



## **Course Information Sheet for entry in 2018-19**

### **MPhil in Evidence-Based Social Intervention and Policy Evaluation**

#### **About the course**

The MPhil in Evidence-Based Social Intervention and Policy Evaluation (EBSIPE) emphasises research methods for evaluating interventions and policies, as well as the advanced study of evidence-based practice, with, for example, children and families, mental health problems, refugees, drug users and HIV prevention. It will lead students to produce substantial independent research thesis.

The MPhil is designed for students with a specific interest in understanding the effectiveness of policies, such as regulations and laws, and social interventions, such as cash transfers or parenting education. It prepares students for a career in, for example, development or public policy. Applicants with a professional background, such as those in evaluation, public health or consulting, will enhance their research skills and develop a major piece of research in a world-class environment.

The MPhil has five major components:

- MPhil thesis
- core course on evaluation methods
- pathway course, either Social Intervention or Policy Evaluation
- specialist option, eg on HIV prevention or community-level programmes and policies
- research methods training.

Assessment will be based on your MPhil thesis, a methods workbook and two three-hour written exams.

#### **MPhil thesis**

You will write a research thesis of 30,000 words to acquire expert knowledge in your area of interest, to apply the research methods, and contribute to new scientific knowledge.

#### **Core course in evaluation methods**

This course, taken over two terms, trains students to critically consume and produce evaluation research for social policies and interventions, focusing on randomised controlled trials and quasi-random experimentation.

#### **Pathway course**

You will select one of two available pathways, to be taken over two terms:

- Social Intervention, covering evidence-based methods to evaluate social interventions, theories underlying interventions, ethical issues, and applying research in practice and policy; or
- Policy Evaluation, introducing you to social policy analysis and to different research methods for evaluating policies, eg quasi-experimental designs, natural experiments.

You may be able to change your choice of pathway in the first week of the programme.

#### **Specialist options**

You will take two one-term specialist courses from a list of options which may include Children and Families, Prevention of HIV and AIDS, Community Analysis and Intervention, and options offered by the MPhil in Comparative Social Policy such as Comparative Labour Market Policies.

MPhil students may attend advanced methods classes, such as Intermediate Statistics, in their second year.

#### **Research methods training**

In addition to the core evaluation methods course, the MPhil EBSIPE teaches:

- qualitative research methods, ie design, data collection, analysis and systematic reviews
- quantitative methods, ie key statistical concepts and application in the leading software, R
- field methods, ie managing, costing and running real-world evaluations
- systematic reviews, ie learn to synthesise the best available evidence.

Specialist interdisciplinary training in systematic reviews has led to published masters' theses, eg van Urk (2014) and Grant (2013).

### **Changes to courses**

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.

### **Expected length of course**

21 months

## Costs

### Annual fees for entry in 2018-19

Fee status	Tuition fee	College fee	Total annual fees
Home/EU (including Islands)	£12,670	£3,112	£15,782
Overseas	£19,915	£3,112	£23,027

The fees shown above are the annual tuition and college fees for this course for entry in the stated academic year; 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.

Tuition and college 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 tuition and college fees).

### Additional cost information

There are no compulsory elements of this course that entail additional costs beyond fees and living costs. However, as part of your course requirements, you may need to choose a dissertation, a project or a thesis topic. Please note that, 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 tuition and college fees, you will need to ensure that you have adequate funds to support your living costs for the duration of your course.

The likely living costs for 2018-19 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 1 month		Likely living costs for 9 months		Likely living costs for 12 months	
	Lower range	Upper range	Lower range	Upper range	Lower range	Upper range
<b>Food</b>	£258	£361	£2,318	£3,245	£3,090	£4,326
<b>Accommodation</b>	£536	£677	£4,824	£6,093	£6,432	£8,124
<b>Personal items</b>	£118	£263	£1,066	£2,364	£1,421	£3,152
<b>Social activities</b>	£41	£123	£369	£1,105	£492	£1,474
<b>Study costs</b>	£39	£85	£348	£765	£464	£1,020
<b>Other</b>	£22	£47	£202	£419	£269	£559
<b>Total</b>	£1,014	£1,556	£9,127	£13,991	£12,168	£18,655

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

More information about how these figures have been calculated is available at [www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/livingcosts](http://www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/livingcosts).