FOR STUDENTS, PARENTS / GUARDIANS and TEACHERS

The ISAC/M programme:  
**Inspiring Scientists** at the Cambridge Institute for Medical Research and the MRC Mitochondrial Biology Unit

A free, widening participation programme for Cambridgeshire-based Year 12 students (16+) at the Cambridge Institute for Medical Research (CIMR) and MRC Mitochondrial Biology Unit (MBU), in association with St Catharine’s College, Cambridge

This document contains instructions and guidance on applying to take part in **ISAC/M**. Please see [https://www.cimr.cam.ac.uk/isacm-2023](https://www.cimr.cam.ac.uk/isacm-2023) and the sample form below for more details of the programme and eligibility.

1. Students can **only** apply using this online application form:  
   [https://forms.gle/ca3UcHc1zq8tjHdf7](https://forms.gle/ca3UcHc1zq8tjHdf7)

   You will be asked to answer questions and provide information about you. You will also need to write a short statement about your motivations for applying to join the Inspiring Scientists programme.

   We cannot accept applications in any other format or from any other route. We strongly recommend preparing all the answers and information needed in advance from the questions below.

2. Due to limited availability and possible high demand, we **cannot guarantee a place for each applicant**. There will be a reserve list for applicants in case of unforeseen circumstances.

3. This is a Widening Participation project of the University of Cambridge, with specific eligibility criteria set out here: [https://www.cimr.cam.ac.uk/isacm-2023](https://www.cimr.cam.ac.uk/isacm-2023) (and below). Therefore, priority will be given to applicants who meet the most criteria.

4. Applications for ISAC/M are separate and independent from University and College admissions. An unsuccessful application to this programme does not affect your likelihood on whether apply to study at the University of Cambridge or anywhere else.

5. Each application should include the name and work email address of a nominated teacher at your school. We reserve the right to contact this teacher following receipt of this application to provide verification of some of the information provided, and to give a reference. This teacher must have given their permission to be included in the application and to be contacted by CIMR or MBU.

6. Please only apply if you are available and committed to take part from 10:00 to 15:00 on all four days of the programme (**Tuesday 14th February – Friday 17th February 2023; half term week**)  

7. Information about how your personal information will be used by us in connection with the administration of this activity, and for related purposes, is available at [http://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/how-we-use-participant-data](http://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/how-we-use-participant-data). Please contact CIMR at [engage@cimr.cam.ac.uk](mailto:engage@cimr.cam.ac.uk) with any questions in the first instance.
8. The revised deadline for applications is **10 am, Monday 16th January 2023**. We will inform applicants of the outcome of their application by email no later than 5 pm on **Friday 20th January 2023**.

9. If you are selected for the programme you will have to provide proof of your right to work in the UK on your first day. This means that you will have to provide an official document, such as a passport, to be checked before you can begin the placement with us. More information about the sort of documents you can bring to fulfil this requirement can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

Text and Questions from the online application for the **ISAC/M** programme are shown on the following pages. Please look at these carefully and prepare answers before applying online.

Please email: [engage@cimr.cam.ac.uk](mailto:engage@cimr.cam.ac.uk) with any questions about the programme and the application process.
Application form for the ISAC/M 2023 Programme

Thank you for your interest in the ISAC/M programme (Inspiring Scientists at the Cambridge Institute for Medical Research and MRC Mitochondrial Biology Unit). In order to apply to join the programme you will need to read all of the information provided below before completing this online application form. You will be asked to provide us with information about you, and to write a short statement about your motivations for applying to join the ISAC/M programme.

ISAC/M is a free academic programme. It aims to enrich and improve attainment in Year 12 students in Cambridgeshire from underrepresented backgrounds. It’s specifically for people who are keen to apply to study Natural Sciences, Biology, or Medicine at the University of Cambridge or similar Universities. The programme will take place over four days in February 2023 half term (Tuesday 14th February – Friday 17th February 2023).

