



UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE

Department of Veterinary
Medicine

PhD/MPhil Project: Looking for evidence that a bacterium known as *C. acnes* (*P. acnes*) plays a role in IVDD

Start Date: 1st October 2025

Supervisor: [Professor Paul Freeman](#)

In human IVDD, there is some evidence that this bacterium is involved in disc degeneration and subsequent herniation. It is not proven or conclusive but so far nobody has looked for this in canine IVDD. We would need to take samples from discs and test for the presence of the bacterium, and compare with healthy dogs' discs. This would involve a combination of bacterial culture and proteomics, with the collaboration of Dorina Timofte, Senior Lecturer in microbiology at the University of Liverpool and Mike Deery, Senior Researcher and Proteomics facility Manager at University of Cambridge

How to apply: Contact the Supervisor to discuss the project before submitting an official application.

More on application process here:

<https://www.postgraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/courses/directory/cvtmpvet>