

**MPhil Project: Investigation of the Aetiology and Treatment of Acquired ‘Idiopathic’ Megaoesophagus in Canines**

**Start Date: 1<sup>st</sup> October 2025**

**Supervisor:** [An Vanhaesebrouck](#)

Background: Megaoesophagus, characterized by the loss of peristalsis and dilation of the oesophagus, is a debilitating condition that can affect any dog breed. It frequently leads to death or euthanasia due to aspiration pneumonia. Given the lack of a definitive cause, diagnosis and treatment remain challenging, and symptomatic treatment is often ineffective.

Our research may elucidate novel causes and therapeutic targets and potentially transform our treatment approach for Acquired Idiopathic Megaoesophagus.

Skills acquired by student: immunofluorescence, confocal microscopy, electron microscopy, image analysis, statistical analysis, scientific writing. **How to apply:** Contact the Supervisor to discuss the project before submitting an official application.

**Funding:** This project is part-funded, consisting of a contribution to the successful student’s stipend of £7261. Students are encouraged to apply for other funding to cover fees and remaining stipend.

More on application process here:

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