

## Aspiring Scientists Training Programme Application Form – 2020

Formerly called ‘the Gurdon Institute’s Work Experience Programme’, the Aspiring Scientists Training Programme is funded by the [University of Cambridge’s Widening Participation programme](#). Our aim is to enable students with an interest in pursuing a career or higher education in science to get first-hand knowledge of an academic research environment when they may not ordinarily have the opportunity to do so.

This programme will offer a diverse and interesting experience for students. Successful applicants will spend five afternoons in a lab and five mornings in hands-on workshops and skill-building seminars. Previous topics for workshops and seminars have included: microscopy, image analysis, presentation skills, information about applying to selective universities and a tour of a Cambridge college. In addition to attending workshops and spending time in a lab each day, students will prepare and deliver a presentation on a scientific topic at the end of the training programme week.

All students who receive a place in the programme will be provided with accommodation at a Cambridge college for five nights (Sunday – Thursday night).

### **Instructions – please read carefully!**

1. [Complete the online application form](#) by 1 March 2020. **Any submissions other than through the link provided will not be considered. This document is only to be used as a guide for planning your responses to the online application form.**
2. At the end of the form, you will be asked to enter contact details for one of your teachers. We may get in touch with your teacher to verify some of your responses and provide a reference. **Before you submit your application**, please check with your teacher that they are happy for you to share their contact details with us and to be contacted by us for this purpose.

We will let you know whether your application has been successful by 30 April 2020.

### **Important notes**

- a. Due to limited availability, training programme places are extremely competitive. **Completing this application form does not guarantee a placement.**
- b. This is a widening participation programme and therefore priority will be given to applicants from backgrounds which would make it unlikely for them to obtain a similar experience through personal connections.
- c. An unsuccessful application for this programme does not reflect your likelihood of being successful in an application for undergraduate study at university.

## Eligibility

This programme is open to students who are:

- age 16+
- studying biology at A-level/IB (or equivalent)
- studying at UK state schools/colleges/sixth-forms/academies
- attainment at GCSE (or equivalent) of Grades 7 or above in science and maths

Students must meet all of the qualifying measures above in order for their application to be considered.

As this is a Widening Participation programme with the particular aim to give students the experience of working in an academic research environment when they ordinarily wouldn't be able to arrange such an experience on their own, we are particularly keen to receive applications from students who meet any of the following criteria (**it is not necessary to meet them all**):

- Priority will be given to students who have a strong academic performance and go to a school with lower than average progress scores.
- Priority will be given to students from schools that tend to send very few students to Cambridge or Oxford Universities.
- Other criteria we will use to prioritise applicants:
  - Parent(s)/carers(s) have not attended university
  - Have been eligible for Free School Meals or Pupil Premium in the past six years
  - Are caring for a family member or friend
  - Are currently or have been in local authority care

If there is something else you feel we should consider in assessing your application for this programme, please complete the optional short answer question number 23 in the online application form.

**Student Details**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

School or college currently attending \_\_\_\_\_

**Notes:**

1. If you are selected for the work experience programme and are age 17 or older when the placement is due to begin, you will be required to provide proof of your Right to Work in the UK. This means you will have to provide an official document (such as a passport) to be checked **BEFORE** you can start the work experience with us. More information about the sort of documents you can bring to fulfil this requirement can be found [here](#) and [here](#).
2. Information about how your personal information will be used by us in connection with the administration of this activity, and for related purposes, is available at <http://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/how-we-use-participant-data>. Please contact The Gurdon Institute at [workexperience@gurdon.cam.ac.uk](mailto:workexperience@gurdon.cam.ac.uk) with any questions in the first instance.
3. At the end of this application, we will ask for contact details of one of your teachers. We may contact this teacher and ask them to verify some of the information you provide to us in this form and write a short reference for you. Before you submit your application, please check that your teacher is happy to be contacted by us for this purpose.
4. By completing this form, you are agreeing that you are happy for us to share the data you have provided with your teacher.

## Placement Details

**Which week(s) are you available to participate in the programme?** (please select all that apply)

- 6-10 July 2020  
 13-17 July 2020

**Which lab(s) would you prefer to have a placement in?**

Refer to '[Our Research](#)' on the [Gurdon Institute website](#) to learn more about each lab. You may select as many or as few labs as you like.

