



CAMBRIDGE CENTRE *for*
INTERNATIONAL
RESEARCH

CCIR ACADEMY

1-ON-1 RESEARCH MENTORSHIP



Science Olympiad's
Preferred Student Research
Partner

ADVICE TO CCIR STUDENTS

Dr Robert Lefkowitz

The Chancellor's Distinguished
Professor of Medicine, Duke University
Nobel Prize in Medicine '12



"Putting kids in a mentored situation, maybe a summer of research with an inspirational mentor, so they could see what it feels like to fully engage with a problem, to give your best effort, to try to solve a problem, especially one that you have reason to believe is of some significance - often that will do the trick."

*-Speaking at CCIR Student
Research Symposium 2024*



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THE CCIR DIFFERENCE

CCIR is a **research organisation** registered at Cambridge, whose overarching mission is to benefit the public by increasing the accessibility of knowledge.

As an organisation founded by **two Cambridge professors and a group of Oxbridge alumni**, our staff boast strong academic backgrounds and have unique access to the faculty networks at top universities in the US and UK, which allow us to provide the best educational experiences possible for admitted students.

WORLD-CLASS PROFESSORS

We only partner with current teaching faculty members at the University of Cambridge, University of Oxford, and nine top US universities: Harvard, MIT, Yale, Brown, Columbia, UC Berkeley, UPenn, Princeton, and Stanford.

PUBLISHING SUPPORT

Publishing requires know-how. Our expert team will not only help you transition from high school to academic writing, we will also actively assist you in getting your work published at undergraduate or industry level journals and conferences.

CCIR THINK TANK

At CCIR Think Tank, we operate a range of free programmes and regular podcast series on the latest developments in various fields. This grows our faculty network and helps us cultivate a serious academic presence at top universities.



THE CCIR DIFFERENCE

CCIR is a **research organisation** registered at Cambridge, whose overarching mission is to benefit the public by increasing the accessibility of knowledge.

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PROFESSOR-ADMISSION SYSTEM

Instead of admission officers admitting and assigning students, the professors will personally review, sometimes interview, and finally admit each student into their own cohorts. Although this results in cohorts with five students or less, this ensures that our professors are fully invested in each admitted student.

RIGOROUS STANDARDS

Because our faculty members are all leaders in their field, we are committed to maintaining the highest standards in our admissions. This means we are able to pair leading academics with the brightest young minds of today.

LASTING RELATIONSHIPS

Many of our past students at different CCIR programmes have been maintaining close friendships with their peers and mentors even after their programmes ended. Many mentors provide invaluable guideline on their future.

THE CCIR DIFFERENCE

NATURE JOURNAL HIGHLIGHTS CCIR ACADEMY

On the March 2024 issue of *Nature Nanotechnology*, the neuroscience-focused research journal of Nature, published an article by Rachel Lou, a CCIR alumna from Carey Baptist Grammar School in Melbourne, Australia, recounting her experience conducting research with CCIR. Her article is accompanied by a reflection from her professor mentor at CCIR, Professor Landry of UC Berkeley.

At CCIR Academy, Rachel conducted a research project titled "*RNA-based Therapeutics: A Future in Cancer Immunotherapy*," where she examined the latest developments in RNA-based technologies used for COVID-19 vaccines and their vast potential for future cancer treatments. Her paper was later accepted and published in the *Research & Reviews: Medical and Clinical Oncology* journal.

The feature published by *Nature*, one of the most prestigious and influential academic journals, speaks volumes about the quality and rigor of CCIR Academy's programmes. Read below an excerpt from Rachel's *Nature* article:

I searched for research programmes that would allow me to extend myself and dive into this field. I found the Cambridge Centre for International Research (CCIR). CCIR is a research organization that provide rigorous online research programmes for talented students around the world working with leading researchers and professors from top US and UK universities to each produce an independent research paper that showcases academic passion and commitment.

