

Course Information Sheet for entry in 2024-25: MSc in Surgical Science and Practice



Course facts

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

About the course

The MSc in Surgical Science and Practice has been developed for surgeons and other clinicians carrying out technical procedures.

It has been designed as a part-time course to be completed in two to four years by people working full-time. The modular nature of the course allows you to fit study around your work.

The aim of the course is to give you a strong foundation in the most important non-clinical skills you will need to be effective and to lead others. It will prepare you for life as an independent specialist and focuses on skills and knowledge which are not fully represented or are omitted from graduate training curricula.

The masters course has been designed to appeal to trainees and consultants in surgical disciplines as well as any medical discipline that involves technical skills. Successful applicants have included interventional radiologists, anaesthetists, physicians performing invasive procedures (cardiologists, gastroenterologists, etc) and advanced nurse practitioners.

Students on the PGCert in Patient Safety attend some of the masters modules so the range of students on the programme often includes nurses, allied healthcare professionals and managers as well as doctors. This mix reflects the healthcare workplace and enriches classroom discussions during the taught module week. Some PGCert students whose work involves technical procedures (for example nurse practitioners, physicians' assistants, cardiac perfusionists) have successfully applied to continue on to the Masters programme. This is subject to a further interview.

For simplicity the descriptions below will use the term 'surgeon' to include not only surgeons but also others carrying out technical procedures.

Surgeons work as part of multidisciplinary teams in complex organisations, and will need to adapt and develop new skills and roles throughout their professional lives. The MSc syllabus covers management skills, quality improvement, leadership, teamwork and patient safety, development and implementation of new technologies, as well as an introduction to the principles of medical education and clinical research methods. It also includes taught material on research skills. The knowledge gained during the course will stand you in good stead throughout your career.

You will complete six modules which are taught by experts in their field:

- Leadership and Management in Healthcare
- Quality Improvement Science and Systems Analysis
- Human Factors, Teamwork and Communication
- Healthcare Innovation and Technology
- Practice of Evidence-Based Health Care
- Becoming a Clinical Educator

Each module includes a period of preparatory study and one week of full time teaching, (except for the Practice of Evidence-Based Health Care, which is taught online for one week), followed by a period for assignment work. The modules can be studied in any order and each module normally takes place once a year giving you the opportunity to individualise your patterns of study.

The taught weeks include seminar-style teaching, group work, class discussions, guest lectures, and interaction and feedback with tutors and lecturers. Where appropriate the taught week will include practical activities to develop skills.

In the four weeks running up to each taught week you should expect to dedicate 4-6 hours per week to preparatory reading. In the six weeks following each taught week you should expect to dedicate 10-15 hours per week to researching and writing your module assignment.

A virtual learning environment (VLE) provides support between modules. Assignments are submitted online and thus can be completed from anywhere in the world.

This flexible programme is offered jointly by the Nuffield Department of Surgical Sciences and the Department for Continuing Education.

Supervision

The allocation of graduate supervision for this course is the responsibility of the Nuffield Department of Surgical Sciences and/or the Department for Continuing Education and this role will usually be performed by the Course Director.

It is sometimes 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 Surgical Sciences and/or Department for Continuing Education.

The University expects there to be contact between supervisor and student at least once per month.

Assessment

To complete the MSc in Surgical Science and Practice, you will need to:

- attend the six compulsory modules - five in Oxford, one online (Practice of Evidence-Based Health Care is taught online);
- undertake and pass an assessed written assignment for each module; and
- after attending all six modules, complete and pass an assessed dissertation on a topic founded on a work-based research project that will build on the material studied in the taught modules.

The written assignments help you develop and demonstrate your growing knowledge and understanding of the subject areas covered, and will provide you with the opportunity to develop your critical appraisal and written presentation skills. The assignments are an opportunity to apply what you have learned to your own work setting or practice, helping you translate classroom learning to your own context.

You will need to be able to write a good standard of academic English to pass the assignments. For those that require a refresher, the Department of Continuing Education offers a 10 week, online course to refresh and improve your reading, note-making and essay-writing skills.

You will be given written feedback on each of the assignments you submit, intended to help you continue to develop your critical appraisal and academic writing skills.

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	£2,055	£2,570	Please see the department's website for further details
Overseas	£9,695	£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>).