



## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

### 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.

#### **What kind of 'programming experience' do I require?**

Some prior experience of programming is desirable 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.

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

These are two separate programmes with different entry requirements. You can apply for the CDT programme after you complete your MPhil or Masters, please refer to [admissions@ch.cam.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@ch.cam.ac.uk) for further clarification.

### Supervision

#### **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.

#### **Should I contact a prospective supervisor in advance?**

Ideally yes but this is not compulsory.

Contacts should be focused and aim to engage the interest of the academic. DO NOT send a generic email to all academics listed on the CDT website.

Supervisors will be looking out for your application if you list their name. They will confirm if they are recruiting for that year with the admissions team.

Supervisors can help you develop your research proposal if you are applying for the Gates Cambridge funding.

#### **What if supervisors don't respond to my email?**

You can send a reminder email, but only one.

You can apply anyway, but don't list this as your only prospective supervisor.

## 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.

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

Details of accepted Language Tests and minimum scores can be found [here](#).

You do NOT need to meet this in order to apply, but any interview will be held in English and you will need to be able to communicate effectively.

However, you WILL need to demonstrate English language proficiency to be admitted, so this would be a condition of any offer of a place.

#### **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@ch.cam.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@ch.cam.ac.uk)

## Common Causes for Rejection

- Incomplete application
- Not meeting the academic requirement for entry
- Poorly focused application
- Poor interview performance
- No supervisor available to take the applicant