

Applicant Guidelines

This document provides details on how to apply to the Research Ready programme. Please read these guidelines carefully before making your application.

1. Application Method

You must apply to this programme via the online application form: [here](#).

We will not consider applications which are submitted to us via any other means. To complete the form, you will need to prepare a few things:

- University transcript
- Recent CV (maximum one page)
- Details of your nominated referee
- If applicable - Your most recent official letter/screenshot with your entitlement summary from Student Finance confirming you receive the full state support for maintenance from the UK government.

2. Application Dates

The application deadline is **9am, Monday 19 February 2024**. Late applications will not be accepted so please ensure you submit your application by this time. Your referee will also need to submit their reference by this time.

Online interviews for shortlisted candidates will take place the week commencing **18 March 2024 (TBC)**.

We expect to notify applicants of the outcome by email on the week commencing **29 April 2024**.

3. Eligibility

To be eligible for the Research Ready programme, you will need to meet the following criteria:

Essential criteria (all required)

1. have, or expect to have and be able to prove right to live and [work in the UK](#), with no restrictions on how long you can stay before 8 July 2024;
2. have been ordinarily resident in the UK (but not mainly for full-time education) since 1 July 2021 or are a national of the Republic of Ireland;
3. you are currently undertaking or have completed an undergraduate degree in Computer Science or a related subject at a UK or Irish university;
4. have an interest in undertaking a research postgraduate degree.

Academic criteria (all required)

1. Be on track to achieve or have achieved a final undergraduate degree grade of a high 2:1 or First in computer science, or a related subject;

2. have not completed or hold an offer for postgraduate study.
Note: if you have already received an offer for postgraduate research study or have completed a postgraduate research degree, you are not eligible to apply for the programme. You will be asked to confirm this when applying and accepting your offer.

Widening participation criteria (at least one required)

1. be in the first generation of your family to study at undergraduate level;
2. have entered university at undergraduate level from a care background or a Foyer resident;
3. have been a young carer under the age of 18 or currently have caring responsibilities; (i.e. providing support for a family member who has a physical or mental health condition, or misuses substances)
4. be estranged from their parents/guardians;
5. have been in receipt of free school meals at secondary school;
6. be in receipt of full state support for maintenance for their course of undergraduate study;
7. be a mature undergraduate student (aged 21 or over on the first day of an undergraduate course)
8. would be a mature postgraduate student (aged 25 or over on the first day of a postgraduate course)
9. be either a single parent, or lone guardian of a young person who is aged under 18 and/or is still in full-time education;
10. have refugee status.

For more information on the above criteria and whether you satisfy them, see the Widening Participation Criteria section below.

4. Widening Participation Criteria

Please indicate whether you satisfy any of the widening participation criteria by selecting the appropriate criteria on the application form. The corresponding question on the application form, as well as further details, where applicable, can be found in the table below.

If you are shortlisted, we may contact you to request evidence to support the widening participation criteria you have selected. This ensures transparency and fairness in our assessment processes.

Criteria	Question / Further details
Free School Meals	Were you eligible for free school meals at secondary school?
Care or Foyer Background	Did you enter university at undergraduate level from a care background or as a Foyer resident?
Estranged from Family	Do you consider yourself estranged from your parents/guardians? Someone under the age of 25 who is not communicating with

	their parents/guardians due to a breakdown in your relationships and has had no physical and financial support from them for at least 12 months. You may also have been assessed as independent by Student Finance during your undergraduate study.
Single Parent or Guardian	Are you (or have you been) a single parent, lone foster parent, or lone guardian of a young person who is aged under 18 and/or still in full-time education during your undergraduate degree course?
Caring Responsibilities	Do you (or did you) provide unpaid care to a family member or friend who could not cope without your support, lasting for 3 months or more occupying more than 10 hours per week? This may be due to illness, disability, a mental health issue, or substance misuse.
First Generation Applicant	Are you in the first generation of your family to go to university?
Mature Student	Are you a mature undergraduate student (i.e.: 21 years of age or over at the start of your current undergraduate course)? Are you (Will you be) a mature postgraduate student (i.e.: 25 years of age or over at the start of your postgraduate course)?
State Support	Are you in receipt of full state support for maintenance for your course of undergraduate study?
Refugee Status	Have you been granted refugee status in the UK?