Eligibility
This programme is only open to students who fulfil all of these Essential Criteria:

- Are in Year 12 or equivalent
- Have attained minimum Grade 7 in GCSE Biology or equivalent qualification
- Are currently studying for at least two STEM subjects
- Have an interest in biomedical research
- Are attending Cambridgeshire state schools / Colleges / 6th Forms Colleges / Academies

Because ISAC/M is a Widening Participation programme, priority will be given to applicants from underrepresented backgrounds at Cambridge and similar Universities who fulfil the following Additional Priority Criteria. Applicants do not need to fulfil all of these priority criteria, but at least one of them should be met. The more of these priority criteria that are fulfilled, the higher the application will score in selection:

1. Currently or previously in local authority care (joint highest priority)
2. Eligible for Free School Meals or Pupil Premium in the prior six years (joint highest priority)
3. Currently caring for a family member or friend
4. Applicant’s parent(s) / carers(s) did not attend university
5. Living in POLAR4 quintiles 1/2
6. Those who have experienced educational disruption
7. Underrepresented ethnicity at University of Cambridge

Unfortunately due to limited availability and possible high demand, we cannot guarantee a place for each applicant. There will be a reserve list for applicants in case of unforeseen circumstances.

This form should take around 20-30 minutes to complete. We strongly advise preparing all the answers and information required in advance.

Please ensure that the form is submitted by **10 am on Monday 16th January 2023**; late submissions cannot be considered.

You only need to submit this form once. If you need to amend any information, please send a new application, and we will use the one with the latest date. Please note that a copy of your application may be sent to your nominated teacher - so if there is anything you wish for us to know but you don’t want your teacher to know, please email us on engage@cimr.cam.ac.uk.
A range of information is required by this form, including:

- Your details, address(es) and contact information
- Your GCSE (or equivalent) grades, and your A-Level/Advanced Higher/IB/etc. qualifications that you are currently studying
- A current teacher who could be an academic reference for you - you must obtain their permission to do so before submitting their details to us
- A 500 word (max) statement from you on why you are interested in attending ISAC/M
- Subjects you are considering for university
- Information about whether your parent(s)/carer(s) have completed higher education (whether they have completed a degree or not, and what they studied if they did)
- Your school name and postcode (and GCSE school if different to your current one)
- Other sensitive personal information including ethnicity, disabilities, care status, eligibility for free school meals/pupil premium/bursaries, caring responsibilities etc

**Important Privacy Notice: please read**

Information about how your personal information will be used by us in connection with this programme and for related purposes, is available at http://www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/how-we-use-participant-data. Please contact caodataprotection@admin.cam.ac.uk with any questions about the data protection policy in the first instance.

You **must** obtain permission from your parent / carer, teacher and emergency contacts to supply their contact details before providing us with any information about them. **You must also have parent / carer permission to apply to join the programme.**

Some of the application questions ask you for some sensitive personal information. You are not required to provide this information to us but, if you do, you will be consenting for us to use it for the following purposes:

- Assessing eligibility for this programme. Please contact us on engage@cimr.cam.ac.uk if you have any questions or concerns about how we intend to use this information. You have the right to withdraw your consent at any time.
- Managing any arrangements or adjustments that may be needed to help you participate fully in the event. You do not have to complete this information, though choosing not to may mean we are unable to make adjustments required for you to participate in the programme. If you do not inform us about something for which you require an adjustment, or which affects your safe participation in the event, this may result in you being unable to participate. If you would prefer to discuss this on the phone, or if your situation changes, please get in touch with us on: engage@cimr.cam.ac.uk
- Operational and communications purposes.
- Research which may include relevant national research projects and equalities monitoring.

We will delete your personal data when it is no longer required.
1. About you

1.1. What is your first name? *

________________________________________

1.2. What is your preferred first name? *

________________________________________

1.3. What is your surname? *

________________________________________

1.4. What is your date of birth? *

Date

dd/mm/yyyy

1.5. What is your gender? *

☐ Female

☐ Male

☐ Prefer not to say

☐ Self-describe

If you selected 'Self-describe' for your gender, you can put in your preferred description below if you wish.

Your answer

________________________________________
1.6. What is your email address? *

____________________________________

Please re-enter your email address *
This is to ensure there are no mistakes if there is an error, you will not receive any emails from us.

____________________________________

1.7. What is your mobile phone number? *

____________________________________

1.8. Please enter the first line of your home address *

____________________________________

1.9. Please enter the second line of your home address *

____________________________________

1.10. Please enter your home address town / city *

____________________________________

1.11. Please enter your home address postcode (in the format AB12 3CD) *

____________________________________

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Answer</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.1. What is the full name of your current school or college?</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.2. What is the postcode of your current school or college? (In the form of AB12 3CD)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.3. Please provide the website address for your current school or college</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.4. Did you attend a different school or college for your GCSEs (or equivalent)?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.5. Please provide the full name of your GCSE school</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.6. Please provide the postcode of your GCSE school (in the form AB12 3CD)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
3. Details about the schoolteacher who could support your application

Please give the details of one of your current school teachers who can provide an academic reference to support your application. We reserve the right to contact this teacher following receipt of this application to provide verification of some of the information provided, and to give a reference. This teacher must have given their permission to be included in the application and to be contacted by CIMR or MRC MBU.

