

UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS AND OUTREACH

University Offices, Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JD



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Geography Course Information Sheet for entry in 2024

Geography provides a diverse interdisciplinary degree that bridges the natural and social sciences. It promotes enhancement of a broad range of transferable skills, and an education encompassing pressing issues at a range of scales, from local up to global.

The degree spans such key topics as:

- climate and environmental change
- inequality
- social, economic and cultural transformation
- biodiversity loss
- geomorphological processes in drylands
- geographical data science
- post-colonialism
- globalisation.

The Oxford Geography degree provides a holistic view of the workings of physical and human environments, the ways in which humans are transforming the world and the implications for human societies.

Students are introduced to the full range of geographical topics in the foundational courses, which they can then follow up in more detail in the optional papers, shaping their programme to match their developing interests.

There is emphasis placed on interdisciplinary approaches within the course, with opportunities to explore the intersections between geography and other disciplines from the humanities, social and natural sciences.

The facilities available at Oxford are among the best in the country. Field equipment used by students for fieldwork reports and dissertations include:

- Lidar systems for remote sensing of winds
- theodolites for tracking balloons to calculate winds in the lower atmosphere
- high specification systems for working with climate data.

The department also has well-equipped Geolabs for practical physical courses and individual research projects. These include the Geography Research and Teaching Labs, the Oxford Luminescence Dating Lab and the Oxford Resilient Buildings and Landscapes Lab.

Students are also trained in qualitative research methods that are particularly useful for human geography, such as:

- interviewing
- literature reviews
- archival research
- focus group and workshop facilitation

- ethnography.

There are opportunities to learn advanced data analysis and coding skills. The central and collegiate Library resources (electronically and in print) are second to none.

Fieldwork/work placements/international opportunities

The School of Geography and the Environment emphasises the importance of fieldwork since we believe there is no substitute for teaching subjects first-hand.

In the first year, all students take part in:

- a four-day physical geography field trip in the first term
- a one-day drip to the university research site in Wytham Woods,
- one day of human geography fieldwork in Oxford.

Second-year students will undertake a week-long overseas residential field course (currently to the Netherlands and Tenerife). All of this fieldwork is funded by the department.

Independent research, whether field-based, employing geocomputational tools, remote sensed data, in laboratories, or archives, is also a key element of the dissertation.

A typical week

- Lectures in the morning
- Seminars/practical classes in the afternoon
- Tutorials: at least one college tutorial a week, and some college-based classes.

Tutorials usually comprise 2-4 students and a tutor. Group sizes for optional departmental seminars and classes may vary depending on the options you choose, but are typically below 20 students.

Most tutorials, classes, and lectures are delivered by staff who are specialists in their subject. Many are world-leading experts with years of experience in teaching and research. Some teaching may also be delivered by postgraduate students who are usually studying at doctoral level.

To find out more about how our teaching year is structured, visit our [Academic Year](#) page.

Course structure

YEAR 1	
COURSES <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Four compulsory courses:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Earth systems processes○ Human geography○ Geographical controversies○ Geographical techniques	ASSESSMENT <p>Four written papers: two fieldwork reports; submitted essay on Geographical controversies</p>

YEAR 1

- Induction physical geography field trip to Dorset (four days)
- One-day human geography field trip exercise in Oxford
- One-day physical geography field trip exercise in Wytham Woods

YEARS 2 AND 3

COURSES

- Geographical thought: histories, philosophies and practices (core)
- Foundational courses (two chosen)
 - Space, place and society
 - Earth system dynamics
 - Environmental geography
- Options (three chosen) currently include:
 - Climate change impacts and adaptation
 - Childhood and youth in the global south
 - Climate change and variability
 - Complexity
 - Conservation
 - Contemporary issues in cultural geography
 - Critical development geographies
 - Desert landscapes and dynamics
 - Environmental governance in Central Asia
 - Finance and sustainability
 - Geographies for the Anthropocene
 - Geographies of finance
 - Geography and policy
 - Geographic data science
 - Geography at war
 - Geopolitics in the margins

ASSESSMENT

Six written papers: three extended essays; fieldwork report; dissertation

YEARS 2 AND 3

- Geographies of heritage
- New approaches to urban geography
- Politics, society and culture of China
- Sustainable development in practice
- Sustainable urbanisms
- The Quaternary period
- Transport and mobilities

- Dissertation

- Overseas field trip

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 registration. For further information, please see the University's [Terms and Conditions](#).

Fees

These annual fees are for full-time students who begin this undergraduate course here in 2024.

Information about how much fees and other costs may increase is set out in the University's Terms and Conditions.

Please note that while the University sets out its annual fees as a single figure, this is a combined figure for both your University and college fees. More information is provided in your [Terms and Conditions](#).

Fee status	Annual Course fees
Home (UK, Republic of Ireland, Channel Islands & Isle of Man)	£9,250
Overseas (including most EU students– see Note below)	£43,670

Note: Irish nationals living in the UK or Ireland, EU, other EEA, and Swiss nationals who have been granted settled or pre-settled status in the UK under the EU settlement scheme are eligible for 'Home fee' status and student loan support, subject to meeting residency requirements. We will contact you directly if we need further information from you to determine your fee status.

Please refer to the [Undergraduate fee status](#) pages for more information.

Living costs

Living costs for the academic year starting in 2024 are estimated to be between £1,345 and £1,955 for each month you are in Oxford. Our academic year is made up of three eight-week terms, so you would not usually need to be in Oxford for much more than six months of the year but may wish to

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budget over a nine-month period to ensure you also have sufficient funds during the holidays to meet essential costs. For further details please visit our [living costs webpage](#).

Living costs breakdown

	Per month		Total for 9 months	
	Lower range	Upper range	Lower range	Upper range
Food	£315	£495	£2,835	£4,455
Accommodation (including utilities)	£745	£925	£6,705	£8,325
Personal items	£190	£320	£1,710	£2,880
Social activities	£40	£95	£360	£855
Study costs	£35	£85	£315	£765
Other	£20	£35	£180	£315
Total	£1,345	£1,955	£12,105	£17,595

In order to provide these likely living costs (which are rounded to the nearest £5), the University and the Oxford SU conducted a living costs survey to complement existing student expenditure data from a variety of sources, including the UK government's Student Income and Expenditure Survey and the National Union of Students (NUS).

The current economic climate and high national rate of inflation make it very hard to estimate potential changes to the cost of living over the next few years. When planning your finances for any future years of study in Oxford beyond 2024-25, it is suggested that you allow for potential increases in living expenses of around 5% each year – although this rate may vary depending on the national economic situation. UK inflationary increases will be kept under review and the [living costs webpage](#) updated.

Additional Fees and Charges Information for Geography

First year students attend a four-day residential field course in the UK during their first term. The cost of the field trip is borne by the School of Geography and the Environment and there is no charge to students.

Students are also required to undertake a one-week fieldtrip in their second year and currently have a choice between trips to the Netherlands or Tenerife. There is no additional charge to students for the fieldtrip.

These field trips provide students with the opportunity to learn and practice the field research skills that they will employ in their own dissertation research.

Some of the projects students have had the opportunity to undertake on previous trips include pilot balloon tracking of trade winds and monitoring of microclimates using i-button data in Tenerife and studying urban natures and environmental governance of transport systems in the Netherlands. Students have to write a report of their research which is assessed as part of the final examinations.