



PhD application checklist

The following questions are designed to help those considering applying for a laboratory-based PhD. They are not comprehensive, but are designed to help you think about the different aspects of postgraduate research and what it entails.

Print this list off and use the space below each question to jot down your thoughts.

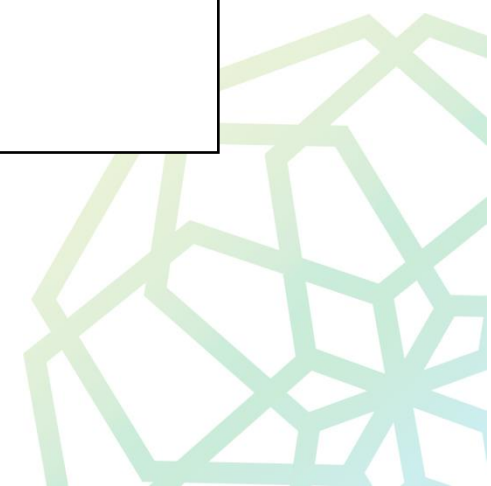
Is a PhD right for you?

Have you fully considered the nature of a PhD?

- Do you enjoy the routine of laboratory work and the rhythm of research?

- Do you have the personality and resilience to undertake independent research?

- Have you spoken to current PhD researchers and post-docs about their experiences (the good and the bad)?



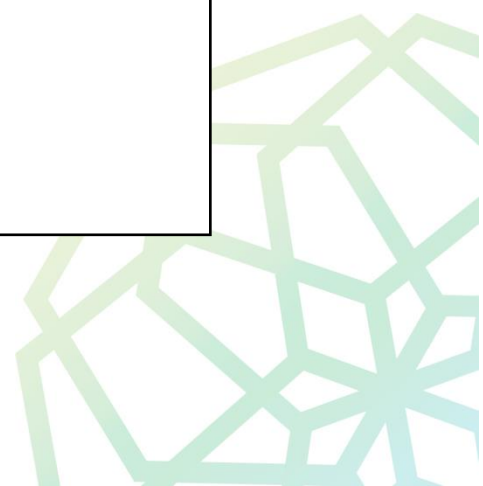


- Have you considered the length of the research degree that would suit your circumstances?

- Have you thought about life after the PhD – where will it lead? What are your ultimate goals?

- Have you thought about the funding associated with a PhD? Is it sufficient to support you, or will you need external support from parents, or a second job?

- Have you networked with researchers at conferences, and spoken about your motivation to undertake a PhD with potential supervisors within and outside of your institution?





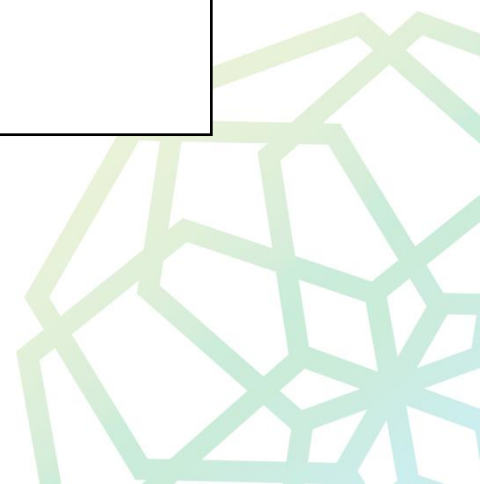
- If you decided not to do a PhD, what career path might you choose instead?

Experience

Use this section to help build your application, and ensure you include all the valuable information about yourself and your skills

- What laboratory skills and techniques have you developed so far? What new techniques would you like to learn?

- What communication skills have you gained? Have you presented aspects of your work to your peers e.g. in conferences or seminars?





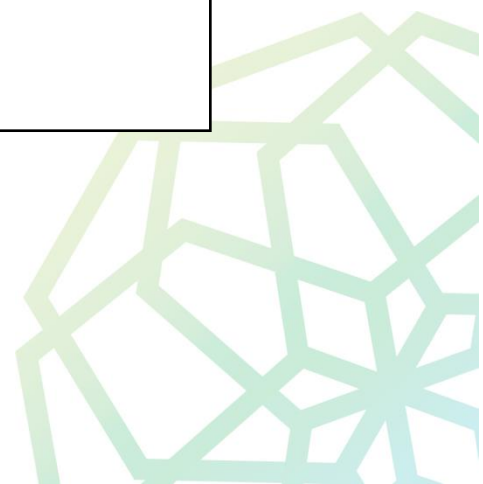
**BRITISH
PHARMACOLOGICAL
SOCIETY**

- Does your undergraduate research project, or your module choices have applicability to the PhD research area you are considering?

- Have you any experience of undertaking a research project during your undergraduate studies, worked on a summer research project or taken a year out in industry?

- Are you a member of a learned society such as the British Pharmacological Society? Have you been involved in any of their projects (for example, contributed to their policy work) or attended any workshops?

**TODAY'S
SCIENCE
TOMORROW'S
MEDICINES**





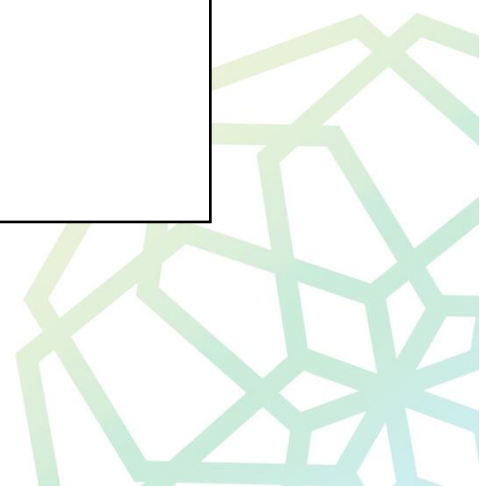
Is a particular PhD project for you?

So, you have found a PhD project you are interested in applying for. Have you considered the following?

- Have you researched the potential supervisor, the institution and department the research will take place?

- Are you able to speak to the members of the lab in confidence, about the lab environment and your prospective supervisor?

- Have you read around the subject and do you have a grasp of the broader field within which it sits?





- Have you read papers published by the lab? Do PhD students regularly contribute to these?

- Are you applying for an advertised PhD or approaching a potential supervisor with a research proposal that contributes to their field of research?

- Is the PhD funded or will you need a supervisor to apply for funding on your behalf?

- Is the PhD industry sponsored? What does this mean for you, your research and your supervision?