After a rigorous application process, I conducted an online interview with an academic coordinator and the recordings were sent to prospective mentors. I was accepted by Professor Landry, an Associate Professor at the University of California, Berkley. Professor Landry was everything I hoped for in a mentor: kind and encouraging, introducing and guiding me along the path of her specialty....

...I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity and knowledge I have gained from CCIR and Professor Landry. I am fortunate to have met a mentor who cultivated my curiosity and love for science, guiding my inspiration towards a path in research. I hope other researchers will be inspired to get involved in mentoring and guiding future scientists, helping them to make their own mark in the world of scientific research.

nature

The potential for academics to inspire the next generation

Rachel Lou

Programmes to inspire the next generation of researchers can have a huge impact, as Rachel Lou explains in the recounting of her own experience.

As a young girl I was inspired by the novel *Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes* where a young Japanese girl diagnosed with leu-

paper crane cancer. My grandfather was trying to help him, but he passed away. I was inspired to help him, but he passed away. I was inspired to help him, but he passed away.



Professor Markita del Carpio Landry's reflections on her experiences mentoring as part of the CCIR programme

"I became a mentor with the Cambridge Centre for International Research based on my own experiences, interacting with teachers and scientists who became mentors, which greatly influenced my decision to pursue science as a career. I've found it tremendously gratifying to rework my course and publication materials for the

CCIR programme, as this is highly relevant to science communication. Mentoring exceptional and bright high school students like Rachel can easily be the highlight of my week. I always value the fresh perspective that students like Rachel bring." Professor Markita del Carpio Landry, University of California, Berkeley

CCIR STUDENT RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

WITH NOBEL LAUREATES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Every year, a select number of CCIR's students have the opportunity to present their research findings on the campus of Cambridge, to showcase their work and their achievements (in-person or virtual; at no additional cost to the invited presenters).

For the 2024 Symposium, 10 Nobel laureates have attended and interacted with CCIR student presenters over two days.

The annual CCIR Symposium is open to apply for all current and past CCIR students, regardless of the status of their research. Participants must submit a 200 to 400 word fully polished abstract. A most recent draft of the paper is also encouraged, but not required for the submission.

The 2025 CCIR Student Research Symposium will return again in July 2025.

Dr David Baltimore

President Emeritus, Caltech

Dr William Daniel Phillips

Distinguished Professor, University of Maryland

Dr Thomas Cech

Distinguished Professor, University of Colorado

Sir Richard Roberts

Chief Scientific Officer, New England Biolabs

Dr Aaron Ciechanover

Distinguished Research Professor,
Israel Institute of Technology

Dr Robert Lefkowitz

The Chancellor's Distinguished Professor
of Medicine, Duke University

Dr Joachim Frank

Professor, Columbia University

Dr Barry C. Barish

Professor of Physics, Emeritus, Caltech

Dr Harvey J. Alter

Fmr. Chief of the Infectious Disease Section,
National Institutes of Health

Dr Ardem Patapoutian

Professor, Scripps Research



OUR EXCEPTIONAL ALUMNI

The rise of test-optional admissions has meant a fundamental shift in the US and global university admissions alike. Successful alumni of CCIR have found ways to effectively set themselves apart from other applicants academically.

PUBLICATIONS AT JOURNALS AND CONFERENCES

Doing and publishing research—even just at the undergraduate level—has become an emerging trend in undergraduate admissions.

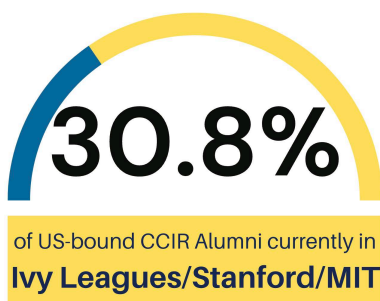
Our majority high school level student body has obtained incredible success at publishing at many prestigious undergraduate, graduate, and even professional conferences and journals.



