

## Mathematics and Philosophy Information Sheet for entry in 2021

This course brings together two of the most fundamental and widely-applicable intellectual skills. Mathematical knowledge and the ability to use it is the most important means of tackling quantifiable problems, while philosophical training enhances the ability to analyse issues, question received assumptions and clearly articulate understanding. The combination provides a powerful background from which to proceed to graduate study in either mathematics or philosophy or to pursue a diverse range of careers.

Historically, there have been strong links between mathematics and philosophy; logic, an important branch of both subjects, provides a natural bridge between the two, as does the Philosophy of mathematics module. The degree is founded on the belief that the parallel study of these related disciplines can significantly enhance your understanding of each.

The Philosophy Faculty is the largest in the UK and one of the largest in the world, with more than 70 full-time members and admitting around 450 undergraduates annually to read the various degrees involving philosophy. Many faculty members have a worldwide reputation, and the faculty has the highest research ratings of any philosophy department in the UK. The Philosophy Library is among the best in the country. The large number of undergraduates and graduates reading philosophy with a variety of other disciplines affords the opportunity to participate in a diverse and lively philosophical community.

In turn, the Mathematics Department, housed in the Andrew Wiles Building, is also one of the largest and best in the UK and contains within it many world-class research groups. This is reflected in the wide choice of mathematics topics available to you, especially in the fourth year.

### A typical week

- Years 1 and 2: up to ten lectures a week, two–three tutorials a week
- Years 3 and 4: up to eight lectures a week. Equivalent of eight units taken each year. Weekly tutorials per philosophy subject. Fortnightly classes per mathematics unit.

Tutorials are usually 2-4 students and a tutor. Class sizes may vary depending on the options you choose. There would usually be around 8-12 students though classes for some of the more popular papers may be larger. Most tutorials, classes, and lectures are delivered by staff who are tutors in their subject. Many are world-leading experts with years of experience in teaching and research. Some teaching may also be delivered by postgraduate students who are usually studying at doctorate level.

To find out more about how our teaching year is structured, visit our [Academic Year](#) page.

**Course structure**

There are two Mathematics and Philosophy degrees, the three-year BA and the four-year MMathPhil. Decisions regarding continuation to the fourth year do not have to be made until the third year.

The mathematics units in this joint course are all from the single-subject Mathematics course. Accordingly, the standard in mathematics for admission to the joint course is the same as for admission to the single-subject Mathematics course. The compulsory core mathematics for the joint course consists mainly of the pure (as opposed to applied) mathematics from the compulsory core for the single-subject Mathematics course. The philosophy units for the Mathematics and Philosophy course are mostly shared with the other courses with philosophy.

In the first year, all parts of the course are compulsory. In the second and third years some subjects are compulsory, consisting of core mathematics and philosophy and bridge papers on philosophy of mathematics and on foundations (logic and set theory), but you also choose options. In the fourth year, there are no compulsory subjects, and you can do all mathematics, all philosophy, or a combination of the two.

YEAR 1	
<p><b>COURSES</b></p> <p>Mathematics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Algebra</li> <li>• Analysis</li> <li>• Calculus and probability</li> </ul> <p>Philosophy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elements of deductive logic</li> <li>• General philosophy</li> <li>• Frege, <i>Foundations of Arithmetic</i></li> </ul>	<p><b>ASSESSMENT</b></p> <p>First University examinations: five compulsory written papers</p>
YEAR 2 AND 3	
<p><b>COURSES</b></p> <p>Mathematics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Core pure mathematics (Algebra, Metric spaces, Complex analysis)</li> <li>• Foundations (Set theory, Logic)</li> <li>• Intermediate mathematics options</li> </ul> <p>Philosophy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knowledge and reality <i>or</i> Early Modern philosophy</li> <li>• Philosophy of mathematics</li> <li>• Further philosophy paper</li> </ul>	<p><b>ASSESSMENT</b></p> <p>Final University examinations, Part A (Year 2): two written papers on pure mathematics core and two written papers on mathematics options</p> <p>Final University examinations, Part B (Year 3): four 90-minute exams in mathematics and three three-hour papers in philosophy and either two further 90-minute mathematics exams or one further three-hour philosophy paper (or the equivalent)</p>

YEAR 4	
<p><b>COURSES</b></p> <p>Mathematics, advanced options including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Axiomatic set theory</li> <li>• Elliptic curves</li> <li>• Gödel’s incompleteness theorems</li> <li>• Infinite groups</li> <li>• Model theory</li> <li>• Stochastic differential equations</li> <li>• Optional mathematics dissertation</li> </ul> <p>Philosophy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advanced options in philosophy</li> <li>• Optional philosophy thesis</li> </ul>	<p><b>ASSESSMENT</b></p> <p>Final University Examinations, Part C: philosophy subjects include a 5000-word essay. Students study three philosophy subjects or eight mathematics units, or a mixture of the two disciplines. A 2:1 is currently required to progress to Part C.</p>

The University will seek to deliver each course in accordance with the descriptions 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](#).

