

Frequently asked questions

Application queries

Is my background suitable for applying to the course?

We are unable to comment on someone's suitability until we have received a full application. A description of our academic requirements can be found [here](#).

How many 'research interests' should I list and how specific should they be?

It would be helpful if you could list as many areas of interest as possible. They don't have to be very specific, unless it is relevant to your application.

Do I need to list a potential supervisor?

You may list one or more preferred supervisors on your application form, however this is not mandatory. If no supervisor is listed or your preferred supervisor is not available, we will do our best to assign you someone who is suitable to your background.

What kind of 'programming experience' do you require?

Some prior experience of programming is necessary for the course, but no particular language is required. So long as you have some understanding of a language that is used within scientific computing, such as C++, Fortran, Python or Matlab, this should be sufficient. We will be offering courses on other programming languages.

Do applicants need to have a Master's Degree in order to be accepted on the CDT programme?

Although most of our applicants have a Master's Degree, this is not a mandatory minimum requirement and there have been successful applicants without a Master's. To find out what our minimum requirements are, please visit this link: <https://www.postgraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/courses/directory/pcchpdacs/requirements>

Can I apply for the MPhil, and later decide to continue as CDT?

These are two separate programmes, please refer to admissions@ch.cam.ac.uk for further clarification.

Language requirements

Do I need to take a language test?

If you are a non-native speaker and haven't been living in an English-speaking country for the last three years, you will likely need evidence of your competence in English. Please visit this page to assess whether you have a language requirement: <https://www.graduate.study.cam.ac.uk/international-students/competence-english/will-i-have-language-requirement>

Which tests do you accept and what are the minimum scores?

Details of accepted Language Tests and minimum scores can be found here: <https://www.graduate.study.cam.ac.uk/international-students/competence-english/what-tests-are-accepted>

I didn't meet one or more of the minimum scores on my Language Test, what can I do now?

Please get in touch with the Graduate Admissions Office for advice: admissions@phy.cam.ac.uk

International students

EEA nationals

If you are a national of a European Economic Area (EEA) country or Switzerland and moving to the UK to start full-time studies at Cambridge prior to 31 December 2020, you will not require a visa to study in the UK. The countries in the EEA are:

Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Republic of Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, and Sweden.

If you are a national of a European Economic Area (EEA) country, or Switzerland and moving to the UK to start full-time studies at Cambridge after 31 December 2020, you are likely to need a [student visa](#) in order to study at the University.

If you are moving to live in the UK prior to 1 January 2021, you will not require a visa to study in the UK and can apply for a status under the [EU Settlement Scheme](#) after arrival. This scheme protects the longer-term rights of EEA and Swiss nationals. Further information about Brexit is provided in the University's [Brexit FAQs](#).

Irish citizens are not subject to UK immigration control and do not need to apply for the EU Settlement Scheme or a visa to live and study in the UK

EU Settlement Scheme

The UK left the European Union at the end of January 2020 and entered a transition period until 31 December 2020. During the transition period free movement will continue.

EEA and Swiss citizens, and their family members, who are resident in the UK prior to 1 January 2021 will not require a visa and will be eligible to apply for the EU Settlement Scheme to protect their UK residency status.

If you are moving to the UK to start full-time studies at Cambridge after 31 December 2020, you are likely to need a student visa in order to study at the University.