US UNIVERSITY ADMISSION RESULTS

Spring 2020 - Fall 2023 CCIR Alumni (US-bound)

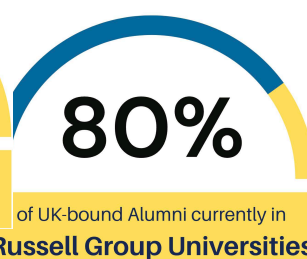
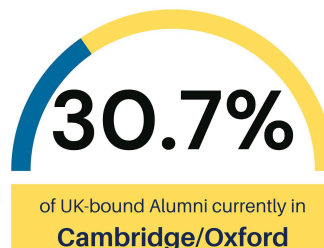
With a large percentage intended to apply for top universities in the US, CCIR alumni in the past years, packed with rigorous research experience and academic passion, enjoyed stellar admission results in the ever-changing admissions race.



GLOBAL UNIVERSITY ADMISSION RESULTS

Spring 2020 - Spring 2023 CCIR Alumni (all)

When looking at the global alumni body, including alumni currently in the UK, CCIR alumni achieved equally amazing results applying to top universities around the world.



*US university ranking are based on 2023 US News National Universities Ranking and 2023 US News Global University Rankings. The sample covered CCIR Alumni attended Spring 2020 until Spring 2023 cohorts. US admission statistics covered students with college destinations in the US only. Data gathered from students' self-reporting or any publicly available admission results.

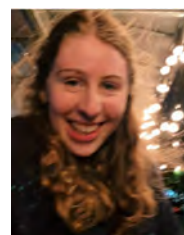
CHOOSING YOUR CCIR PROGRAMME

		Cambridge Future Scholar	1-on-1 Research Mentorship
Programme Overview		Choose from over 80 research courses mirroring freshmen-level courses from top universities in small 2 to 5 students group.	One student, One mentor, One project. Each mentorship is tailored to the specific needs and interests of each individual student.
Professor Mentors		Current faculty members at Ivy League, Oxbridge, and other top-tier universities with vast research and teaching experience.	
Teaching Assistants		PhD candidates that are closer to students' age to provide support	N/A
Admissions	Application Form	Required <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Personal and academic information Transcript/report card for the most recent academic year Personal Statement (no more than 500 words) Optional Standardised testing reports CV/Resume Writing Sample Other supplementary materials	
	Academic Interview	Successful applicants will be invited to a 20 to 30 minutes interview with the a CCIR Academic Advisor (a PHD candidate in the same field) as part of the application for the research course's professors' final review .	
	Professor Introductory Meeting	N/A* *Professor will review applications and interview recordings.	The students and their mentors will get to know each other and finalise the direction of the student's research project. The professor will make the final admission decision after the meeting.
Students admitted through the Professor-Admission System: Each professor will receive all application materials and interview recordings of shortlisted students, before making final admission decisions.			
Programme	Structure	2 to 5 students (Oxbridge style small group mentorship)	One professor and one student throughout.
	Professor Sessions	13 one-hour weekly sessions. <i>Week 1 to 7: Foundation</i> <i>Week 8 to 13: Research</i>	14 one-hour sessions (flexible scheduling and meeting frequency) <i>Professor develops a custom curriculum for the student.</i>
	TA Sessions	13 one-hour weekly sessions.	N/A
	Office Hours	Additional weekly one-on-one office hours (30 minutes) with professor/TA upon availability	
	Academic Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unlimited Academics Team support to assist research, writing, journal publication, and journal submission guidance (by the mentor and Journal Publishing Team) Writing Centre and Ethics Review Committee Literature Request portal with access of journals, papers, and e-books for free Assigned Academic Coordinator to support each student Access to all session recordings permanently 	
After the Programme	Outcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4,000 to 10,000 words independent research paper An option to request a Letter of Recommendation written and signed by the mentor CCIR Certificate An Academic Evaluation Report written and signed by the mentor 	
	After Programme Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Letter of Recommendation delivery to universities' Admission Offices via the mentor's university email Invitation to join CCIR's global alumni network Continuous access to Literature Request portal and academic journal submission guidance (with the mentor and Journal Publishing Team) until successful paper publication 	

1-on-1 PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

"This course was absolutely wonderful and I am so glad that I was able to take it. I enjoyed all of the classes as well as the research I got to do, and I think that it was brilliantly taught and facilitated. I learned a great deal and would highly recommend this course."