5. Selection Criteria

Applicants will be selected according to the following criteria:

Academic Achievement and Potential: This will be evaluated through the candidates' application form, university transcript, a reference, and an interview. Applicants would ideally be on track to achieve a final undergraduate degree grade of a strong 2:1 or first-class degree (e.g.: if your transcript shows year-on-year grade progression towards the upper range of a 2:1 or above).

Opportunity: This refers to the extent to which applicants will benefit from the programme, given their previous educational experiences. Preference will be given to students who have not already had the opportunity to undertake research in relevant areas (see Research Experience section below).

Contextual Information: We understand that factors such as socio-economic disadvantage can make it difficult for students to demonstrate their full potential. Therefore, we will use a range of contextual data that you provide in your application to help us better understand your achievements in the context of your particular circumstances, and to prioritise applicants who would most benefit from the programme.

Selection for the programme will take account of the following information, collected via your application form and personal statement:

- socio-economic information, including your financial circumstances
- any ongoing disruption that you have faced to your studies so far
- your undergraduate institution

The programme will operate a waiting list in case any selected candidates are unable to take up their place. We will inform you if you are on the waiting list.

6. Accommodation and Pay

You will be paid for participation in the programme at the rate of Cambridge Living Wage (currently £12 per hour), for a 35-hour week. You will also be reimbursed for your travel to and from Cambridge at the start/end of the programme (up to £100).

In addition, participants will be provided with single accommodation at a Cambridge college for the duration of the programme, including weekends. Rooms will be allocated at random unless a student has specific needs (which you are invited to set out in the Accessibility section of the online form).

You are expected to live in this College accommodation for the duration of the programme and comply with College regulations. In exceptional circumstances, agreed with your supervisor, you may arrange alternative accommodation for yourself.

7. Expectations

Successful candidates will be expected to:

- live in [Cambridge](#) for the duration of the programme;
- participate in a research project for 35 hours per week for 8 weeks on the dates provided (8 July – 30 August 2024);
- attend all training sessions organised for the programme;
- the programme will also include a number of additional events (such as career talks, presentations, and social events) which will take place outside normal working hours. You are strongly encouraged to attend them as part of your career- and cohort-development and;
- commit to providing all requested feedback at the end of the programme so that we can improve it for future years.

The Research Ready Programme aims to help you enhance your academic skills and to introduce you to the postgraduate experience 'at the University of Cambridge. At all times, you will be expected to maintain the highest standards of [research integrity](#).

Please note that the University of Cambridge, along with most other research-intensive UK universities, normally expects a minimum of a good 2:1 as an entry requirement for postgraduate studies, and many highly competitive programmes will normally expect a first-class degree. Participants of this programme who decide to apply to the University of Cambridge will not receive any preferential treatment at the application stage.

8. Reference

We strongly advise that you ensure your referee will be happy to provide a reference **before** you submit their contact details in your application. **Your application will not be considered completed until we have received your reference.**

To find out more about reference and who to choose as your reference please see the following page: <https://www.cst.cam.ac.uk/outreach/deepmind-research-ready/references>.

9. Research Experience

During the application process, you will be asked if you have had any research experience, either at your current institution (whether as part of, or outside of, your course) or through another organisation. Research experience is defined as a paid/unpaid research placement or experience full or part-time, for a total duration equal to or exceeding 4 weeks, full-time.

10. Interviews

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to an online interview with a small panel of assessors during the week commencing 18 March 2024 (precise date and time to be confirmed). The interviews will take the form of a conversation, will further explore what you wrote in your application, and focus on your academic achievement and research potential. **Your satisfaction of the eligibility and widening participation criteria will not be discussed in the interviews.**

More details regarding the interview will be provided to shortlisted candidates in due course.

Contact us

If you have a question, please contact us at dmcs-internships@cst.cam.ac.uk.