

Course Information Sheet for entry in 2023-24: MPhil in Global and Area Studies



About the course

The MPhil in Global and Area Studies draws on the multidisciplinary and area expertise of OSGA's seven regional centres, to deliver an innovative Comparative Area Studies programme, which addresses contemporary global challenges through developing innovative multidisciplinary approaches.

The overall objectives of the MPhil are:

1. To provide you with a multi-/interdisciplinary and comparative understanding of different regions of the world;
2. To allow you to work on key thematic global challenges from a comparative area studies perspective;
3. To equip you with the conceptual and theoretical expertise to interrogate the notions of 'area', 'comparative area' and the implications for disciplinary enquiry;
4. To embed inter-cultural understanding and global citizenship in the study of area;
5. To develop research methods and skills that are appropriate for the comparative study of areas and regions including through the development of new digital approaches for area studies; and
6. To promote a wider international network of area studies scholars and practitioners.

Course structure

The course is structured around six study components, facilitating an interdisciplinary approach to comparative study across two or more regions and a critical approach to area studies.

Courses are taught through a combination of lectures and classes. You will be required to submit essays and make class presentations. Through a Research Methods element, you will receive relevant training in methodologies to enable you to carry out research and writing for your 30,000 word thesis. The thesis is expected to incorporate a global, transnational or comparative area studies approach and/or to address key cross-region global challenges from an area studies perspective.

Option courses will vary from year to year.

In addition, lively programmes of seminars, workshops and conferences throughout OSGA will complement the MPhil and you are encouraged to make the most of these opportunities.

The six study components are:

1. Theories and Approaches in Global and Area Studies
2. Comparative Area Studies
3. Research Methods for Social Sciences and Humanities
4. Area Studies immersion
5. Specialist Area Studies Options
6. Comparative Area Studies Research Thesis.

First year

In your first year you will study the following:

- Core Course 1- Competing Approaches in Area Studies
- One Comparative Area Studies Course from a list of options
- Research Methods: Qualitative Methods
- One additional research methods course: Quantitative Methods or Historical Methods
- One Area Studies course from a list of options.

You will also submit a Research Proposal in preparation for the thesis submission

Second year

In your second year, you will study:

- Core Course 2 - Global Area Studies Seminar
- Two Area (or Comparative Area, or other approved) Studies courses from a list of options.

During this year, you will undertake a period of Area Studies immersion. Immersion options include but are not necessarily limited to: a period of overseas or domestic fieldwork research for your thesis; the development of advanced language skills; auditing relevant substantive courses delivered at a partner university or approved alternative; an internship period at a relevant organisation.

You will also submit one 30,000 word thesis.

Supervision

The allocation of graduate supervision is the responsibility of the Oxford School of Global and Area Studies and it is not always possible to accommodate the preferences of incoming graduate students to work with a particular member of staff. Under exceptional circumstances a supervisor may be found outside the Oxford School of Global and Area Studies.

You will typically meet with your supervisor three to four times per term.

You will initially be allocated a supervisor according to your initial research and subject interests. The supervisor will typically share your broad interests and will monitor your overall progress. The supervisor will help you to identify a viable topic and offer guidance regarding secondary literature, primary sources, appropriate methodologies, any fieldwork planned, and a research and writing timetable. The supervisor will also oversee your integration into OSGA and the GAS programme. With this support you will present an essay setting out your proposed research and you will present this proposal in a thesis workshop during Trinity Term of the first year. This provides an additional opportunity for you to receive feedback from academic members of staff and peers. At this point, if your thesis topic has progressed in a different direction to that anticipated, your supervisory arrangements may be reviewed.

By the end of the Trinity term, you will be expected to have developed a thesis outline, identified the means (eg field or archival work) through which you will gather your primary sources, and agreed a timetable for the summer and Michaelmas term work with your supervisor. During the second year, you will present your work in progress thesis in research seminar workshops or webinars convened for this purpose. Further arrangements for feedback and comments on drafts will progress through a series of meetings held by arrangement between you and your supervisor during the Hilary term of the second year.

