

Course Information Sheet for entry in 2024-25: MSc in Evidence-Based Health Care



Course facts

Mode of study	Part Time Only
Expected length	2 to 4 years

About the course

The MSc in Evidence-Based Health Care is designed to help health professionals base clinical and health management decisions on valid, reliable and relevant evidence.

The MSc in Evidence-Based Health Care will position you to integrate the best available research evidence with your clinical expertise and patient values to make better informed decisions in your field of health care. It can be taken part-time alongside work commitments, generally over two to four years.

The MSc is a joint course between the Nuffield Department of Primary Care Health Sciences and the Department for Continuing Education. The course works in collaboration with the renowned Centre for Evidence-Based Medicine in Oxford.

The course has teachers and contributors who are internationally recognised leaders in the field of evidence-based practice and teaching. The flexible structure of the course has been devised to fit with the structure of specialist training and to accommodate student choice.

The aims of the course are for you to:

- find and appraise quantitative and qualitative research evidence critically and efficiently and understand what the results mean in different contexts and for different healthcare decisions
- integrate and synthesise different sorts of information, from diverse sources, when making both individual patient and health policy decisions in a wide range of situations
- work comfortably in situations of uncertainty and make sound judgements in the absence of definitive evidence
- understand how to work with colleagues to make informed decisions based on evidence and operate effectively in a variety of team roles
- understand, apply and evaluate the process of translating knowledge into action within a healthcare system
- present and communicate information about research evidence and evidence-based practice clearly in written, electronic and oral forms to a range of audiences
- be able to produce a robust research protocol, for a variety of different types of research question, in a format that can be submitted as an application for research funding
- be able to play a lead role in the conduct and presentation of research according to Good Clinical Practice.

Course structure

The MSc in Evidence-Based Health Care is a part-time course. You will take two core modules and four option modules, followed by a dissertation.

The majority of modules are run over either an eight, or fifteen week learning cycle and are spaced out throughout the academic year. This allows for a choice of options to be taken over the two to four years that you attend the course.

Core modules

You will take the following two core modules:

- Practice of Evidence-Based Health Care
- Introduction to Study Design and Research Methods

Optional modules

You will then choose an additional four modules from the following options. Please note that not all modules are guaranteed to run every year.

- Clinical Trial Management
- Mixed Methods in Health Research
- Knowledge into Action
- Evidence-based Diagnosis and Screening
- Introduction to Statistics for Health Care Research
- Systematic Reviews

- Randomised Controlled Trials
- Qualitative Research Methods
- Essential Medical Statistics
- History and Philosophy of Evidence-Based Health Care
- Teaching Evidence-Based Practice
- Realist Reviews and Realist Evaluation
- Complex Reviews
- Meta-analysis
- Statistics for Clinical Trials
- Big Data Epidemiology

Teaching format

Most modules are either delivered fully online or in a blended format, however, some modules are only delivered with a blended format that includes a five day attendance in Oxford, and some are only run entirely online. In any given year, not all delivery formats for a module may be available.

Further details about the course and modules can be found on the course page, on the Department for Continuing Education Website (See *Further Information and Enquiries*).

Blended format

An initial period of self-directed study is spent on introductory activities using a Virtual Learning Environment (VLE). This is followed by a week spent in Oxford for supported face-to-face teaching, and then a further period of Post-Oxford activities (a mixture of self-directed and supported distance learning also delivered through the VLE). The final week of each module is for self-directed personal study, shortly followed by the assignment submission.

Fully online format

Fully online modules are delivered through the VLE with the first week allocated to self-directed introductory activities.

For some courses, you will have a number of units to work through which are released week by week. Each unit includes a mixture of supported and self-directed learning with discussion forums, tasks and activities. You will then have five weeks of self-directed personal study with use of a revision forum and the requirement to submit an assignment electronically the following week. These courses that usually run over a 15 week period.

For other courses, five consecutive days of synchronous and asynchronous teaching sessions will be followed by a further period of activities (a mixture of self-directed and supported distance learning also delivered through the VLE). The final week of each module is for self-directed personal study, shortly followed by the assignment submission. These courses usually run over an eight week period.

Part-time attendance details

As a part-time student, you will be required to attend a minimum of two modules (one of which must be a compulsory module) 'in person' in Oxford. Each 'in person' module requires you to attend a week (five days) in Oxford for supported face to face teaching. Your other four modules can be made up of a mix of 'in person', or fully online modules. For additional note: All students are required to attend a minimum of one module in each academic year on course. This can either be 'in person' or fully online.

Supervision

The allocation of graduate supervision for this course is the responsibility of the Nuffield Department of Primary Care Health Sciences and/or the Department for Continuing Education and it is not always possible to accommodate the preferences of incoming graduate students to work with a particular member of staff. Under exceptional circumstances a supervisor may be found outside the Nuffield Department of Primary Care Health Sciences and/or the Department for Continuing Education. Students are usually expected to either meet, or contact their supervisor at least once per month.

Assessment

Assessments are conducted at the end of each module and comprise a written paper, submitted via an online portal. The dissertation will be on a topic chosen in consultation with your supervisor and the course director and should not normally exceed 15,000 words.

Students typically submit a 'Notification of Provisional Title', a calendar year before their dissertation submission date. A full draft is usually submitted two months prior to the submission deadline. The final submission is usually due on the last working day of September, for the given year of completion.

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

Modular course fees

The fees for this course are charged on a modular basis. You will pay an annual course fee and an additional fee for each module studied. A minimum of two annual course fees are payable for this course. If this course includes a dissertation, three module fees will be charged for the dissertation.

Fees for the 2024-25 academic year

Fee status	Annual Course Fee	Fee per module	Total estimated fees
Home	£8,455	£2,570	Please see the department's website for further details
Overseas	£8,455	£2,570	

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

This course has residential sessions in Oxford. You will need to meet your travel and accommodation costs in attending these sessions. Further, as part of your course requirements, you may need to choose a dissertation, a project or a thesis topic. 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.

If you are studying part-time your living costs may vary depending on your personal circumstances but you must still ensure that you will have sufficient funding to meet these 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>).