_university/graduate_welfare/e_d.html

9. Other information

Before submitting an application we encourage potential applicants to contact [the Graduate Studies Administrator](#), providing along with your enquiry:

- An up to date copy of your CV
- Information about your academic track record, e.g. the class for each degree(s) or GPA score, institution(s) where they were obtained, distinctions, prizes, scholarships etc.
- Information about your prior research experience or other relevant evidence, e.g. Research topics investigated, publications if any, relevant work experience
- Statement of research interests
- Statement of career plans

Before submitting this information, a good starting point is to look at the research currently being done in the Laboratory. Have a look at the web pages of our members of academic staff:

<http://www.cs.ox.ac.uk/people/faculty.html>

These pages contain information on their research interests and will help you identify potential supervisors. Graduate applicants are expected to be familiar with the recent published work of their proposed supervisor.

10. Assessors

All applications will be assessed by more than one member of the academic staff with relevant experience and expertise.

11. Course webpage

<http://www.cs.ox.ac.uk/admissions/dphil/>