--- Audrey (Emerald Hills, USA)



ONE STUDENT, ONE MENTOR, ONE PROJECT.



- + Across any subject or discipline
- + Develop a unique research project
- + 14 supervisory hours, 7 to 14 weeks
- + Flexible Schedule | Rolling Admissions
- + Foster a personal relationship with world-class professor
- + Academic journal publication guidance

The 1-on-1 Mentorship Programme gives students an opportunity to conduct research with an individual **faculty member at University of Cambridge, University of Oxford, or top US universities, including Harvard, MIT, Yale, Brown, Columbia, UC Berkeley, UPenn, Princeton, and Stanford.** In accordance to their academic interests, we match students with a mentor who is an expert in that area and design a learning experience uniquely suited to the student's needs.

At the heart of this programme is **the intimate working relationship between a student and their professor mentor.** By utilizing CCIR's unique network of current faculty members at top US/UK universities, we are able to find every admitted student a mentor who is perfectly suited for student and their project.

As with all CCIR programmes, we are committed to maintaining **the highest academic standards.** Our partnered faculty members from leading US/UK universities have all been carefully selected for both research expertise and teaching experience. For the same reason, our highly selective admissions process utilizes a two-round vetting process.

The 1-on-1 Mentorship is **a fully tailored-experience.** Every aspect of this programme—from schedule, syllabus, course structure, course length, course components, to ultimate learning outcome—may be optimized so as to meet the specific needs and interests of the student for whom it is designed.

The result is a deeply engaging course tailor-made to the specific interests, needs, and aspirations of each and every student.

LEARN AND EXPLORE, YOUR WAY.

This is a programme that allows the student to **customize** their experience, to explore the topics they want to explore, the way they want. Students are **guided** through this customization process, by their mentor and by our team—in the same the way that one makes a perfectly tailored suit.

ACADEMIC FREEDOM

The student's own ideas and academic passions are where we begin. Through a dynamic project design process, our Academic Team and the student's mentor will then help the student design a unique research project.

Over the course of the programme, the mentor will then guide and help the student to turn a simple idea into a high-quality research project. (For more details, see "Admission Process.")

TOTAL FLEXIBILITY

The course can start whenever you want, in accordance to the schedule you need. Typically, mentorships run from 7-14 weeks, are focused on a single project, and contain a lecture component and a research component.

However, there is no need to do what is typical. Almost everything about the mentorship experience can be customized—from the schedule and length, to the course modules and the final learning outcome.

ENDLESS POSSIBILITIES

CCIR Academy reaches faculty members across most departments **at top US/UK universities**. In the past, we have successfully offered courses and 1-on-1 mentorships around research topics in the following areas:

Artificial Intelligence	Architecture	Biochemistry	Bioinformatics
Business Management	Computer Vision	Economics	European History
International Relations	Machine Learning	Nuclear Physics	Philosophy
Political Economy	Pure Mathematics	Sociology	US History

Currently, CCIR works with over 350 professor mentors across the Atlantic and offers research mentorships in over 400 areas.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

A RESEARCH PROJECT AND MORE

Ultimately, the student's learning experience for the 1-on-1 mentorship programme will culminate in a **research project**.

In most cases, the research project will take the format of a **4,000 to 10,000 word** research paper intended either for **publication in academic journals**, or for submission in non-academic publications and competitions. For students interested in publication and submission, our Academic Team and mentors will together be able to provide the expertise needed to guide them through the process.

As noted, however, the format of the final project is itself customizable. In the past, we have had students who, instead of writing a research paper, produced creative final research projects, such as art portfolios, creative writing pieces, and films.

By the end of our programme, our students will have:

+ **AN INDEPENDENT RESEARCH PROJECT**, supervised by an Oxbridge or top US university's current faculty member.

