

Philosophy, Politics and Economics Information Sheet for entry in 2021

Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE) was born of the conviction that study of the great modern works of economic, social, political and philosophical thought would have a transformative effect on students' intellectual lives, and thereby on society at large. This conviction remains as firm today as it was then. As the world has evolved, so has PPE. The course brings together some of the most important approaches to understanding the world around us, developing skills useful for a wide range of careers and activities.

PPE is a highly flexible degree which allows you to shape your own path through it: you may choose to specialise in two branches at the end of the first year, or continue with all three. You can also explore a wide variety of disciplines under the overarching headings of Philosophy, Politics, and Economics - for example, you can specialise in Sociology or International Relations by choosing the [relevant Politics options](#).

Studying philosophy develops analytical, critical and logical rigour, enabling you to apply these skills to questions concerning how we acquire knowledge or make ethical judgements.

In turn, the study of politics provides a thorough understanding of the impact of political institutions on modern societies. It helps you to evaluate the choices that political systems must regularly make, to explain the processes that maintain or change those systems, and to examine the concepts and values used in political analysis.

Economics is the study of how consumers, firms and government make decisions that collectively determine how resources are allocated. An appreciation of economics has become increasingly necessary to make sense of governmental policy-making, the conduct of businesses and the enormous economic transformations throughout the world. All three branches of PPE at Oxford have an international reputation, supported by more than 200 renowned scholars.

A typical week

Your weekly timetable will usually be divided between six to eight lectures and two meetings, which may be either tutorials or classes, supplemented by private study which will be mainly spent preparing essays or problem sets for tutorials and classes.

Tutorials are usually two-four students and a tutor. Class sizes may vary depending on the options you choose. Teaching in all three PPE subjects is normally done in tutorials rather than classes. Where classes do form part of the teaching for a paper, there would usually be no more than around 20 students though classes for some of the more popular papers may be up to 30 students. 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

YEAR 1	
<p>COURSES</p> <p>All three branches of PPE are studied equally.</p> <p>Philosophy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General philosophy • Moral philosophy • Elementary logic <p>Politics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The theory of politics (introductory political theory) • The practice of politics (introductory comparative government and politics) • Political analysis (introductory empirical and quantitative methods) <p>Economics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Microeconomics: the functioning of the market economy • Macroeconomics: dealing with national output and employment, exchange rates and policy issues • Mathematical techniques used in economics 	<p>ASSESSMENT</p> <p>First University examinations: three written papers</p>
YEAR 2 AND 3	
<p>COURSES</p> <p>Students choose to continue with all three branches (<i>tripartite</i>) or concentrate on any two (<i>bipartite</i>), taking compulsory courses in the chosen branches along with optional courses.</p> <p>Philosophy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ethics • <i>Either</i> Early modern philosophy <i>or</i> Knowledge and reality <i>or</i> Plato’s <i>Republic</i> <i>or</i> Aristotle’s <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> <p>Politics (any two of these):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comparative government 	<p>ASSESSMENT</p> <p>Final University examinations: eight papers typically assessed by written examination, but in some cases by coursework. One of these eight papers may be a thesis/supervised dissertation.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • British politics and government since 1900 • Theory of politics • International relations • Political sociology <p>Economics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If bipartite at least one of Microeconomics, Macroeconomics and Quantitative economics • If tripartite, at least one of Microeconomics, Macroeconomics, Quantitative economics and Development of the world economy since 1800 • Option choices in Economics depend on having completed pre-requisite courses which are one of the courses listed above. <p>Optional courses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Usually more than 50 choices 	
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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](#).

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)	£28,370

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

UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS AND OUTREACH

University Offices, Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JD



	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
Total	£1,175	£1,710	£10,575	£15,390

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