This course is now closed and there will be no further intakes of students. This page exists as a record of the course structure and its past students.

**Doctoral Programme in Chemical Biology**

The Doctoral Programme in Chemical Biology was a 4-year graduate training programme that brought together the expertise of three world-leading organisations to train outstanding students to work at the frontiers of chemical biology research. The University of Oxford was ranked 1st in the 2016 Times Higher Education World University Rankings and is one of the world’s leading research universities. GSK is a world leading, global healthcare company, which develops and manufactures pharmaceutical medicines, vaccines and consumer healthcare products. The Francis Crick Institute is a biomedical discovery institute dedicated to understanding the fundamental biology underlying health and disease. GSK works closely with researchers at The Francis Crick Institute through the GSK - Crick (LinkLabs) open science collaboration to explore new avenues of medical research and drug discovery. Chemical biology is an interdisciplinary field of science in which chemical techniques, tools, and analyses are used to study and manipulate biological systems, to address questions related to small molecule drug and probe discovery, and to investigate the pharmacology of small molecules that modulate biological targets. The projects offered to students who were admitted to this programme in 2017 were all within the theme of chemical modulation of biomolecules within living cells. The programme admitted two cohorts of students in October 2017 and October 2018 supported by funding from EPSRC and BBSRC. The majority of students admitted to the programme had an academic background in chemistry or in related fields. The programme was based in the University of Oxford’s Doctoral Training Centre (DTC) (www.dtc.ox.ac.uk), which houses five interdisciplinary graduate programmes focused on research at the interface between physical and life sciences, providing extensive opportunities to interact with students from a wide range of academic backgrounds. The Training Programme During their first term students undertook an intensive interdisciplinary training programme which included training in programming and scientific computing, drug discovery and chemical biology. During this term and throughout their studies students participated in a comprehensive career development programme, which included specific training in communication and business skills, entrepreneurship skills and the commercialisation of research. Commencing in January of their first-year students will undertook two 12-week rotation projects with at least two of the partner organisations (Oxford, GSK, Crick), before identifying their main DPhil research topic. They submitted a written report on each of these rotation projects which was assessed by an expert from one of the three partner organisations. For many students these rotation projects were complementary projects that provided the foundation for a collaborative DPhil project involving both project supervisors. During their DPhil project all students had an academic supervisor at the University of Oxford and a supervisor/mentor at GSK. Some students also had a supervisor at The Francis Crick Institute. Students selected rotation projects from a portfolio of projects proposed by researchers within the partnership. These rotations provided students with the opportunity to interact closely with both their academic and industrial/institute supervisors and to gain direct experience of the working environment and facilities available in the partner
organisations. At the end of their first-year students wrote and submitted for approval a research proposal describing their proposed DPhil project, written in collaboration with their academic, industrial and institute supervisor(s). They then undertook 3 years of full-time doctoral research.

Industrial Placement All students undertook a placement of no less than 12 weeks with GSK. In some cases, this placement was undertaken as one of the two rotation projects undertaken in the first year, in other cases this occurred during years 2-3. Funding Research council studentship funding administered by the University of Oxford provided a standard UK stipend (initially set at £14,553 per year) and university fees for eligible students for 4-years. This will be increased by contributions from GSK, and where relevant, the Francis Crick Institute to a minimum of £17,553 per year. Both GSK and the Francis Crick Institute provided additional funding towards cost of accommodation or travel from Oxford for students undertaking rotations with these organisations during their first year. Funding from The Francis Crick Institute for first year rotation students was £1677. The Francis Crick Institute subsequently topped up the combined Oxford and GSK stipend to the Crick level (£22K) for up to 18 months for students who carried out a jointly supervised PhD project with a Crick Group Leader as one of the supervisors.

LinkedIn profile of Oxford-GSK-Crick Chemical Biology CDT:
https://www.linkedin.com/in/oxford-gsk-crick-chemical-biology-cdt-0a812b247/
Oxford-GSK-Crick Chemical Biology DPhil - 2017 Cohort

Students:

Stephanie Lovell-Read  Raphael Reinbold  Grace Roper

Adam Thomas  Tobias John

Lead & Additional Supervisors:

Akane Kawamura  Chris Schofield  Luiz Carvalho
Stuart Conway

**Industrial Supervisors:**

Jacob Bush

Jo Redmond

Vipul Patel

Pete Craggs
Oxford-GSK-Crick Chemical Biology DPhil - 2018 Cohort

**Students:**

Darius McArdle  
Karen Heathcote  
Marc Moesser  
Katrina Andrews

**Lead Supervisors:**

Stuart Conway  
Emily Flashman  
Garrett Morris
Additional Supervisors:

Ester Hammond  
Chris Schofield  
Peter Ratcliffe

Industrial Supervisors:

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David Hirst  
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