+ **A LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION** penned by faculty at your request.

+ **JOURNAL PUBLICATION GUIDANCE** when opting to submit your final paper to publication journals, with support from your mentor and Academic Team.

+ **A SIGNED EVALUATION REPORT** from your mentor, issued by the programme.

OUR MENTORS

At the heart of this programme is the relationship between one student and their mentor.

EXPERTS IN THEIR FIELD

Our students are given a unique opportunity to work with the brightest minds of today who are pushing the boundaries of academic research.

In order to maintain the highest possible academic standards, CCIR Academy partners exclusively with current teaching faculty members at the University of Cambridge, University of Oxford, and top US universities, including Harvard, MIT, Yale, Brown, Columbia, UC Berkeley, UPenn, Princeton, and Stanford.

We have partnered with over 300 faculty members from a vast range of disciplines. Among our ranks are philosophers, scientists, historians, academics, and industry leaders— all of whom are the best of the best.

PASSIONATE TEACHERS

We believe that academic expertise, by itself, is not sufficient for being a good mentor. Our mentors are thus all passionate teachers, with extensive teaching experience—people who not only possess knowledge but who are committed to sharing it.

THE CCIR NETWORK

CCIR was founded by a ground of graduates from Oxford and Cambridge, and our Oxbridge roots are what enable us to build our unique network.

Over the years, we have cultivated our network to ensure that we have a strong and trusted network of lecturers that enable us to deliver the best learning experiences for our students.

ADMISSIONS

"My mentor always challenged me and inspired me to think deeper into the topics. The most important thing I learned from this course is how I can always challenge my thinking and think of different arguments. My mentor also spent a lot of time on my literature review, outline, and my eventually my paper. For that I really, really want to thank my mentor."

--- Simon (Oakville, Canada)



ADMITTED STUDENT PROFILE

Through our strong partnerships with top high schools and elite college counsellors around the world, our programmes are able to admit students with extremely strong academic backgrounds.

AVERAGE GPA (4.0 SCALE)

3.91

MEDIAN SAT SCORE

1500

EXTRACURRICULAR EXCELLENCE

Our admitted students have:

- Received IMO Bronze Medalists
- Worked at elite corporations and institutions, such as J.P. Morgan and Mayo Clinic
- Studied at elite Ivy League summer schools
- Participated in NASA's CubeSat Launch Initiative
- Achieved Top 10 rankings in National Fencing Tournaments
- Founded their own businesses and NGO's

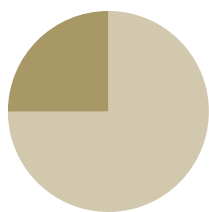
SELECTED UNIVERSITY OFFERS OF OUR ALUMNI

University of British Columbia
University College London
Duke University
London School of Economics
Pomona College

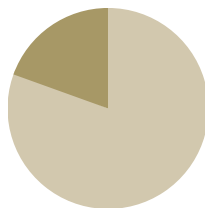
University of California Berkeley
Columbia University
Georgetown University
New York University Abu Dhabi
Stanford University

University of Cambridge
Cornell University
University of Hong Kong
University of Pennsylvania
University of Toronto

FUTURE SCHOLAR ACCEPTANCE

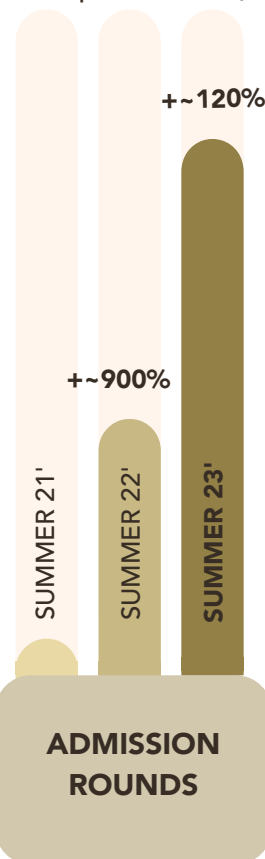


Summer 2023
Percentage of Total Applicants
Received an Invite to Interview
 ~25%

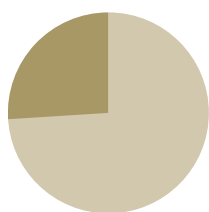


Summer 2023
Percentage of Total Applicants
Received an Offer
 ~19.5%

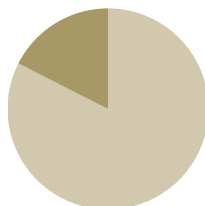
APPLICATIONS RECEIVED
 (% increase compared to
 the previous round)



