

Human Sciences Information Sheet for entry in 2018

Human Sciences studies the biological, social and cultural aspects of human life, and provides a challenging alternative to some of the more traditional courses offered at Oxford. The school was founded in 1969 in recognition of the need for interdisciplinary understanding of fundamental issues and problems confronting contemporary societies. Central topics include the evolution of humans and their behaviour, molecular and population genetics, population growth and ageing, ethnic and cultural diversity and the human interaction with the environment, including conservation, disease and nutrition. The study of both biological and social disciplines, integrated within a framework of human diversity and sustainability, should enable the human scientist to develop professional competencies suited to address such multidimensional human problems.

The course draws on specialists from a number of different faculties in the University. Lectures introduce most of the material you will need and provide the core concepts and theories for each paper. Tutorials, given by specialists in different fields, allow you to consider particular topics in greater depth. They also allow students from different academic backgrounds to gain the necessary grounding across a range of subjects.

The course is unusual in having its own building within the University, the Pauling Human Sciences Centre. It has a seminar/lecture room, tutorial rooms and a reading room. The Human Sciences Centre office is a particularly valuable resource, offering a variety of information and guidance about teaching arrangements, lecture timetables, course syllabuses, and books and journals in other libraries to which students have access. In addition, the centre has a cross-section of books covering different aspects of the course, which are specifically chosen for undergraduate use. The centre is also a focus for many informal activities, ranging from student-organised symposia to regular lunches. In general, the centre provides a friendly base which contributes greatly to undergraduates' involvement in the course.

Research placements/international opportunities

There are no formal arrangements for work placements but students are encouraged to take part in small-scale research projects or expeditions during the summer holidays.

A typical weekly timetable

During years 1 and 2 your work is divided between lectures (about ten a week) and tutorials (one or two a week). In addition, some practical experience in genetics, physiology, demography and statistics is offered in certain terms. Computers are used in the teaching of quantitative methods. In the third year the tutorial and class requirement is reduced to allow more time for option papers and students' research for their dissertations.



1st year**Courses**

Five compulsory courses are taken:

- The biology of organisms including humans
- Genetics and evolution
- Society, culture and environment
- Sociology and demography
- Quantitative methods for the human sciences

Assessment

First University examinations:
Five written papers; satisfactory
practical record

2nd year**Courses**

Five courses are taken:

- Behaviour and its evolution, animal and human
- Human genetics and evolution
- Human ecology
- Demography and population
- Either Anthropological analysis and interpretation or Sociological theory

Assessment

The Human Ecology course is assessed by an extended essay written in the final term of the second year and a presentation given in the first term of the third year.

3rd year

Courses

- Dissertation to be completed by the beginning of the final term
- Option courses (two chosen) from a list which may vary slightly depending on teaching availability: Anthropology of a selected region (for example Japan, Lowland South America, South Asia or West Africa); Biological conservation; Cognitive and evolutionary anthropology; Evolution and medicine; Gender theories and realities: Cross-cultural perspectives; General linguistics; Health and disease; Physical and forensic anthropology: An introduction to human skeletal remains; Quantitative methods; Social policy; Sociology of post-industrial societies; South and southern Africa; plus a range of psychology options

The options listed above are illustrative and may change. More information about current options is available on the [Human Sciences website](#).

Assessment

Final University examinations:

Currently six written papers and a dissertation plus the extended essay and presentation (see under second year)

The University will seek to deliver each course in accordance with the descriptions 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

Oxford University is committed to recruiting the best and brightest students from all backgrounds. We offer a generous package of financial support to Home/EU students from lower-income households. (UK nationals living in the UK are usually Home students.)

These annual fees are for full-time students who begin this undergraduate course here in 2018.

Fee Status	Tuition fee	College fee	Total annual fees
Home/EU	£9,250	£0	£9,250
Islands (Channel Islands & Isle of Man)	£9,250	£0	£9,250
Overseas	£18,620	£7,570	£26,190

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

Additional Fees and Charges Information for Human Sciences

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

Living Costs

Your living costs will vary significantly dependent on your lifestyle. These are estimated to be between £1,014 and £1,556 per month in 2018-19. Undergraduate courses usually consist of three terms of eight weeks each, but as a guide you may wish to budget over a nine-month period to ensure you also have sufficient funds during the holidays to meet essential costs.

Living costs breakdown

	Per month		Total for 9 months	
	Lower range	Upper range	Lower range	Upper range
Food	£258	£361	£2,318	£3,245
Accommodation (including utilities)	£536	£677	£4,824	£6,093
Personal items	£118	£263	£1,066	£2,364
Social activities	£41	£123	£369	£1,105
Study costs	£39	£85	£348	£765
Other	£22	£47	£202	£419
Total	£1,014	£1,556	£9,127	£13,991

When planning your finances for future years of study at Oxford beyond 2018-19, you should allow for an estimated increase in living expenses of 3% each year.

10 November 2017