

Course Information Sheet for entry in 2023-24: MSc in Energy Systems



About the course

The MSc in Energy Systems augments world-leading research from the Department of Engineering Science with contributions from the Departments of Physics, Materials Science, Chemistry and the School of Geography and the Environment.

The course is designed to be accessible by those who have a highly numerate first degree (see entry requirements for greater detail) and will be taught using a modular framework to ensure that students are able to progress at their own predetermined speed.

The course structure is comprised of a combination of teaching methods, to provide a stimulating learning environment: taught modules, a small group case study project, a whole cohort exercise, industrial and relevant stakeholder visits and a dissertation.

The taught modules are divided into three core themes: Resources, Systems and Services, exploring the production and supply of energy and the societal and political implications involved. Each module is taught over one or two weeks depending on the subject, from 0900 - 1600, Monday to Friday, and will utilise innovative methods such as project based and student led peer-to-peer learning with ample opportunity for discussion. Teaching modules will be closely aligned with current research within the University.

This approach is expected to provide students with an optimal balance of working with sector stakeholders to develop understanding from taught elements while broadening personal horizons.

Course teaching is concentrated in the first two terms of the academic year, leaving the final term for non-taught course components. The taught modules and unassessed skills training run for up to seven hours per day for all weeks of Michaelmas and Hilary terms. Trinity term is dedicated to the three non-taught assessed components of the course with the dissertation running all the way through to submission on or around the final week in the August after admission.

The course's three foundation modules are Energy Sources, Energy Infrastructure and Energy Demand. There are seven further one-week modules: Energy Conversion 1, Energy for Development, Energy Conversion 2, Energy and Society, Digitization, Smart Energy and Communication, Energy Policy and Governance, and Energy Systems: Economics and Markets.

Further information about studying part time

For students on the two year variant, in the first year students will study modules from the Resources and Systems themes. During the second year they will study the modules from the Services theme and complete the Whole Cohort Exercise and dissertation. This generally means that the students will study for two weeks in every three for Michaelmas and Hilary terms, though in the second year students will have a full Trinity term and summer vacation period. For students on the three year variant, students will study the modules of the Resources theme in the first year, the Systems in the second and Services in the third. They will also complete the Small Group Case Study in the first year, the Whole Cohort Exercise in the second and the dissertation in the third. Practically they will attend one module approximately every three weeks in the first two terms of each academic year.

As a part-time student you will be required to attend modules and other obligations in Oxford for a minimum of 20 days each year (36 months part-time) or 30 days each year (24 months part-time). There will be limited flexibility in the dates and pattern of attendance, which will be determined by mutual agreement with the Course Director. Attendance will be required during term-time five days each week during Michaelmas and Hilary Terms on dates to be confirmed by the programme's module schedule. Students may additionally be required to attend in person for 5 days each week for up to 3 weeks during Trinity Term. Attendance will be required outside of term-time five day(s) each week for up to three weeks, but if the Course Director agrees, this attendance will not require a physical presence in Oxford.

Supervision

The allocation of graduate supervision for this course is the responsibility of the Department of Engineering Science and it is not always possible to accommodate the preferences of incoming graduate students to work with a particular member of staff. A supervisor may be found outside the Department of Engineering Science. We expect the student to meet their supervisor for at least one hour per fortnight as a minimum but once per week is more expected.

Assessment

There are three extended assessed activities: a group-based case study; a whole cohort output based on a specific energy-relevant visit; and an individual dissertation. Each taught module is assessed by a written assignment.

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	Part Time	Part Time
Expected length	1 year	2 yrs	3 yrs

Costs

Annual fees for entry in 2023-24

Full-time study

Fee status	Annual Course fees
Home	£21,830
Overseas	£30,910

Part-time study (2 year course, TM_GP6A9P1)

Fee status	Annual Course fees
Home	£10,915
Overseas	£15,455

Part-time study (3 year course, TM_GP6B9P1)

Fee status	Annual Course fees
Home	£7,635
Overseas	£9,975

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

Full-time study

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.

Part-time study (2 year course, TM_GP6A9P1)

Please note that this course requires that you attend in Oxford for teaching, and you may incur additional travel and accommodation expenses for this. Further, as part of your course requirements, you may need to choose a dissertation, a project or a thesis topic. Depending on your choice of topic and the research required to complete it, you may incur additional expenses such as travel expenses.

Part-time study (3 year course, TM_GP6B9P1)

Please note that this course requires that you attend in Oxford for teaching, and you may incur additional travel and accommodation expenses for this. Further, as part of your course requirements, you may need to choose a dissertation, a project or a thesis topic. Depending on your choice of topic and the research required to complete it, you may incur additional expenses such as travel 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.

If you are studying part-time your living costs may vary depending on your personal circumstances but you must still ensure that you will have sufficient funding to meet these 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>).