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Mathematics and Philosophy Course Information Sheet for entry in 2024

This course brings together two of the most fundamental and widely-applicable intellectual skills.

Mathematical knowledge, and the ability to use it, is the most important means of tackling quantifiable problems. Philosophical training enhances the ability to analyse issues, question received assumptions and clearly articulate understanding. The combination provides a powerful background from which to proceed to graduate study in either mathematics or philosophy or to pursue a diverse range of careers.

Historically, there have been strong links between mathematics and philosophy. Logic, an important branch of both subjects, provides a natural bridge between the two, as does the Philosophy of mathematics module.

The degree is founded on the belief that the parallel study of these related disciplines can significantly enhance your understanding of each.

The Philosophy Faculty is the largest in the UK, and one of the largest in the world. We have more than 70 full-time members and admit around 450 undergraduates annually to read our various degrees involving philosophy.

Many faculty members have a worldwide reputation, and the faculty has one of the highest research ratings of any philosophy department in the UK. The Philosophy Library is among the best in the country.

The large number of undergraduates and graduates reading philosophy with a variety of other disciplines affords the opportunity to participate in a diverse and lively philosophical community.

In turn the Mathematics Department, housed in the Andrew Wiles Building, is also one of the largest and best in the UK and contains within it many world-class research groups. This is reflected in the wide choice of mathematics topics available to you, especially in the fourth year.

A typical week

- Years 1 and 2: up to ten lectures a week, two to three tutorials a week
- Years 3 and 4: up to eight lectures a week. Equivalent of eight units taken each year. Weekly tutorials per philosophy subject. Fortnightly classes per mathematics unit.

Tutorials are usually 2-4 students and a tutor. Class sizes may vary depending on the options you choose. There would usually be around 8-12 students though classes for some of the more popular papers may be larger.

Most tutorials, classes, and lectures are delivered by staff who are tutors 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

There are two Mathematics and Philosophy degrees, the three-year BA and the four-year MMathPhil. Decisions regarding continuation to the fourth year do not have to be made until the third year.

The mathematics units in this joint course are all from the single-subject Mathematics course. Accordingly, the standard in mathematics for admission to the joint course is the same as for admission to the single-subject Mathematics course.

The compulsory core mathematics for the joint course consists mainly of the pure (as opposed to applied) mathematics from the compulsory core for the single-subject Mathematics course. The philosophy units for the Mathematics and Philosophy course are mostly shared with the other courses with philosophy.

In the first year, all parts of the course are compulsory.

In the second and third years some subjects are compulsory. These consist of core mathematics and philosophy and bridge papers on philosophy of mathematics and on foundations (logic and set theory), but you also choose options.

In the fourth year there are no compulsory subjects, and you can do all mathematics, all philosophy, or a combination of the two.

YEAR 1	
COURSES	ASSESSMENT
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mathematics<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Algebra○ Analysis○ Calculus○ Probability • Philosophy<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Elements of deductive logic○ General philosophy○ Frege, <i>Foundations of Arithmetic</i>	First University examinations: five compulsory written papers

YEARS 2 AND 3

COURSES

- **Mathematics**
 - Core pure mathematics (Algebra, Metric spaces, Complex analysis)
 - Foundations (Set theory, Logic)
 - Intermediate mathematics options
- **Philosophy**
 - Knowledge and reality *or* Early Modern philosophy
 - Philosophy of mathematics
 - Further philosophy papers

ASSESSMENT

Final University examinations, Part A (Year 2): two written papers on pure mathematics core and two written papers on mathematics options

Final University examinations, Part B (Year 3): four 90-minute exams in mathematics and three three-hour papers in philosophy and either two further 90-minute mathematics exams or one further three-hour philosophy paper (or the equivalent)

YEAR 4

COURSES

- **Mathematics**

Advanced options including:

 - Axiomatic set theory
 - Elliptic curves
 - Gödel's incompleteness theorems
 - Infinite groups
 - Model theory
 - Stochastic differential equations
 - Optional mathematics dissertation
- **Philosophy**
 - Advanced options in philosophy
 - Optional philosophy thesis

The options listed above are illustrative and may change. A [full list of current options](#) is available on the Mathematics website and the Philosophy website.

ASSESSMENT

Final University Examinations, Part C: philosophy subjects include a 5000-word essay. Students study three philosophy subjects or eight mathematics units, or a mixture of the two disciplines. A 2:1 is currently required to progress to Part C.

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

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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)	£41,080

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 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

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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 Mathematics and Philosophy](#)

There are no compulsory costs for this course beyond the fees shown above and your living costs.