

Course Information Sheet for entry in 2023-24: MSt in History



About the course

The MSt in History aims to improve your practical and intellectual grasp of research processes, ability to conceptualise and engage with historical problems, and enlarge your understanding of the historical and historiographical context within which your own research is set.

The MSt 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 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 on the faculty website and on each strand's webpage.

The MSt 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. You will also be encouraged to develop key research skills in parallel to your course work: these include the ability to read and interpret manuscript sources, the development of IT skills and competence in Latin or modern foreign languages.

The programme may be studied in full-time or part-time mode.

The full-time programme offers a nine-month introduction to graduate research. It is designed to meet the needs of students who wish to build upon their undergraduate studies through one year of further study, and also those hoping to proceed to doctoral work. The latter will be encouraged to develop their master's and doctoral proposals in tandem during the first few months, so that they will be well placed to make doctoral applications in January. You will be invited to present and receive feedback on your work-in-progress at a conference specific to this programme at the start of Trinity term.

The part-time programme offers the same introduction to graduate research, but over 21 months. Please refer to the department's course webpage for further details about the part-time structure of the course.

This course cannot be undertaken on a distance-learning basis.

Teaching comprises:

- Core courses in Sources and Historiography, and Theory and Methods taught through introductory lectures, and weekly classes during Michaelmas term
- Auxiliary skills - up to 40 hours of lectures, classes, or tutorials during Michaelmas and Hilary terms
- An optional subject, taught in six weekly classes during Hilary term.

Full details of core and optional papers are available on the department's course webpage. Please note that not every optional subject listed may be on offer every year, depending in part on levels of student demand.

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.

You are expected to commit the Easter vacation and the first seven weeks of Trinity term to work on finalising your dissertation (see the Assessment section below for further details), but you will begin developing a research strategy in conjunction with your supervisor from October.

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 master's course, so that you will be well placed to make a doctoral application.

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.

You will meet your supervisor early in Michaelmas term to identify your training needs and arrange three or four further meetings throughout the term to finalise your research proposal. You will also meet your supervisor about three times in Hilary term to work on your individual research and writing your dissertation. You should also submit a draft of your dissertation to supervisor in Trinity term and arrange to discuss it with them.

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.

Assessment

The core courses are assessed by a methodology essay, submitted at the start of Hilary term. You must also submit a dissertation proposal and annotated bibliography.

The optional subject course is assessed according to the regulations for that course, usually an assessed essay or exam, at the end of Hilary term.

Finally, you will be assessed by means of a dissertation written on a topic falling within the scope of this your MSt strand and submitted at the end of Trinity term, usually within the historical period of your optional subject.

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
Expected length	9 months	21 months

Costs

Annual fees for entry in 2023-24

Full-time study

Fee status	Annual Course fees
Home	£13,550
Overseas	£30,910

Part-time study

Fee status	Annual Course fees
Home	£6,775
Overseas	£15,455

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

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.

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>).