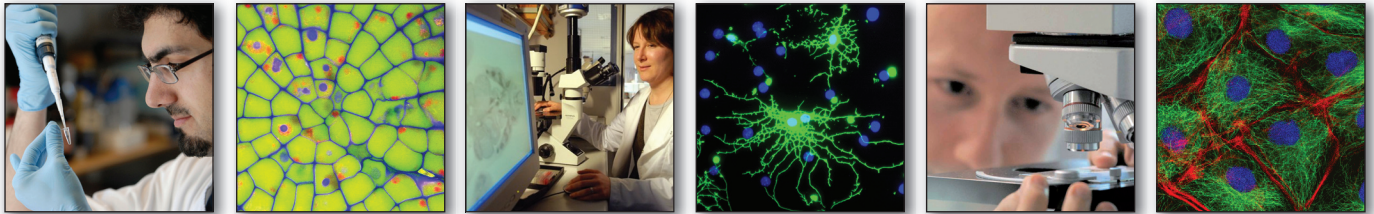


Graduate studentships in Cell Biology at Cambridge Opening the door to a world-class education



The University of Cambridge, home to some of the world's great minds and a crucible for fundamental, world-changing discoveries, possesses a vibrant community of over 6,000 graduate students. They pursue deep, focused and original research under the supervision of world-leading experts, with access to outstanding facilities. Alongside academic staff, Cambridge graduates contribute directly to the University's ranking as the UK's best research university according to the UK Government's Research Assessment Exercise, and its position among the top five in the world in international league tables. The world's best graduates thus want to come to Cambridge – and Cambridge wants to take them, but the capacity to offer financial support for fees, accommodation and travel lies at the heart of the University's ability to do so.

It is a remarkable fact that, of the 83 Nobel Prize-winners that Cambridge has produced since 1908, at least a third received a scholarship or a discretionary grant. For more than eight centuries, brilliant students have been able to come to Cambridge because visionary benefactors have supported them. Without comprehensive support packages offered early on in the application process, top candidates will gravitate to wherever funding exists, or to the world of work, or be simply unable to realise their potential. To ensure that tomorrow's achievers and leaders can transcend financial disadvantage and maximise their talent, philanthropic support continues to be vital today.

Studying the building blocks of life: the exciting world of a Cell Biology graduate

The world-leading Department of Zoology at Cambridge trains its research students in a stimulating and dynamic academic environment. The Department has a thriving community of 85 research students structured to promote scientific and social interactions across a wide spectrum of disciplines, including conservation, evolutionary biology, neurobiology, population biology and epidemiology. In the last 15 years, the Department has trained more than 30 PhD students in Cell Biology. Almost all of these graduate students have demonstrated their commitment to science by continuing to work in the field, and 12 former graduates now direct their own research groups in scientific companies, research institutes and universities in Europe, Australia and the USA.

This is an exciting time in Cell Biology research, as graduates, along with postdoctoral researchers and academic staff, actively pursue the quest for understanding the basic mechanisms of cell function, using powerful new tools such as RNA interference and high resolution imaging. Researchers in Cell Biology at Cambridge seek to understand the mechanisms by which cells function and develop normally in animals, and how these mechanisms can change, resulting in the formation of cancers. They investigate new insights into important questions by studying animals and tissues – simple worms with their surprisingly close links to the mechanisms underlying Alzheimer's disease; the development of kidney cells in flies and how they illuminate remarkably similar processes in human kidneys; human cell lines and how mechanisms of the cell cycle can be understood, thereby enabling us to identify key steps when the cell cycle breaks down.



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By focusing on these basic mechanisms, Cambridge researchers not only address vital topics in current Cell Biology, but also make groundbreaking discoveries which have important implications for human health and well-being. Professor Ron Laskey's work at the Department, for example, has resulted in new approaches in detecting cancer, and to a spin-out company maximising the potential of these tests. Professor Steve Jackson also founded a company that developed his ideas to near market products. Professor John Gurdon's work on reprogramming cells continues to illuminate the drive to exploit stem cells, while Professor Jim Smith has gone on to head the MRC National Institute for Medical Research.

The Department aims to continue training the next generation of cell biologists with this broad background and approach. Its vision is focused more on basic cell biological problems leading to future applications rather than immediate clinical applicability. Funding that will enable the Department to recruit the very brightest and best of the next generation of cell biologists from across the world is crucial. It will allow the Department to transfer to its students the rare combination of skills that a Cambridge education provides, which serves as a launching pad for keen young minds to carry forward their new ideas and aspirations.

The cost of supporting the very best graduate students in Cell Biology at Cambridge, regardless of age, gender, nationality or race, is £xxxxx per student for one year, starting in 2011/12*.

For a three-year PhD starting in 2011/12, this would be a total of £xxxxx per student.

"My life is a living example of what scholarships can do for those who come from less privileged sections of society. I spent the first ten years of my life in a village without electricity, without any modern infrastructure... That a person like me, with my modest background and means, was able to study at all, not to mention at Cambridge, is testimony to the role scholarships can play in social and economic empowerment."

Dr Manmohan Singh, Prime Minister of India, at the launch of the 'Dr Manmohan Singh Scholarships', University of Cambridge

* This breaks down into £xxxxx for University fees, £xxxxx for College fees, £xxxxx for maintenance and £xxxxx for research expenses. The maintenance figure is based on the basic UK Research Council stipend. The total PhD cost includes a x% inflationary rise per year.