3.1. What is your nominated teacher’s name? *
Your answer

3.2. What is your nominated teacher’s job role (e.g. science teacher/head of year) *
Your answer

3.3. What is your nominated teacher’s school email address: *
Your answer

4. Your GCSE (or equivalent) exam results

4.1. Please indicate your GCSE grades in the following subjects *

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>9</th>
<th>8</th>
<th>7</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>4 or lower</th>
<th>Not applicable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Biology</td>
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<td>Maths</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

If you didn’t sit GCSE exams, please write below which equivalent exams you took, and your grades in Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Maths

Your answer
5. Your A-levels (or International Baccalaureate)

5.1. Please include all details of the qualifications you are taking and your school-predicted grades

Your answer

6. Personal Statement and choices

6.1. Please tell us why you have decided to apply to the ISAC/M programme. You might like to include what you would like to get out from the programme, and how you think joining it might benefit you. Please write no more than 500 words.

Your answer

6.2. What is your first-choice subject that you are considering applying for at university?

Your answer

6.3. What is your second-choice subject that you are considering applying for at university?

Your answer

6.4. Have you previously attended an event at, or by the University of Cambridge? If so, what was it?

Your answer
7. Further information about you: priority selection criteria for the ISAC/M programme

We appreciate that these questions are very personal, but they are important to make sure that places are offered to students who might benefit most from the ISAC/M programme. The answers provided, along with all your data will be treated sensitively and confidentially as described. You have a right not to answer them all by selecting (Prefer not to say). However, if we can’t know about an important selection criterion then we won’t be able to use it in making an assessment.

7.1 Are you currently, or have you ever been in the care of a local authority? *

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

7.1a. If your answer to Question 7.1 above was Yes, which of the statements below is most relevant to your care experience?

- I am currently in the care of a local authority, or have been in the last six months
- I was previously in the care of a local authority (during the last six years)
- I was previously in the care of a local authority (more than six years ago)
- Other: __________________________________________

7.1b. If your answer to Question 7.1 above was Yes, how much time have you spent in local authority care?

Your answer

7.1c. If your answer to Question 7.1 above was Yes, and you are currently in the care of a local authority, please specify which one.

Your answer
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Choices</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7.2. Are you currently eligible for Free School Meals, or have you been eligible at any point in the last six years?</td>
<td>Yes, currently eligible, Yes - eligible during the past six years, but not currently, No, Prefer not to say</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.3. Are you currently eligible for the Pupil Premium, or have you been eligible at any point in the last six years?</td>
<td>Yes, currently eligible, Yes - eligible during the past six years, but not currently, No, Prefer not to say</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.4. Do you receive the 16-19 Bursary?</td>
<td>Yes, No, Prefer not to say</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.5. Are you currently caring for a family member or friend?</td>
<td>No, Yes, Prefer not to say</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If your answer to Question 7.5 was 'Yes' and you are currently caring for a family member or friend, please give brief details

Your answer

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**Note:**

- For Questions 7.2, 7.3, and 7.4, the options indicate eligibility status over different time frames, with additional options for those who are not eligible in the current or past periods being considered.
- Question 7.5 introduces a scenario where respondents are currently caring for a family member or friend, with a follow-up request for additional information.

**Additional Considerations:**

- Ensure that responses accurately reflect the respondent's eligibility or current situation.
- For Questions requiring brief details, provide concise and relevant information to support the application process.
7.6. How many adults in the home address you provided have caring responsibilities for you?

Your answer

7.6a. Of the adults with caring responsibilities for you, have any completed a university degree, either in the UK or abroad?

