Course Information Sheet for entry in 2024-25:
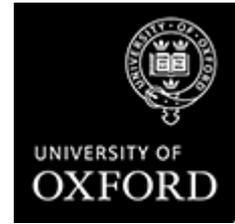# MSc in Social Science of the Internet

Course facts

Mode of study	Full Time	Part Time
Expected length	10 months	22 months

About the course

The MSc in Social Science of the Internet provides students with the knowledge and skills needed to question and understand the multi-faceted ways in which the internet and emerging digital technologies are influencing and affecting our lives, societies, businesses, and governments.

Learning from the Oxford Internet Institute's world-leading multi-disciplinary faculty, students of the MSc course will leave with new knowledge on important social science concepts and theories, research methods, technological fundamentals, and how to conduct and communicate high-quality research.

The MSc in Social Science of the Internet is offered on both a full-time (one year) and part-time (two year) basis. The degree and expectations for both modes of study are equally rigorous: part-time students take their classes with the full-time students, but spread over two years to accommodate work and personal circumstances. Whether you choose to apply for the part-time or full-time course, you will be part of a close-knit cohort of students from diverse backgrounds.

Full-time students will be expected to spend around 40 hours studying each week during term and are additionally expected to complete assignments and undertake further study during vacations. During the first (Michaelmas) and second (Hilary) terms, students are advised to allocate between 10 and 15 hours each week for each course they undertake.

This includes:

- At least six hours per week on reading, preparation and formative assignments for each core/option course
- 10 to 12 hours per week in classes (typically one and a half to two hours of lectures per course, plus a one hour seminar or workshop on certain core and methods-based courses)

Part-time students will be expected to commit to a proportional workload. The course content for the part-time degree is identical to that taken by full-time students but will be completed in two years rather than one year. Part-time students will be expected to attend lectures, seminars and workshops in the department for one to two days a week during term-time, and to participate fully in the life of this friendly and dynamic department.

During Trinity term, you will attend weekly seminars where you will present and develop your thesis research and receive feedback from fellow students and academic staff.

Core Courses

Core courses run weekly during the first term: Digital Social Research Methods: Methods Core; Digital Social Research Methods: Statistics Core; Internet and Society; Internet Technologies and Regulation.

Internet and Society

An overview of the major findings to date regarding the social implications of the Internet, drawing material from several social science disciplines, including communication studies, sociology, and political science.

Part-time students take this course in their first year of study.

Internet Technologies and Regulation

Exploring the interplay between social and technological shaping of the Internet, and associated policy implications. It outlines the Internet's origins and technical architecture and its embeddedness in a long history of communication technologies.

Part-time students take this course in their second year of study.

Digital Social Research: Statistics Core

This course introduces students to statistics for the social sciences, with an emphasis on application to research on the Internet and society.

Part-time students take this course in their second year of study.

Digital Social Research: Methods Core

This course provides students with the opportunity to engage with the methodological, ethical and philosophical underpinnings of quantitative and qualitative social science research practices.

Part-time students take this course in their first year of study.

Option subjects

Students will take three option modules during the second term of the year; one substantive option course, one methods option course, and one further option course from either category.
Part-time students will generally take two options in the second term of their first year and one further option in the second term of their second year. Option modules run for eight weeks in each term.

Recent option modules have included:

Substantive Options

- Cultural Analytics
- Digital Capitalism and Its Inequalities
- Digital Era Government and Politics
- Digital Technology and Economic Organization
- Education the Internet and Society (run in the Department of Education)
- Internet Economics
- Social Network Analysis and Interpretation
- Law and the Internet
- Subversive Technologies

Methods Options

- Advanced Statistics for Internet Research
- Computational Methods for the Social Sciences
- Digital Interviewing and Qualitative Data Analysis
- Digital Ethnography

Please note that not all Substantive or Methods options run every year.

Supervision

The allocation of graduate supervision for this course is the responsibility of the Oxford Internet Institute 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 Oxford Internet Institute.

MSc students can expect to meet with their supervisor 8-10 times over the course of the degree. Students are assigned a general supervisor in their first term who will be the point of contact for keeping an eye on their academic progress. In the second term (Hilary term), students are reassigned to a thesis supervisor in order to ensure that student needs and skills are properly matched. Thesis supervisors are responsible for giving written feedback on at least one complete draft of the student's thesis prior to submission as well as additional advice on research design, data access, and analysis methods.

Assessment

MSc Social Science of the Internet course assessment will either be conducted by timed examination or submission.

Core courses Internet and Society, Internet Technologies and Regulation, and Digital Social Research Methods: Statistics are all assessed by timed examination.

The core course Digital Social Research Methods: Methods Core is assessed by submission, as are all Substantive Methods and Option courses with the exception of the Methods Option course Advanced Statistics which is assessed by an assignment submission and timed examination.

In addition to the options you take, you will write a thesis. The thesis is the capstone to the MSc experience. It provides students with the opportunity to apply the methods and approaches they have covered in the other parts of the course and carry out a substantive piece of academic research, including designing a study, carrying out data collection and analysis, and developing a theoretical framework.

Part-time students will write their dissertations in the third term of their second year, but will be encouraged to start planning their dissertation from their first year.

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

Full-time study

Fee status	Annual Course fees
Home	£27,260
Overseas	£33,970

Part-time study

Fee status	Annual Course fees
Home	£13,630
Overseas	£16,985

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

Full-time study

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.

Part-time study

Please note that this course requires that you attend in Oxford for teaching, and you may incur additional travel and accommodation expenses for this. 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).