

Oxford Brookes University Bioinnovation Hub

The Bioinnovation Hub (BiH) at Oxford Brookes University offers lab space for rent to start up biotech companies in our recently refurbished CL2 labs on the Headington Campus. Rental cost also includes access to a range of research facilities and basic technical support. The aim of the BiH is to bring early stage biotech companies on campus to foster collaboration between industry and academia, and to offer the opportunity to contribute to the development of the next-generation of workers through offering work experience placements, projects or internships.

We currently have two labs available for industry use from February 2019 (one year minimum term).

Lab 1: 21m² space with 1 peninsula bench, wall shelving, natural gas supply, under-bench storage. Maximum capacity 4 users.

Lab 2: 60m² space with 2 peninsula benches, natural gas supply, above bench and wall shelving, under-bench storage, mobile benching unit with under-shelf storage. Maximum capacity 15 users.

Lab 1 and 2 are adjacent, so can be rented together if availability permits. Included with the lab space costs, is access to a range of research facilities within the BiH; a CL2 cell culture facility, equipment to support molecular biology, cryostorage, a range of preparative centrifuges. Basic technical support such as glassware washing and biohazard waste autoclaving is also included, along with selected consumables e.g. ultrapure water, gloves, use of glassware. More details are provided below. There are a number of additional facilities and expertise available on site which are available at additional cost such as access to Oxford Brookes Bioimaging Unit, protein production and purification services.

There are also six desk spaces available for rent in the BiH shared office which is located close to the labs.

Location and transport links

The Bioinnovation Hub is based in the Tonge building on Oxford Brookes University's Headington campus. We are conveniently located close to the Old Road research area (13 min on foot, 4 min cycling) and the JR hospital site (20 min on foot, 6 min cycling), and only a short distance from the Oxford city centre (15 min by public transport, 30 min on foot).

OBU Bioinnovation Hub facilities at a glance

Inclusive consumables	Inclusive lab support	Core facility access		Additional facilities (fees apply)		Brookes affiliate status
Pipette tips	Biohazard waste disposal	PCR machines	Bacterial growth facilities	Bioimaging	Cryogenic storage	WiFi access
1.5ml tubes	Cytotoxic waste removal	qPCR	Plate reader and washer	Use of post & print room services	Ordering	Access to meeting rooms and catering services ²
Glassware	Glass washing and autoclaving	Gel documentation system	Insect cell/baculovirus growth facilities	On-site NEB freezer schemes	Plant cell culture	Incoming and outgoing stores services
Ultrapure water		Centrifuge suite	Plant cell culture	Protein production and purification		Staff pricing for Brookes' sports facilities
IMS		Cell culture	-80°C freezer space & liquid nitrogen cell store	Wave bioreactor		Dedicated cost code
Nitrile gloves		Cold room	Plate readers	On-site DNA sequencing pick up		

¹ WiFi access freely available via eduroam (using affiliate status) or Brookes WiFi, note computers will not be supplied.

² Room hire costs and catering costs are not included

Shared access facilities

Training will be provided on all pieces of equipment. It is expected that all users will work to Oxford Brookes University and Health and Safety /local rules. Users must have completed the Brookes lab safety induction before working in the labs.

General preparation apparatus (use as required)

Magnetic stirrer, top pan balance and fine balance, vented and recirculating fume hoods, bench top autoclave, drying cabinets, cold room access, fridge and -20°C freezer space

Molecular biology facilities*

- PCR machines (access as needed)
- qPCR (1 run/wk) - Applied Biosystems 7500 or BioRad CFX96 Real-Time System
- BioRad TransBlot Turbo (access as needed)
- BioRad ChemiDoc XP gel documentation system (access as needed)
- Freeze drying facilities
- Spectrophotometer

*Agarose gel electrophoresis, protein gel tanks and power packs are not offered as a core facility (but will be available to support student projects delivered in the BioInnovation Hub).

Plate reader

Tecan absorbance plate reader (405, 450, 492, 595, 620nm filter sets) + plate washer (access as needed).

Centrifuges

Fair access per floor standing centrifuge type; 3h/week daytime 1 overnight spin/week

Low speed, high capacity:

- Beckman J6 M1 centrifuge (can run 15ml, 30ml, 50ml, 250ml, 500ml tubes up to max. 6x 1L)
- Swing out rotors: JS 4.2 and JS-7.5.

High speed (up to 25K), medium to high capacity:

- Beckman Avanti J251
- Fixed angle rotors: JA25.50 and JA14.

Ultracentrifuges (up to 70K with available rotors):

- Beckman LE80K and XPN80 (new in 2015).
- Swing out rotors: Sw32Ti with Sw32 and Sw32.1Ti buckets and Sw55Ti.
- Fixed angle rotors: 70Ti, 70.1Ti and 45Ti.

Cell culture facilities

- NuAire recirculating class 2 cell culture hood (fair usage).
- 3 x 6ft laminar flow hoods (access as needed).
- Dedicated space in 37°C humidified 5% CO₂ incubator and media fridge.
- Water bath, inverted microscope, low speed centrifuge (15ml-50ml capacity).
- 1 x 100 tube capacity storage box in liquid nitrogen storage dewar.

Bacteria growth facilities

- Static incubators at 25°C, 30°C, 37°C
- Shaking incubators 37°C default (other settings can be used if required)

Baculovirus growth facilities (virus hoods - 3h/week, space on shakers/stirrers by negotiation)

- Class II hoods dedicated for baculovirus work
- Warm room (28°C) growth facility with orbital shakers and biological stirrers

Technical support

- Glass washing and autoclaving
- Biohazard waste disposal
- Clinical and cytotoxic waste disposal (5 boxes included in agreement, further boxes available for a fee)

Other facilities and expertise available*

*Access and pricing in addition to basic rate.

- DNA sequencing pick up on-site (Source Bioscience or Eurofins)
- On-site New England Biolabs freezer (charged to your dedicated Brookes cost code)
- Bioimaging unit/microscopy consultancy (light, fluorescence and confocal microscopy, TEM, SEM, SBF-SEM)
- Protein production and purification service (Oxford Expression Technologies Ltd)
- Wave bioreactor (in collaboration with Oxford Expression Technologies Ltd)
- Fluorescence plate readers (SpectraMax iD3, Tecan F200Pro)
- Large scale plate pouring
- Additional cryogenic storage space