

## Course Information Sheet for entry in 2023-24: MPhil in Politics (Political Theory)



### About the course

The MPhil in Politics (Political Theory) is an advanced two-year postgraduate degree, which provides training in research techniques and methodology and enables you to acquire substantive knowledge in this sub-area of the discipline. It is also suitable if you wish to later embark upon doctoral research.

The MPhil in Politics (Political Theory) provides an advanced training in political theory (covering analytical political philosophy, critical theory, and the history of political thought), and the research methods appropriate to the discipline. It provides a range of educational experiences in a variety of learning environments to develop your written and oral communication skills as well as other technical skills. It will also provide you with a solid foundation for a wide range of careers, including academic, professional, commercial, diplomatic and governmental positions.

The Department of Politics and International Relations (DPIR) is internationally recognised as a leading centre for teaching and research in political theory, and counts among its members a number of acknowledged authorities within this discipline. It is also home to research centres and programmes within this field, including the Oxford Political Theory Network and the Centre for the Study of Social Justice.

In the first year, you must complete the core classes and tutorials in the theory of politics and a programme of research methods training, which includes core courses in reasoning in political philosophy and in approaches to the study of political theory.

In your second year, you will write a thesis and complete two specialist optional papers. Options offered in recent years have included:

- Political Theories of Hegel and Marx
- Mitigating Historical Injustice
- Critical Theory
- Contemporary Political Philosophy
- Normative Political Economy: The Ethics of Economic Systems and Social Policy
- Reasonable Disagreement and Political argument.

The approach to teaching comprises intensive and interactive work between you and your supervisor and course teachers, combined with a carefully planned programme of classes, seminars and lectures, as well as directed self-study. Work on the thesis is individually supervised.

### Supervision

The allocation of graduate supervision for this course is the responsibility of the Department of Politics and International Relations and it is not always possible to accommodate the preferences of incoming graduate students to work with a particular member of staff. Supervisors are usually selected from the academic staff within the Department of Politics and International Relations. Under exceptional circumstances a supervisor may be found outside the Department of Politics and International Relations.

Students can expect to meet with their supervisor approximately three times each term.

### Assessment

At the end of your first year, you have to sit a written examination in the core subject, submit a research design proposal as preparation for the MPhil thesis and successfully pass three research methods assessments.

Progression to the second year is conditional on passing all of the first year assessments.

At the end of the course, you are required to sit written examinations in the two option papers of your choice and submit a thesis.

### 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	£20,770
Overseas	£31,540

### 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 and vaccination expenses, conference attendance, 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>).