

About Oxford University Innovation

Oxford University Innovation (OUI) is the technology transfer company of Oxford University.

With around 80 staff and an annual revenue close to £20M, OUI receives hundreds of invention disclosures from University colleagues each year, many of which result in new patents. As a result, the company manages a large and diverse portfolio of intellectual property and our licensing and ventures team work to bring these ideas to industry through licence deals with commercial partners or creating new companies called spinouts.

OUI executes around 120 commercial licence deals per year enabling access to Oxford technology and has created more university spinout companies than any other technology transfer office in Europe. In fact, since it opened its doors in 1987, OUI has created over 180 spinouts, from world leading technology companies to social enterprises. Remarkably, half of these have been created in the past five years in a phenomenon called the "Oxford Boom".

Oxford University spinout companies have collectively raised over £2.5 bn since 2011, with over a half billion raised in the last 12 months alone. And Oxford has the largest university venturing fund focused on a single institution in the world – Oxford Sciences Innovation.

Discover the way we work in this video



What we offer in our Internship

Oxford University Innovation has created a new and exciting internship opportunity. Interns in our Licensing & Ventures Group will work alongside members of the core team in the management of projects, assisting with other activities in the Licensing & Ventures Group and enabling the transfer of as much technology as possible from Oxford University.

In addition to gaining experience supporting specific commercialisation projects, interns will also receive training and mentoring to develop their technology transfer skills and build awareness and understanding of the key principles and requirements of this exciting industry.

Representative activities which you may be involved with:

- Networking with researchers to help build a vibrant culture of entrepreneurship and enterprise across the University
- Assisting with the assessment of new invention disclosures, including market evaluation and novelty searches
- Assisting with building business cases
- Assisting with patenting the technology including collaborating with external patent attorneys.
- Assisting with preparations and decisionmaking for archiving a project, if it has not been successful.
- Assisting with preparing applications to university funding schemes.
- Assisting with creating high quality marketing materials
- Assisting with identifying and actively seeking out potential customers for Oxford technology.
- Assisting with negotiating licence deals.

- companies where appropriate.
- Promoting OUI in the research community through active involvement in internal marketing activities.
- Playing an active role in creating a high performing team within the Group, e.g. positive participation in team meetings and company events.
- Playing an active part in building strong professional relationships and an environment which is positive and goalorientated.
- Assisting the Patent and Licence
 Administration Team with patent and licence administration and data entry as required.
- Working constructively with all OUI administrators, providing clear information and requests in a timely manner and liaising with Head of Group to assist with prioritising group administrators' work.
- Supporting the creation of new content for the OUI website.

What skills and experience will you need to bring?

Innovation is a broad and diverse family. Applicants should be enrolled on a degree or post graduate programme, but other than an enquiring mind and a keen interest in how university research can create positive societal or environmental impact, applications from candidates studying any subject will be considered. The successful intern will work on a broad range of projects and where possible will also have the opportunity to work on projects that match their background.

Successful applicants will demonstrate a passion for entrepreneurship and enterprise, and ideally possess some experience of related activities. Applicants must be able to demonstrate that their internship will be fully funded by an approved third-party scheme¹ and be available to work on a 3 month full-time or 6 month part-time basis. Successful candidates will also need to demonstrate excellent interpersonal and relationship management skills and strong communication skills, both verbally and in writing.

Application Process

Please send a CV with accompanying letter stating relevant experience and interests to Brendan.Ludden@innovation.ox.ac.uk. This is an open call with no specific deadline². During the significant disruption caused by COVID-19, the current programme is expected to be largely home based and will be subject to UK government guidance on safe working practices.

Useful Links



OUI Annual Report



OUI Innovation Insights



OUI Guide for Researchers

¹ For DTP internships, OUI is dependent on the DTP host institution to provide full maintenance funding. OUI are unable to accept self-funded internship candidates.

²OUI's ability to grant placements is dependent on the number of active internships running at a given time.