



Course Information Sheet for entry in 2018-19

MSt in Diplomatic Studies

About the course

The Oxford University Diplomatic Studies Programme, also known as the Foreign Service Programme, is a one-year programme of mixed academic and vocational study of diplomacy and related subjects.

Diplomatic Studies Programme

From 2018, the Diplomatic Studies Programme will comprise:

- PGDip in Diplomatic Studies, a nine-month full-time course (October to June)
- MSt in Diplomatic Studies, a twelve-month full-time course (October to September)

Students admitted to the PGDip will have the opportunity to apply to transfer mid-year to the MSt, subject to UK visa requirements, on demonstration of the necessary academic potential and English language ability.

The Diplomatic Studies Programme aims to equip each of its members with the knowledge and skills required for diplomacy in today and tomorrow's world, and the confidence on which to base a successful diplomatic career within a foreign ministry, international organisation or elsewhere. The programme will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2019 and its alumni occupy a large number of senior posts in the diplomatic field.

The DSP is specifically designed for early- to mid-career diplomats. The majority of its members are established diplomats proposed for the course by their governments, who return to their diplomatic careers after the course is over. A few non-diplomats with relevant academic background and professional experience are included. Geographical representation on the course is extremely broad and you will have the opportunity to benefit significantly from exchange of experience between each other and with alumni.

Course structure and content

The Master of Studies (MSt) in Diplomatic Studies comprises four taught courses, assessed by four year-end examinations, plus the completion of a substantial research project.

Together with the PGDip students, you will undertake an intensive course on aspects of current diplomatic practice, and courses on international politics, public international law and international trade and finance. As well as key issues of the day, the DSP places emphasis on national and regional issues relevant to countries and regions from which the participants come.

The course centres on lectures, seminars and tutorials in which you will meet your tutors in small groups and discuss your work. There are practical exercises, for example in negotiation, crisis management, public speaking and handling media interviews. There are many guest speakers, both professional and academic, and there may be occasional lunches or dinners with guests. Contact hours would typically amount to 150 lectures/seminars and 20 tutorials. Preparation for these is self-directed work.

In addition to the four taught courses, you will be required to complete a substantial research project leading to a dissertation up to 15,000 words on a related topic of your choice. You will have research methods classes to help you with methodology, and will have a supervisor to oversee your private research. The dissertation offers you an opportunity to undertake supervised in-depth research, using Oxford's generous research facilities, and to write a long paper on a topic you are passionate about.

Besides the taught and research elements of the course, you will be encouraged to take advantage of the broad range of opportunities available to you as a member of the University and one of its colleges, for example by attending lectures held elsewhere in the University and/or by improving your knowledge of other languages.

More information on a typical year's curriculum is available on the DSP website.

Study tours

As part of the course in diplomatic practice, the DSP includes study visits to government departments, international organisations and business and media institutions in the United Kingdom and elsewhere in Europe. A study tour to Northern Ireland may also take place.

Languages

The working language of the course is English. You will be accepted only if you can demonstrate that you possess the necessary English language skills.

For non-native speakers, advanced English language classes are an integral part of the Diplomatic Studies Programme. One advantage of the course is the opportunity it offers to build up and polish to a very high and sustained standard of effectiveness and fluency your command of the English language, the major international and diplomatic language in today's world.

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. For further information, please see the University's Terms and Conditions.

Expected length of course

12 months

Costs

Annual fees for entry in 2018-19

Fee status	Tuition fee	College fee	Total annual fees
Home/EU (including Islands)	£19,915	£3,112	£23,027
Overseas	£19,915	£3,112	£23,027

The fees shown above are the annual tuition and college fees for this course for entry in the stated academic year; 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.

Tuition and college 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 tuition and college fees).

Additional cost information

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 will 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, 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 tuition and college 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 2018-19 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 1 month		Likely living costs for 9 months		Likely living costs for 12 months	
	Lower range	Upper range	Lower range	Upper range	Lower range	Upper range
Food	£258	£361	£2,318	£3,245	£3,090	£4,326
Accommodation	£536	£677	£4,824	£6,093	£6,432	£8,124
Personal items	£118	£263	£1,066	£2,364	£1,421	£3,152
Social activities	£41	£123	£369	£1,105	£492	£1,474
Study costs	£39	£85	£348	£765	£464	£1,020
Other	£22	£47	£202	£419	£269	£559
Total	£1,014	£1,556	£9,127	£13,991	£12,168	£18,655

When planning your finances for any future years of study at Oxford beyond 2018-19, you should allow for an estimated increase in living expenses of 3% each year.

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