

Course Information Sheet for entry in 2024-25: MPhil in History



Course facts

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|-----------------|----------------|
| Mode of study | Full Time Only |
| Expected length | 21 months |

About the course

The MPhil in History is an innovative and intensive two-year course that provides a thorough training in historical methods. It offers a range of specialist options that draw on the latest research, and includes a sustained period devoted to archival research and writing.

The MPhil open to students with interests in any period of British, European or American history (which may also include non-European elements, eg European expansion, empire building or emigration). Those primarily interested in other parts of the world may like to consider the MSt in Global and Imperial History. The course will encourage you to develop practical and intellectual familiarity with advanced research in British, American and/or continental European history. It can serve either as free-standing master's course or as comprehensive preparation for DPhil research in the fields of history within its scope. If you wish to apply for the DPhil you will be encouraged to develop your doctoral proposal in consultation with your supervisor during the first few months of your second year, so that you will be well placed to make a doctoral application.

You will have access to a comprehensive menu of skills training for graduate students, as well as a systematic schedule of introductions to the unrivalled research facilities of the University of Oxford, and will be encouraged to develop key research skills: these may include the ability to read and interpret manuscript sources, and competence in Latin or modern foreign languages. Please see the faculty website for further details (see the *Further information and enquiries* section).

The MPhil in History is an umbrella programme, comprising nine specific strands:

- Medieval History
- Early Modern History, 1500-1700
- British and European History, 1700-1850
- Modern British History, 1850 to the Present
- Modern European History, 1850 to the Present
- US History
- Intellectual History
- History of War
- Women's, Gender and Queer History

Course structure

All students apply for, and follow, a specific strand, taking compulsory core papers and two option papers, as well as undertaking an original research project. This structure gives access to a wide range of both general and specialised training within the field of history.

Core courses

- Sources and Historiography: Taught in weekly classes during Michaelmas term of the first year, complemented by your work with your supervisor on the individual research element of the programme
- Theory and Methods: As above, taught in weekly classes during Michaelmas term of the first year, complemented by your work with your supervisor on the individual research element of the programme
- Writing History: Taught in weekly classes in Trinity term of the first year, complementing previous work done on historiography, sources, and methods by exploring the challenges faced by historians regarding the framing, structuring, and presentation of their work
- Research Master Class: Taught in weekly classes in Michaelmas term of the second year, during which students present and receive feedback on their research

Optional subject course

A free choice of the options on offer taught in six weekly classes during Hilary term of the first and second year. More details of optional (and core) papers, as well as each strand, are available on the faculty website (see the *Further information and enquiries* section for further details). Please note that not every optional subject listed may be on offer every year.

Research project

An original research project, worked on throughout both years, under the guidance of your supervisor. Students are expected to commit the summer vacation between the two years and the Michaelmas term of the second year to archival research.

Supervision

The allocation of graduate supervision for this course is the responsibility of the Faculty of History and it is not always possible to accommodate the preferences of incoming graduate students to work with a particular member of staff. Offers will only be made if appropriate supervision is available.

It is usual practice that MPhil students have one supervisor, but a co-supervisor will be appointed if additional specialist knowledge is required. One supervisor must be a member of the Faculty of History, but a co-supervisor will be appointed if additional specialist knowledge is required. One supervisor must be a member of the Faculty of History, but a co-supervisor can be appointed from a different department.

Your supervisor(s) is there to provide advice, guidance, and support throughout your MPhil. You should meet your supervisor(s) early in your first term to establish a clear framework for your research and writing, and identify any skills training needed to undertake your research. There is no set timetable for the frequency of future meetings, but it is recommended that you meet your supervisor several times a term in both years, to discuss progress of your research and writing. You should also agree a timetable for the submission and return of drafts of your dissertation.

Please note that if you have contacted a potential supervisor prior to submitting your application, any indication made by an academic that they may be willing to supervise a potential project, is not a guarantee that you will be offered a place, or that the supervisor in question has capacity to supervise you in that particular year.

