

RDM Admissions Process 2027

Funding Competition	
July/August 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PIs invited to submit project descriptions for RDM and WIMM Website – deadline Monday 3 August. • PIs advertising will be required to sign the Supervisor Declaration form • PIs will be reminded if they need to complete or renew the <i>DPHil Supervision at Oxford (Sciences) course</i>. • Projects will only be advertised if the course has been completed by the PI within the last three years. • PIs asked to inform Graduate Studies team of any potential funding for studentships.
16 September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Admissions cycle opens for entry in October 2027. • Project descriptions available on RDM and WIMM websites.
16 September – 1 December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prospective applicants to email preferred supervisors using a downloadable form including a CV and rationale for choosing the PI and project. • PI to engage with prospective applicants and let them know whether they can support the application. • We are looking at academic potential as well as their academic record to date, taking a more holistic view to look at trajectory to this point for applicants with contextual data e.g. in socioeconomic Band A; how have they improved to date, in the context of their career stage. • PIs can support as many applications as they wish at this stage. • Template email provided to PI for use with applicants they cannot support either after reviewing the application form or after further discussion with the prospective applicant.
1 December, 12 noon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deadline for RDM applications for funded scholarships including the RDM Scholars Programme. • Applications received by this deadline are automatically considered in the competition for RDM and Divisional/university funding.
2 – 8 December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wednesday 2 December, applications sent to named PIs for feedback via OneDrive. Although applicants are advised to contact potential supervisor, if they do not, they can still apply and will be forwarded to you at this point. You may want to contact them so you can consider them for your nominations for shortlisting. • Contextual data will be supplied with guidelines on how to take this into consideration. • Rank applicants using the spreadsheet provided in the OneDrive folder. • The rationale for not being able to support an applicant must be provided in case of freedom of information requests. Options are given in feedback sheet. • Top three to five (depending on numbers of applicants and projects) will proceed to shortlisting.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will provide the Business Managers with lists of PIs who have been named by applicants. During the selection process we will seek confirmation from them that you have funding in place to support the student i.e. for consumables. If funding is not in place, we will not consider the application further. Deadline for supervisor ranked lists is 9am, Tuesday 8 December
4–12 December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Graduate Studies team to process applications of nominated applicants.
10/11 December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> assign applications to shortlisters for scoring. Applications and score sheets will be shared via OneDrive. Deadline for scores to be returned is 9am Thursday 17 December.
18 December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DGS/Graduate Studies Shortlisting meeting.
21-22 December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emails to interview candidates and PIs with invitation to interview and information.
4-9 January 2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PIs and candidates to make contact to discuss projects and meet lab members prior to their interview.
11 – 15 January 2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interviews. PIs asked for feedback on interview candidates by the last date of the interviews.
w/c 18 January 2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Offers begin to be made. Further feedback is sought from supervisors before any offer is made. Business Managers will be copied into emails to supervisors to give them the opportunity to question any decisions and supervisory capacity.
w/c 26 January 2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preparation for GSSC nominations. Deadline for GSSC will be 1st week of February. <p>NOTE: this requires help from PIs of nominated candidates.</p>

Open Field applications – applications between 2 December 2026 – 28 May 2027:

- Applications are still welcome after the funding competition closes and until 28 May 2027.
- Offers made in the Open Field are unfunded.
- Interviews held in March, April/May, June/July.
- A similar process is followed – supervisor feedback, scoring, shortlisting, interview, further supervisor feedback, offer/reject.
- Clinicians with actual/potential funding for a CRTF and other candidates with funding in place should be encouraged to apply in the Open Field rather than in competition for scholarship funding which only provides fees and a stipend.
- Applicants applying after 1 December for an unfunded place should be encouraged to apply as soon as possible to secure a college place. College places are more difficult to find after May.

If you have any queries about the process or need advice about when a candidate should apply, please contact Jill Walker at graduate.studies@rdm.ox.ac.uk