Assessment

The MPhil in Global and Area Studies is assessed using a range of formative and summative assessments. Whilst many OSGA option courses are assessed through written examinations, other elements of the course involve a range of different assessment modalities.

Core courses

- Competing Approaches to Area Studies (year one): Assessed by an end of year written examination, allowing for integration of the course content with the rest of the programme.
- Global and Area Studies (year two): Assessed by essay submission in Trinity (Summer) term of your second year.

Research Methods Courses

- Qualitative Methods: Assessed by submission in Michaelmas (Autumn) term in your first year.
- Quantitative Methods: Assessed by submission in Hilary (Spring) term in your first year.
- Historical Research Methods: Assessed by submission of an essay in Hilary (Spring) term of your first year.

Research Proposal

A research proposal is to be submitted during Trinity term of your first year for formative purposes, providing an important building block in your thesis preparation.

Comparative Area Studies courses

Courses are typically assessed by an end of year written examination or essay submission.

Option courses

Courses are typically assessed by an end of year written examination or essay submission.

Research Thesis

The thesis will be submitted in Trinity term of the second year of the course.

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. These may include significant changes made necessary by a pandemic (including Covid-19), epidemic or local health emergency. For

further information, please see the University's Terms and Conditions (<http://www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/terms>) and our page on changes to courses (<http://www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/coursechanges>).

Expected length of course

| | Full Time Only |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Expected length | 21 months |

Costs

Annual fees for entry in 2023-24

| Fee status | Annual Course fees |
|------------|--------------------|
| Home | £24,800 |
| Overseas | £29,700 |

Information about course fees

Course 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 course fees). 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 (<http://www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/terms>).

Course fees cover your teaching as well as other academic services and facilities provided to support your studies. Unless specified in the additional cost information (below), course fees do not cover your accommodation, residential costs or other living costs. They also don't cover any additional costs and charges that are outlined in the additional cost information.

Additional cost information

Whilst there are no compulsory elements of this programme that entail additional costs beyond fees and living costs, students may incur additional expenses, such as travel expenses, research expenses, and field trips, depending on a student's choice of research topic and the research required to complete it. Each student will need to meet these additional costs themselves.

Living costs

In addition to your course 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 2023-24 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 one month

| | Lower range | Upper range |
|--------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Food | £300 | £470 |
| Accommodation | £715 | £860 |
| Personal items | £180 | £305 |
| Social activities | £40 | £90 |
| Study costs | £35 | £80 |
| Other | £20 | £35 |
| Total | £1,290 | £1,840 |

Likely living costs for nine months

| | Lower range | Upper range |
|--------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Food | £2,700 | £4,230 |
| Accommodation | £6,435 | £7,740 |
| Personal items | £1,620 | £2,745 |
| Social activities | £360 | £810 |
| Study costs | £315 | £720 |
| Other | £180 | £315 |
| Total | £11,610 | £16,560 |

Likely living costs for twelve months

| | Lower range | Upper range |
|--------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Food | £3,600 | £5,640 |
| Accommodation | £8,580 | £10,320 |
| Personal items | £2,160 | £3,660 |
| Social activities | £480 | £1,080 |
| Study costs | £420 | £960 |
| Other | £240 | £420 |
| Total | £15,480 | £22,080 |

When planning your finances for any future years of study at Oxford beyond 2023-24, it is suggested that you allow for potential increases in living expenses of 5% or more each year – although this rate may vary significantly depending on how the national economic situation develops.

More information about how these figures have been calculated is available at www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/livingcosts.

Document accessibility

If you require an accessible version of the document please contact Graduate Admissions and Recruitment by email (graduate.admissions@admin.ox.ac.uk) or via the online form (<http://www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/ask>).