1-ON-1 MENTORSHIP ACCEPTANCE



Summer 2023
Percentage of Total Applicants
Received an Invite to Interview
 ~26%



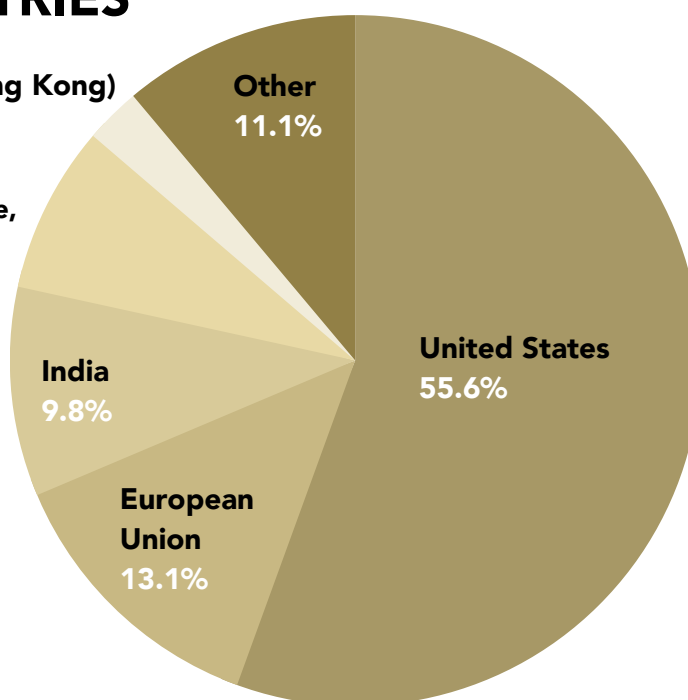
Summer 2023
Percentage of Total Applicants
Received an Official Offer
 ~17.5%

GLOBAL STUDENT COMMUNITY FROM OVER 40 COUNTRIES

**(SPRING 20
 TO SUMMER 23)**

China (inc. Hong Kong)
 2.6%

**Japan, S. Korea, Singapore,
 Malaysia, Indonesia,
 Australia, New Zealand**
 7.8%



ADMISSIONS PROCESS

TO START THE APPLICATION:

SCHEDULE an Intake Meeting with one of our Academic Coordinators [HERE](#).

1

INTAKE MEETING (30 MINUTES)

Before or after the applicant submit the Application materials, the applicant will need to schedule a 30-minute Intake Meeting with an **Academic Coordinator**.

The Purpose – Programme introduction, understand the student’s aspirations, and explore mentorship options.

Meeting Format – Our Academic Coordinator will go over the programme structure, logistics, tuition and scholarship, and other programme information with the application.

After discussing the applicant’s academic interest and interested research area(s), the Academic Coordinator may propose possible research project directions or even possible mentors to work with.

2

SUBMIT APPLICATION MATERIALS ON THE CCIR ADMISSIONS PORTAL

Application Form - Basic information, academic background, 500-word essay about why you’re applying to the programme.

Supporting Materials - Two-year transcript or score card, SAT Score Reports (if available), CV (highly recommended), relevant past work or projects (highly recommended).

3

ACADEMIC INTERVIEW (30 MINUTES)

After an initial review, successful applicants will be invited to schedule a 30-minute Academic Interview with one of our **Academic Advisors**, who are current PhDs or Post-Docs at Cambridge and Oxford with expertise in the students' stated areas of academic interest.

