



Human Sciences Information Sheet for entry in 2019

Human Sciences is a diverse discipline which enables students to study 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.

A typical week

During years 1 and 2 your work is divided between lectures (about ten a week) and tutorials (one or two a week with more in the first year). In addition, some practical experience in genetics, physiology, demography or 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.

Tutorials are usually 2-4 students and a tutor. Class sizes may vary depending on the options you choose. There would usually be no more than around 20 students although the more popular classes may include up to 30 students.

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 doctorate level.

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

Course structure

1st year	
<p>Courses Five compulsory courses are taken:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The biology of organisms including humans • Genetics and evolution • Society, culture and environment • Sociology and demography • Quantitative methods for the human sciences 	<p>Assessment First University examinations: Five written papers; satisfactory practical record</p>
2nd year	
<p>Courses Five courses are taken:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Behaviour and its evolution, animal and human • Human genetics and evolution • Human ecology • Demography and population • Either Anthropological analysis and interpretation or Sociological theory 	<p>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.</p>
3rd year	
<p>Courses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 Africa, Japan, Lowland South America or South Asia); 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 <p><i>The options listed above are illustrative and may change. More information about current options is available on the Human Sciences website.</i></p>	<p>Assessment Final University examinations: Currently six written papers and a dissertation plus the extended essay and presentation (see under second year)</p>

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

These annual fees are for full-time students who begin this undergraduate course here in 2019.

Fee status	Annual Course fees
Home/EU	£9,250
Islands (Channel Islands & Isle of Man)	£9,250
Overseas	£27,240

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 £1,058 and £1,643 per month in 2019-20. Each year of an undergraduate course usually consists of three terms of eight weeks each but you may need to be in Oxford for longer. 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.

	Per month		Total for 9 months	
	Lower range	Upper range	Lower range	Upper range
Food	£265	£371	£2,387	£3,342
Accommodation (including utilities)	£566	£739	£5,093	£6,655
Personal items	£122	£271	£1,098	£2,435
Social activities	£42	£126	£380	£1,138
Study costs	£40	£88	£359	£788
Other	£23	£48	£208	£432
Total	£1,058	£1,643	£9,525	£14,790

In order to provide these likely living costs, the University and the Oxford University Students’ Union 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 likely lower and upper ranges above are based on a single student with no dependants living in college accommodation (including utility bills) and are provided for information only. When planning your finances for future years of study at Oxford beyond 2019-20, you should allow for an estimated increase in living expenses of 3% each year.