The University of Cambridge is piloting a new model for evaluating applications for postgraduate study, which seeks to balance an assessment of academic attainment with an understanding of the widest possible context under which it was achieved.

The Yusuf Hamied Department of Chemistry is participating in this pilot, and we are inviting all our applicants to provide additional information to allow us to better understand the full individual context of your application, including your background and the circumstances of your educational achievement. We encourage you to give as much relevant information as you need and want to in as succinct a way as possible.

If you consent to it, this information will be used for two purposes:

* It will be provided to those who are assessing your application, in order to allow them to do so in a way which takes the full context of your education into account;
* It will be used in aggregated/anonymised form, to monitor and assess the effectiveness of this pilot.

Please be aware that **you do not have to participate in this pilot: your application will not be disadvantaged if you choose not to**. All applications will be subject to exactly the same rigour of assessment. **If you would like to participate**, please complete the following short supplementary questionnaire. Each question is optional, so answer only those that are either relevant to your individual circumstances or that you want to answer.

For more information about widening participation activities at Cambridge, or if you have any queries, please see [here](https://www.postgraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/why-cambridge/support/widening-participation).

**By completing this form, you consent to the information provided being used for the purposes described above. If you do not wish to participate in this pilot, please leave the form blank and upload it without completing it: your application will not be disadvantaged in any way.** For further information about our use of your personal data as an applicant, see <https://www.information-compliance.admin.cam.ac.uk/data-protection/applicant-data>.

|  |
| --- |
| 1. At which university/institution did you study for your undergraduate/first degree? |
| 2. Please tell us something about the main reasons why you chose that particular university. We are equally interested in personal, cultural, financial, academic, or any other reasons. |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 3. Did you undertake your first or undergraduate degree full-time or part-time? | Full-time    GO TO Q4. | Part-time    GO TO Q3a. |
| 3a. If your response is ‘Part-time’ for any stage of your first degree, please tell us about any particular personal circumstances that encouraged or required you to study part-time. | | |
| 4. During your undergraduate or first degree, did you have any essential regular commitments that you feel had an impact on the extent to which you could dedicate yourself to your studies? This might include, for example, regular caring responsibilities for a family member, being a single parent or guardian, having to work part-time for money to support yourself through your studies, or any other essential commitment. Yes  No  If yes, please tell us a bit about this below (e.g. duration, timing, impact on your studies). | | |
|  | | |
| 5. During your undergraduate or first degree, did you suffer any serious disruption to your studies through sustained illness, the loss of an immediate family member, or any other very challenging personal circumstances? (By ‘sustained illness’, in this context, we mean physical or mental ill health that prevented you from studying for three months or more over the course of a year). Yes  No    If yes, and if you are comfortable to do so, please tell us about the impact you feel this had on your studies. | | |
|  | | |
| 6. Some students get off to a slower start than others in their undergraduate degree and then show an upward progression in their marks. If this is the case for you, please tell us about any circumstances that you feel may have initially held you back, and what has now allowed you to begin to perform to your fuller potential? | | |
|  | | |
| 7. Is there anything else you think it is important for us to know in your individual circumstances that has had an impact on your education? | | |
|  | | |
| 8. We aspire to provide our postgraduate students with tailored support of all kinds to help them realise their potential. Where do you think your potential could take you, and how could we support you on this journey through postgraduate study? | | |
|  | | |
| Finally, please confirm whether you any of the following apply to you. (Please tick one answer for each question.)  9a. I am in the first generation in my family to have an undergraduate degree (that is, neither of my parents, or those in the place of my parents, had an undergraduate degree, although my sisters and brothers may have).  Yes  No  Don’t know  Prefer not to say  9b. During my time at secondary school, I had regular caring responsibilities for an elderly, sick, or disabled relative who could not manage without my help.  Yes  No  Prefer not to say | | |
| **UK STUDENTS ONLY:** If you went to secondary/high school in the UK and have chosen to complete the section in the main application form about the circumstances of your Secondary Education, please indicate below if you give your consent to include that data in the information provided to assessors. (In the main application form, you have consented only to its use at an aggregated level for monitoring purposes.)  I consent  I do not consent  Not applicable | | |