- Yes, degree in the UK
- Yes, degree abroad
- No degree
- I don't know

If you chose either of the 'Yes' answers in Question 7.6a. above, please add which university degree subject(s) the adult(s) with caring responsibilities for you completed, and (roughly) when they completed their degree(s)

Your answer

7.7. Have you experienced educational disruption in any of the following forms? *

- Medical/health issues (including mental health), particularly those that have resulted in long or extended periods of absence (over 8 weeks) from school in the last 6 years
- Bereavement of a close family member (e.g. parent/carer) in the last 6 years
- Being a young carer
- Becoming a parent
- Being an asylum seeker or refugee
- Becoming estranged from close family members (e.g. parents/carers)
- Moving schools more than once in the last 6 years
- Prefer not to say
- No educational disruption
- Other:
7.8. How would you describe your ethnicity? We are using the 2021 Census of England and Wales list.

- (Asian or Asian British): Indian
- (Asian or Asian British): Pakistani
- (Asian or Asian British): Bangladeshi
- (Asian or Asian British): Chinese
- Any other Asian background
- (Black, Black British, Caribbean or African): Caribbean
- (Black, Black British, Caribbean or African): African
- Any other Black, Black British, or Caribbean background
- (Mixed or multiple ethnic groups): White and Black Caribbean
- (Mixed or multiple ethnic groups): White and Black African
- (Mixed or multiple ethnic groups): White and Asian
- Any other Mixed or multiple ethnic background
- (White) English, Welsh, Scottish, Northern Irish or British
- (White) Irish
- (White) Gypsy or Irish Traveller
- (White) Roma
- Any other White background
- Arab
- Any other ethnic group

7.9. Are you a refugee *

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

If you answered 'Yes' to Question 7.9, please give brief details

Your answer
If there is anything else you would like us to know that is important for your application that is not otherwise provided on this form, then please add it here. If there is something you wish to disclose that you would not like your nominated teacher to view, please email us separately on engage@cimr.cam.ac.uk

Your answer

8. Important information for the ISAC/M Programme

This information is needed in order to make the programme work best for you, if you were selected.

8.1. Do you have any medical conditions or regard yourself as in any way disabled? *

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

If your answer to Question 8.1. was 'Yes', please describe briefly the nature of your medical condition and / or disability, and any reasonable adjustments which would be needed for you to take part in ISAC/M.

Your answer

8.2. Do you have any allergies? *

- Yes
- No

If your answer to Question 8.2. was 'Yes', please list your allergies, and add whether you carry an 'EpiPen' or similar device

Your answer
8.3. Do you have any dietary requirements? *

- Yes
- No

If your answer to Question 8.3. was 'Yes', please describe your dietary requirements

Your answer

9. Emergency contacts

The details you provide us with in this part of the form will only be used if you are invited to join ISAC/M. This information will only be used in case of emergency, or if we need to contact someone about your participation in our programme.

In accordance with our Child Protection Policy, we require details of anyone who may contact us about any of our participants, and we require details of two adults who we can contact if we have concerns about a participant’s conduct or welfare. At least one of these people should be a parent or carer, and they should have given permission to be nominated on this form.

Please ensure that the contacts you provide us with do not share the same phone number, it is important that we have different contact details for each person.

9.1a. Responsible person #1: Full name *

Your answer

9.1b. Responsible person #1: Relationship to you *

Your answer

9.1c. Responsible person #1: Mobile phone number *

Your answer

9.1d. Responsible person #1: Additional (daytime) phone number *

Your answer
9.2a. **Responsible person #2**: Full name *

Your answer

9.2b. **Responsible person #2**: Relationship to you *

Your answer

9.2c. **Responsible person #2**: Mobile phone number *

Your answer

9.2d. **Responsible person #2**: Additional (daytime) phone number *

Your answer

10. Final checks and confirmation

If there is something you wish to disclose that you would not like your teacher to view, please email us separately on engage@cimr.cam.ac.uk

Before sending this application, you must confirm the following statements:

- [ ] The Information is true and accurate and to the best of your knowledge
- [ ] The application has the support and permission of your parent or carer
- [ ] Your nominated schoolteacher has given permission to be nominated and contacted by CIMR or MRC MBU in connection with your application
- [ ] Information you have given may be shared with your nominated schoolteacher for verification.

You agree to be contacted by email about the outcome of the application using the address provided by you, and if there is no response by email, CIMR / MRC MBU may telephone you using the number you provided (e.g. so that a place can be offered to someone else)

- [ ] You have the right to work in the UK.

If offered a place in the ISAC/M programme, you would be available and could take part in full (unless prevented by illness or unforeseen circumstances). This is to ensure that all places are used.
That's the end of the form. Thank you for completing it and please click the 'Submit' button below to send it off.

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