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## Gurdon Institute Aspiring Scientists Training Programme Application Form 2022

10th - 15th July 2022

Please read this information carefully.

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. Priority will be given to applicants from backgrounds which would make it unlikely for them to obtain a similar experience through personal connections.

This programme will offer a diverse and interesting experience for students. Successful applicants will spend five afternoons in a lab practicing techniques such as immunohistochemistry, molecular biology, confocal microscopy, imaging or others (the specific techniques will be determined by the individual labs). Students will also spend 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 for five nights (Sunday - Thursday night).

Due to limited availability, training programme places are extremely competitive. Completing this application form does not guarantee a placement. An unsuccessful application for this programme does not reflect your likelihood of being successful in an application for undergraduate study at university.

## Instructions

1. Complete and submit this online form. Any submissions in other formats will not be considered.
2. At the end of this form, you will be asked to enter contact details for one of your teachers. We may get in touch with this teacher to verify some of your responses and we may ask this teacher to write a short reference for you. **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.
3. Submit this online form by 1 April 2022.

We will let you know whether or not your application has been successful by 30 April 2022.

**Note:** By submitting this application, you are confirming that you have checked with your parent(s)/carer(s) and with your school and you are available to attend the placement Sunday 10th to Friday 15th July 2022.

Please be sure to read through [the application guidance document](#) to plan your responses before attempting to complete the application, as you may not be able to save your progress in this application form.

## 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 Grade 7 or above in science

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

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 University

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 below.

## Important notes:

- 1. This programme will be run in accordance with UK Government and University of Cambridge guidelines with regard to COVID-19. Should there be any changes to the planned programme, applicants will be notified as soon as possible.**
- 2. All applicants must have the right to work in the UK and any offer to take part in the programme is conditional upon providing the evidence of right to work. More information on this can be found [here](#) and [here](#), but if you are unsure as to whether you are able to provide the required documentation then please do not hesitate to contact us at [public-engagement@gurdon.cam.ac.uk](mailto:public-engagement@gurdon.cam.ac.uk).**
- 3. *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.***
- 4. *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 for you to share their contact details with us for this purpose.***
- 5. *By completing this form, you are agreeing that you are happy for us to share the data you provide in the form with your teacher for validation.***



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### Your Details

All of the information given in this form is confidential and will only be shared with members of the project team within the Gurdon, and the teacher who you have listed as your reference if appropriate.

Please answer as many of the questions as you can. However, if you are uncomfortable doing so, you are free to leave questions blank.

\* 1. What is your name?

\* 2. What is your date of birth?

DD/MM/YYYY

Date

3. What are your preferred pronouns?

#### 4. What is your ethnicity?

- Asian or Asian British Bangladeshi
- Asian or Asian British Indian
- Asian or Asian British Pakistani
- Black or Black British African
- Black or Black British Caribbean
- Chinese
- Gypsy or Traveller
- Irish Traveller
- Mixed White and Asian
- Mixed White and Black African
- Mixed White and Black Caribbean
- Other Asian background
- Other Black background
- Other Ethnic background
- Other Mixed background
- Other White background
- White British
- White Irish
- White Scottish
- Prefer not to say
- Other

#### \* 5. What is your post code?

#### \* 6. What is your email address?

*Please be sure that your email address is spelled correctly and please use an email address that you check regularly.*

**\* 7. What is your phone number?**

**\* 8. What school or college are you currently attending?**

**9. Does your school/college have a website? If so, please add it below.**



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### Placement details

\* 10. 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 even if your application is successful, we cannot guarantee that you will be placed in one of the labs you select here.**

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



**\* 11. How did you find out about this programme?**

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



## Gurdon Institute Aspiring Scientists Training Programme Application Form 2022

### 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 23.

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.

\* 12. Are you or have you been eligible for Free School Meals or Pupil Premium now or in the last six years?

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

\* 13. 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?

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

\* 14. Are you currently or have you ever been in local authority care in the UK?

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

**\* 15. 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. It could also be a laboratory scientist in industry, or someone studying to become a scientist at university.

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

**\* 16. Has at least one of your parent(s)/carer(s) attended university?**

- Yes
- No

**\* 17. What is the highest level of qualification at least one of your parent(s)/guardian(s) have received?**

- GCSE's (or equivalent)
- A-level (or equivalent)
- Bachelors
- Masters
- Other post-graduate qualification
- PhD
- Post doc
- Other (please specify)

**18. Have you experience educational disruption in any of the following forms?**

- Medical/health issues (including mental health), particularly those that have resulted in long or extended periods of absence (over 8 weeks) from school in the last 6 years
- Becoming a parent
- Being an asylum seeker or refugee
- Becoming estranged from close family members (e.g. parents/carers)
- Moving schools more than once in the last 6 years
- No, I have not
- Other
- Prefer not to say

**If you are comfortable doing so, please provide further details**



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### Your education & experience

\* 19. Which year group are you currently in?

Year 12

Year 13

**\* 20. Which GCSE (or equivalent) subjects did you take and what was your final grade in each subject? (Fill in as many subjects as apply to you and be sure to include your final grade for each subject!)**

Subject 1

Subject 2

Subject 3

Subject 4

Subject 5

Subject 6

Subject 7

Subject 8

Subject 9

Subject 10

Subject 11

Subject 12

Subject 13

Subject 14

Subject 15

Subject 16

Subject 17

*In addition to each GCSE subject name, please include the grade you received for each GCSE subject above. If you do not provide your GCSE grades, we may not be able to process your application.*

**\* 21. Which A-level or IB subjects (or equivalent) are you currently taking? And (if available) what is your predicted grade for each subject?**

Subject 1

Subject 2

Subject 3

Subject 4

*In addition to listing your A-level/IB subjects above, please include your predicted grades for each subject where possible.*

**\* 22. Have you ever participated in a work experience programme previously?**

No

Yes (please specify where and when)



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### Short answer questions (maximum 100 words per question)

Please make sure that your answers are specific to you.

Note: this 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.**

\* 23. 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.

\* 24. What biology practical (at GCSE or A-level/IB) did you most enjoy? Please explain why.

\* 25. What do you hope to do in the future and how will a placement at the Gurdon Institute help you achieve these goals?

Please be as specific as possible.



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



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### Teacher reference

\* 27. Before submitting this form, please check with your teacher to ensure:

- they are happy for you to provide their contact information to us
- they are willing to validate your application information and write a short reference for you, if requested later.

Teacher's name

Subject

Name of  
school/college

School's  
postcode

Email Address

Please be sure that you have spelled your teacher's name and email address correctly.



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### Confirm and submit application

\* 28. By submitting this application form, 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 parent(s)/carer(s) and with your school and you are available to participate in the programme during all of the dates specified.
- You are happy for us to share the information you provided throughout this form with your teacher reference.
- You have checked with your teacher and they are happy for you to share their contact details with us.
- You have checked with your teacher and they are happy to verify the information you have provided and write a short reference for you, if requested.
- You understand that to falsify information is grounds for refusal to accept you into 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.

I confirm that I have read and understood the information above.

I confirm that my teacher has given consent to sharing their contact details with the Gurdon Institute.