

Course Information Sheet for entry in 2023-24: MPhil in Latin American Studies



About the course

This course offers an interdisciplinary approach towards the understanding of modern Latin America, allowing you to develop an in-depth research project that may involve a period of fieldwork in the region.

This is a 21-month programme which spans six academic terms, including a fieldwork project in Latin America (up to three months). The course will be informed by a range of disciplines: history, political science, sociology, economics and international relations. Major trends in the development of Latin America will be analysed with reference to the main categories of explanation advanced to interpret that development.

In the first year, students will choose two disciplinary papers from the following:

- Latin America since Independence
- Introduction to the Latin American Economies
- Sociology of Latin America
- The International Relations of Latin America
- The Politics of Democracy in Latin America.

In addition, students will choose three option papers, or may substitute these with further disciplinary papers. One paper will be taken in the first year, and two papers in the second year. As a guide, the following option papers are currently available but may vary from year to year:

- Andean Politics
- Human Rights in Latin America
- The Politics of Brazil
- Drug Trafficking and Organised Crime State & Society in Latin America

The course will provide you with a critical understanding of the major elements in the development of Latin America over the past two hundred years. You will be taught to relate economic and political trends, and to assess the importance of international influences. The course will demonstrate the way in which different disciplines contribute to an overall understanding of the historical development of the continent. You will also be taught the importance and the limitations of the comparative method of analysis.

A lively programme of LAC seminars, workshops and conferences with visiting speakers complements the MPhil programme, and you are encouraged to make the most of these opportunities to meet with and learn from fellow Latin Americanists.

A typical week during term time will involve around 40 hours of study, including two to six hours of scheduled contact hours, two hours for the weekly seminar and at least thirty hours of independent work. During peak times around deadlines, the amount of work could be higher depending on your own study habits.

Supervision

The allocation of graduate supervision for this course 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.

Assessment

Year One

In your first year, assessments for the disciplinary and option papers will be by a combination of written exam papers and/or submitted essays. Additionally, you will be required to attend and participate in the research methods course organised in collaboration with other units from the Oxford School of Global and Area Studies, and to satisfy the assessment criteria for that course.

During the first year, you will also work with your supervisor on your thesis proposal and preparation for field work, and will write a number of essays to be arranged with the various tutors of each of the courses. The timetable and subject of the essays should be

arranged with the tutors of the respective courses. Assessments at the end of the first year will serve to qualify for entry to the second year of the course.

Year Two

In the second year, you will be expected to write a thesis.

Assessments for the option papers or further disciplinary papers will be by a combination of written exam papers and/or submitted essays, or with the permission of your supervisor, the LAC Administrator and the relevant department, you may take methodologies or other assessment papers from another MPhil of the University of Oxford as appropriate. In the second year, you may be required to attend a viva voce as part of the examinations process.

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 | £16,610 |
| Overseas | £26,450 |

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

You will need to cover all costs related to the compulsory fieldwork element of this course, eg travel and living expenses. Travel to Chile from the UK is estimated to cost between £900 and £1600. Monthly living expenses (accommodation and food) are expected to range from £300 to £600. Other costs, including visas, photocopying, researcher fees for some institutions are expected to be in the region of £200. You will also need to cover the cost of travel to the workshop sessions that comprise some of the course content; all of these sessions currently take place in London. You may be eligible to apply for grants from the Latin American Centre and/or external sources, to assist with these costs. You may also be eligible to apply for small grants from your college. You may also 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. Standard travel insurance can be provided by the University. However, students may be required to pay any additional insurance premiums associated with travel to areas with an increased level of risk, and should factor this into their planning for fieldwork.

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>).