Assessment

The Sources and Historiography and the Theory and Methods core courses are examined by an assessed essay submitted at the end of Michaelmas term of year one. You must also submit an annotated bibliography and dissertation proposal at this time.

The optional subjects will be examined according to the regulations governing the course, which could be by assessed essay or by examination, at the end of Hilary term in years one and two.

The Writing History core course is examined by an assessed essay submitted at the end of Trinity term of year one.

The Research Master Class is examined by an in-class presentation, which is marked on a pass-fail basis.

The research project is examined by a 30,000-word dissertation that is submitted in week six of Trinity term of year two.

Changes to this course

The University will seek to deliver this course in accordance with the description set out above. However, there may be situations in which it is desirable or necessary for the University to make changes in course provision, either before or after you commence your course. These might include significant changes made necessary by any pandemic, epidemic or local health emergency. For further information, please see the University's Terms and Conditions (<http://www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/terms>) and our page on changes to courses (<http://www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/coursechanges>).

Costs

Annual fees for entry in 2024-25

| Fee status | Annual Course fees |
|------------|--------------------|
| Home | £14,340 |
| Overseas | £32,640 |

Information about course fees

Course fees are payable each year, for the duration of your fee liability (your fee liability is the length of time for which you are required to pay course fees). For courses lasting longer than one year, please be aware that fees will usually increase annually. Information about how much fees and other costs may increase is set out in the University's Terms and Conditions (<http://www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/terms>).

Course fees cover your teaching as well as other academic services and facilities provided to support your studies. Unless specified in the additional cost information (below), course fees do not cover your accommodation, residential costs or other living costs. They also don't cover any additional costs and charges that are outlined in the additional cost information.

Additional cost information

There are no compulsory elements of this course that entail additional costs beyond fees and living costs. However, as part of your course requirements, you may need to choose a dissertation, a project or a thesis topic. Please note that, depending on your choice of topic and the research required to complete it, you may incur additional expenses, such as travel expenses, research expenses, and field trips. You will need to meet these additional costs, although you may be able to apply for small grants from your department and/or college to help you cover some of these expenses.

Living costs

In addition to your course fees, you will need to ensure that you have adequate funds to support your living costs for the duration of your course.

The likely living costs for 2024-25 are published below. These costs are based on a single, full-time graduate student, with no dependants, living in Oxford. We provide the cost per month so you can multiply up by the number of months you expect to live in Oxford.

Likely living costs for one month

| | Lower range | Upper range |
|-------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Food | £315 | £495 |
| Accommodation | £745 | £925 |
| Personal items | £190 | £320 |
| Social activities | £40 | £95 |
| Study costs | £35 | £85 |
| Other | £20 | £35 |
| Total | £1,345 | £1,955 |

Likely living costs for nine months

| | Lower range | Upper range |
|-------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Food | £2,835 | £4,445 |
| Accommodation | £6,705 | £8,325 |
| Personal items | £1,710 | £2,880 |
| Social activities | £360 | £855 |
| Study costs | £315 | £765 |
| Other | £180 | £315 |
| Total | £12,105 | £17,595 |

Likely living costs for twelve months

| | Lower range | Upper range |
|-------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Food | £3,780 | £5,940 |
| Accommodation | £8,940 | £11,100 |
| Personal items | £2,280 | £3,840 |
| Social activities | £480 | £1,140 |
| Study costs | £420 | £1,020 |
| Other | £240 | £420 |
| Total | £16,140 | £23,460 |

When planning your finances for any future years of study at Oxford beyond 2024-25, it is suggested that you allow for potential increases in living expenses of 5% or more each year – although this rate may vary depending on the national economic situation.

More information about how these figures have been calculated is available at www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/livingcosts.

Document accessibility

If you require an accessible version of this document please contact Graduate Admissions and Recruitment by email (graduate.admissions@admin.ox.ac.uk) or via the online form (<http://www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/ask>).