

## Course Information Sheet for entry in 2023-24: MPhil in History



### About the course

The MPhil in History is an innovative and intensive two-year course that provides a thorough training in historical methods. It offers a range of specialist options that draw on the latest research, and includes a sustained period devoted to archival research and writing.

The MPhil in History is an umbrella programme, comprising nine specific strands:

- Medieval History
- Early Modern History, 1500-1700
- British and European History, 1700-1850
- Modern British History, 1850 to the Present
- Modern European History, 1850 to the Present
- US History
- Intellectual History
- History of War
- Women's, Gender and Queer History

While all students will apply for and follow a specific strand, they will share common courses - Theory and Methods and Writing History - and they will also have a free choice of options. In this way, the course gives access to a wide range of both general and specialised training within the field of history.

You can find more information on the course webpage and on each strand's webpage.

The MPhil is open to students with interests in any period of British, European or American history (which may also include non-European elements, eg European expansion, Empire building or emigration). Those primarily interested in other parts of the world may like to consider the MSt in Global and Imperial History. The course will encourage you to develop practical and intellectual familiarity with advanced research in British, American and/or continental European history.

It can serve either as free-standing master's course or as comprehensive preparation for DPhil research in the fields of history within its scope.

Teaching will comprise:

- Core courses in Sources and Historiography, and Theory and Methods taught in weekly classes during Michaelmas term of the first year, complemented by your work with your supervisor on the individual research element of the programme
- An optional subject taught in six weekly classes during Hilary term of the first year
- Core course in Writing History course taught in weekly classes in Trinity term of the first year, complementing previous work done on historiography, sources and methods by exploring the challenges faced by historians regarding the framing, structuring and presentation of their work
- Core course in Historical Concepts, Methods and Controversies taught in weekly classes in Hilary term of the second year, during which you are invited to relate your own dissertation research to wider historiographical, theoretical and methodological issues
- Auxiliary skills. Up to 40 hours of lectures, classes, or tutorials in Michaelmas and Hilary terms in the first year.

Full details of core and optional papers are available on the department's website. Please note that not every optional subject listed may be on offer every year.

The summer vacation between the two years and the Michaelmas term of the second year is dedicated to archival research, providing the basis of a dissertation which is written up for submission in week six of Trinity term of the second year.

If you wish to apply for the DPhil you will be encouraged to develop your doctoral proposal in consultation with your supervisor during the first few months of your second year, so that you will be well placed to make a doctoral application.

You will have access to a comprehensive menu of skills training for graduate students, as well as a systematic schedule of introductions to the unrivalled research facilities of the University of Oxford. If necessary for your project, you will be encouraged to develop your knowledge of a foreign language in parallel to your course work.

## Supervision

The allocation of graduate supervision for this course is the responsibility of the Faculty of History 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 Faculty of History.

An Oxford academic's pre-application indication of willingness to supervise an enquiring applicant is not a guarantee that the applicant will be offered a place, or that the supervisor in question has capacity in that particular year.

You should meet your supervisor in Michaelmas term of year one, to identify your training needs and agree a definitive title for your project. You should also arrange to meet your supervisor one or two further times during Michaelmas term, and once a term in Hilary and Trinity, to discuss progress on your dissertation. During Michaelmas term of year two, you should set up a timetable of meetings (up to six) with your supervisor for the coming year, to discuss DPhil application and finalise plans for completing your dissertation.

## Assessment

The Theory and Methods, and Sources and Historiography core courses are examined by an assessed essay submitted at the end of Michaelmas term of year one. You must also submit an annotated bibliography and dissertation proposal.

The optional subject will be examined according to the regulations governing the course, which could be by assessed essay or by examination.

The Writing History core course is examined by an assessed essay submitted at the end of Trinity term of year one. The Historical Concepts, Methods and Controversies classes are examined by an assessed essay submitted at the end of Hilary term of year two.

Finally, you will be assessed by means of a dissertation, which is written up for submission at the end of Trinity term of the second year.

## 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	£13,050
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

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 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
<b>Food</b>	£300	£470
<b>Accommodation</b>	£715	£860
<b>Personal items</b>	£180	£305
<b>Social activities</b>	£40	£90
<b>Study costs</b>	£35	£80
<b>Other</b>	£20	£35
<b>Total</b>	£1,290	£1,840

### Likely living costs for nine months

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

### Likely living costs for twelve months

	Lower range	Upper range
<b>Food</b>	£3,600	£5,640
<b>Accommodation</b>	£8,580	£10,320
<b>Personal items</b>	£2,160	£3,660
<b>Social activities</b>	£480	£1,080
<b>Study costs</b>	£420	£960
<b>Other</b>	£240	£420
<b>Total</b>	£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](http://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](mailto:graduate.admissions@admin.ox.ac.uk)) or via the online form (<http://www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/ask>).