The Purpose - Discuss the student's academic background. Assess the student's intellectual flexibility, existing knowledge, reasoning skills, and communication skills under an individual supervision setting.

Interview Format - The interview is in the style of an entrance interview at Cambridge and Oxford. During the interview, the student can expect:

- + Discussion of the student's academic credential and relevant work, as stated in the Application Form.
- + Discussion of interesting and open-ended questions relating to the students' stated areas – there is no wrong answer.

4

MENTOR RESEARCH & INTRODUCTORY MEETING

MENTOR SEARCH

We utilize our unique network of Oxbridge and Ivy League researchers and faculty members to help them find a perfect mentor. The Application Form and Materials, the recording of the Intake Meeting, and the recording of the Academic Interview will constitute the **Student's Profile** we deliver to matching Oxbridge and Ivy League faculties, who will make a final decision as to whether they want to take on the student.

Normally, the mentor search process takes one to two weeks.

INTRODUCTORY MEETING

Once completed, we will send the student an email that includes the details of the mentor, an conditional offer letter, and tuition payment details. **The student is expected to complete the tuition payment as required on the conditional offer letter as a confirmation to proceed.**

Once the student confirms, we will then arrange a 30-minute **Introductory Meeting** between the student and the mentor, where the students and their mentors will get to know each other and finalize the direction of the student's research project.

The professor will make a final admission decision after the meeting. In the case that the professor declines to proceed, the tuition is fully refundable. Alternatively, the student could request to be paired with another professor in the same discipline.

TUITION STRUCTURE

Due to the tailored-made nature of the 1-on-1 Research Mentorship, the tuition is highly flexible and is dependent on research area, total hours, projects, lecturers, and more. Students will receive a finalized offer letter with tuition details once a professor mentor has decided to work with them. We are open to discuss financial details during the Intake Meeting.

For a standard 14-session schedule 1-on-1 Research Mentorship, the tuition is as follows:

1-on-1 Research Mentorship	
Full Tuition	5,300 GBP (6,500 USD)

THE TUITION INCLUDES:

RESEARCH MENTORSHIP

- + One 30-minute introductory sessions
- + Supervisions and lectures
- + Additional weekly one-on-one office hours (30 minutes), if requested
- + Access to Cambridge or Oxford's academic database (via mentor)
- + Data collection guidance (by the mentor)
- + Academic journal submission guidance (by the mentor and CCIR Academic Team)

ACADEMIC SUPPORT

- + Access to CCIR's Remote Learning Management System
- + Access to all session recordings permanently
- + Meeting scheduler and Zoom hosting service

AFTER THE PROGRAMME

- + An option to request a letter of recommendation written and signed by the mentor
- + An academic evaluation report written and signed by the mentor
- + Paper and letter delivery to universities' Admission Offices via the mentor's university email (if available) or CCIR's official email

SCHOLARSHIPS & FINANCIAL AID

Each applicant is **automatically considered for one of the three CCIR Merit Scholarships (ranging from £100 to £300)** based on funding availability, application materials, and interview assessment. Should the student being awarded a CCIR Merit Scholarship, it will reflect on the student's offer letter.

In Spring round of 2023, about 45% of admitted students received some level of the merit scholarship.

Starting Spring 2022, additional Financial Aid options are no longer available for 1-on-1 Research Mentorships. Applicants who want to request additional financial assistance are welcomed to explore the Financial Aid options offered at Cambridge Future Scholar programme.



CCIR ACADEMY

START YOUR APPLICATION

TO DOWNLOAD AND SUBMIT THE APPLICATION FORM:

Visit CCIR Academy website's Application Portal.

TO SCHEDULE AN INTAKE MEETING:

Schedule a meeting with our Academic Coordinator [here](#).

QUESTIONS & INFORMATION

FOR MORE INFORMATION on CCIR Academy programmes:

Visit <https://www.cambridge-research.org/academy>

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS and want to reach out to our team members

Contact admissions@cambridge-research.org