**While we will make every effort to ensure you are placed in one of the labs you select below, please note that we cannot guarantee that you will be placed in one of the labs you select here.**

### Labs

- [Brand Lab](#) (neural stem cell quiescence and reactivation)  
 [Jackson Lab](#) (DNA repair)  
 [Kouzarides Lab](#) (RNA modifications, RNA modifying enzymes, cancer)  
 [Ma Lab](#) (mitochondrial DNA transmission and diseases)  
 [Miska Lab](#) (gene regulation and RNA in inheritance and adaptation)  
 [Rawlins Lab](#) (lung development, epithelial stem cells; cell-cell interactions)  
 [Simons Lab](#) (mechanisms of stem cell fate in tissue development, maintenance and disease)  
 [Surani Lab](#) (germ cell specification, programming and epigenetics)  
 [St Johnston Lab](#) (cell polarity, cytoskeleton, epithelium)  
 [Zegerman Lab](#) (DNA regulation)

### How did you find out about our programme?

- My teacher  
 A school newsletter  
 Newsletter from another organisation (please specify which one): \_\_\_\_\_  
 A career/other guidance counsellor  
 My parent/carer  
 Website of the Gurdon Institute  
 Facebook  
 Instagram  
 Twitter  
 Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

### **Background Information**

The questions below are based on standard Widening Participation criteria and are intended to assess your background. If there is any other relevant information you would like to provide to us, please complete the optional short answer question number 23 in the online application form.

If you submit this form, we will assume your consent to the data processing described here: <http://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/how-we-use-participant-data>. You have the right to withdraw this consent at any time. If you wish to withdraw consent, or have any other questions about how we will handle/protect your personal data, please contact [workexperience@gurdon.cam.ac.uk](mailto:workexperience@gurdon.cam.ac.uk) in the first instance.

**Are you or have you been eligible for Free School Meals or Pupil Premium now or in the last six years?**

No       Yes       Prefer not to say

**Are you currently caring, unpaid, for a friend or family member who, due to illness, disability, a mental health problem or an addiction cannot cope without your support?**

No       Yes       Prefer not to say

**Are you currently or have you ever been in local authority care in the UK?**

No       Yes       Prefer not to say

**Do you *personally* know someone who is a scientist or who works in academia (even in a non-science discipline, for example, history)?** This could be someone who works as a lecturer, researcher, or professor at a University. This could also be a laboratory scientist in industry, or someone studying to become a scientist at university.

No  
 Yes (please explain their relationship(s) to you and describe how they work in science/academia or what their job is):

**Has at least one of your parent(s)/carers(s) attended university?**

No

Yes, and the highest education level of my parent(s)/carer(s) is:

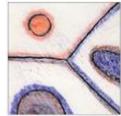
Bachelor's

Master or other Post-Graduate qualification

PhD

Post Doc





**Short Answer Questions** (maximum 100 words per question)

Please make sure that your answers are specific to you.

Note: the online form will not notify you if you have exceeded the word limit. Responses that are obviously longer than 100 words will not be read. **Please plan your responses ahead of time to ensure you do not exceed the limit.**

**What achievement are you most proud of and how has it positively affected you?  
This must be something in the last year and may or may not relate to your academic work.**

**What biology practical (at GCSE or at A-level/IB) did you most enjoy?  
Please explain why.**

**What do you hope to do in the future and how will a placement at the Gurdon Institute help you achieve these goals? Be sure to be as specific as possible.**

**OPTIONAL:** Please share any challenges you've had to overcome in your life which you feel would be relevant in your application to this work experience programme.

**Contact Details of Teacher Reference**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Subject \_\_\_\_\_

Name of school/college \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

**Please ensure that you have typed your teacher's name and email address correctly!**

**NOTE TO STUDENT:**

By submitting this application, you are confirming:

- The details you have provided throughout are accurate to the best of your knowledge
- The application form has been completed entirely by yourself
- You have checked with your parents and with your school and you are available to participate in the programme during all of the dates you indicated in question number 7
- You are happy for us to share the information you provided in this form with your teacher reference.
- You have checked with your teacher and he/she is happy to verify the information you have provided here and write a short reference for you, if requested.

To falsify information is grounds for refusal to accept you to the programme or to remove you from the programme, if accepted. If any of the information contained in your application is found to be false or plagiarised, in addition to excluding you from the programme, we will report this misconduct to your school.

GUIDANCE ONLY - DO NOT SUBMIT