**Teaching delivery**

At the time of writing course information sheets for 2021/22 entry, the COVID-19 pandemic was still impacting the University. A range of measures have been put in place to comply with Government legislation and guidance in response to the pandemic, and to help keep students, staff and the wider community safe.

Inevitably, some changes have been necessary to teaching and student services during the pandemic (for example, a greater amount of online teaching and examinations, and restrictions on numbers allowed to access facilities at one time).

Whatever the circumstances in the 2021/22 academic year, the University will deliver core services and learning outcomes for each course, even though the modes of delivery may change.

All course information sheets should be read in that context, and we will keep offer holders and students regularly informed if circumstances change. Further details are available on our [website](#) and within the [Student Terms and Conditions](#).

## UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS AND OUTREACH

University Offices, Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JD



### Fees

These annual fees are for full-time students who begin this undergraduate course here in 2021.

Information about how much fees and other costs may increase is set out in the University's Terms and Conditions.

Please note that while the University sets out its annual fees as a single figure, this is a combined figure for both your University and college fees. More information is provided in your [Terms and Conditions](#).

Fee status	Annual Course fees
Home (UK, Republic of Ireland, Channel Islands & Isle of Man)	£9,250
Overseas (including most EU students– see Note below)	£31,230

**Note:** Following the UK's departure from the EU, most EU students starting a course in 2021/22 will no longer be eligible to pay fees at the 'Home' rate and will instead be charged the higher 'Overseas' rate. This change will not apply to Irish nationals living in the UK or Ireland, who will continue to be charged fees at the 'Home' rate for the duration of their course.

The government has issued guidance stating that EU, other EEA, and Swiss nationals who have been granted settled or pre-settled status in the UK under the EU settlement scheme may be eligible for 'Home fee' status and student loan support, subject to meeting residency requirements. However, until the government formally updates its fee status regulations the University is unable to confirm fee statuses for students who may qualify on this basis. We will contact you directly if we need further information from you to determine your fee status.

Please refer to the [Undergraduate fee status](#) and the [Oxford and the EU](#) pages for more information.

### Living costs

Your living costs will vary significantly dependent on your lifestyle. These are estimated to be between £1,175 and £1,710 per month in 2021-22. Each year of an undergraduate course usually consists of three terms of eight weeks each but you may need to be in Oxford for longer. As a guide, you may wish to budget over a nine-month period to ensure you also have sufficient funds during the holidays to meet essential costs.

### Living costs breakdown

	Per month		Total for 9 months	
	Lower range	Upper range	Lower range	Upper range
Food	£280	£400	£2,520	£3,600
Accommodation (including utilities)	£655	£790	£5,895	£7,110
Personal items	£130	£250	£1,170	£2,250
Social activities	£45	£115	£405	£1,035
Study costs	£45	£100	£405	£900
Other	£20	£55	£180	£495
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1,175</b>	<b>£1,710</b>	<b>£10,575</b>	<b>£15,390</b>

In order to provide these likely living costs, the University and the Oxford University Students' Union conducted a living costs survey to complement existing student expenditure data from a variety of sources including the UK government's Student Income and Expenditure Survey and the National Union of Students (NUS). The likely lower and upper ranges above are based on a single student with no dependants living in college accommodation (including utility bills) and are provided for information only.

When planning your finances for future years of study at Oxford beyond 2021-22, you should allow for an estimated increase in living expenses of 3% each year.

#### Document accessibility

If you require an accessible version of the document, please contact Undergraduate Admissions by email ([uao.comms@admin.ox.ac.uk](mailto:uao.comms@admin.ox.ac.uk)) or via the online form (<http://www.ox.ac.uk/ask>).

*Please note, at the time of publishing the CIS, further details regarding the availability and eligibility of financial support for some EU students with settled or pre-settled status remained outstanding. Confirmation about funding arrangements for the year abroad were*

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*also outstanding. Any updates impacting students will be published on the Oxford and the EU webpage.*