

Physics and Philosophy Information Sheet for entry in 2018

Physics and Philosophy is a demanding and rewarding course, combining the most rigorous and fundamental subjects in the arts and the sciences. It seeks understanding of the nature of reality and of our knowledge of it. There are strong links between physics and philosophy, and the stimulus for each discipline lies in part in the other.



Oxford has one of the largest physics departments in the UK, with an outstanding and broad research programme. The expertise in the department ensures the curriculum is updated in the light of developments in research.

The Philosophy Faculty is the largest in the UK, and one of the most prestigious in the world. The large number of students reading Philosophy leads to a diverse and lively philosophical community.

The Oxford research group in Philosophy of Physics is extremely active, with interests in classical space–time theories, foundations of classical statistical mechanics, quantum mechanics, quantum field theory and quantum gravity.

The fourth-year MPhysPhil option courses bring you to the threshold of current research, and can lead to subject specialism. An accepted student can also complete in three years with a BA.

New MMathPhys 4th year

From 2015–16, the Physics and Mathematics Departments have jointly offered an integrated master's level course in Mathematical and Theoretical Physics. Physics and Philosophy students will be able to apply for transfer to a fourth year studying entirely mathematical and theoretical physics, completing the degree with an MMathPhys. The course offers research-level training in: Particle physics, Condensed matter physics, Astrophysics, Plasma physics and Continuous media. For full details see mmathphys.physics.ox.ac.uk.

A typical weekly timetable

Your work is divided between private study, tutorials, classes (two or three weekly) and lectures (about eight weekly). Private study (reading for and writing essays, completing problem sets) will take up the majority of your working time.

1st year**Current courses**

Physics

- Mechanics and special relativity
- Differential equations and matrix algebra
- Calculus and waves

Philosophy

- Elements of deductive logic
- General philosophy
- Introductory philosophy of physics

Assessment

First University examinations:
Three written papers in Physics; two written papers in Philosophy

2nd year**Current courses**

Physics

- Thermal physics
- Electromagnetism
- Quantum physics
- Mathematical methods
- Physics practicals

Philosophy

- Early modern philosophy or Knowledge and reality
- Philosophy of special relativity

Assessment

Final University examinations, Part A:
Three papers in Physics; satisfactory lab work

3rd year

Current courses

One elective paper in either Physics or Philosophy

Physics

A choice of three (or five if the elective paper is in Physics) of the following subjects:

- Classical mechanics
- Flows, fluctuations and complexity
- Symmetry and relativity
- Quantum, atomic and molecular physics
- Sub-atomic physics
- General relativity and cosmology
- Condensed-matter physics

Philosophy

- Philosophy of science option
- Philosophy of quantum mechanics
- Choice of Philosophy option (if the elective paper is in philosophy)

Assessment

Final University examinations, Part B:
Three or four written papers in Philosophy; one or two written papers and one short paper in Physics

4th year

Research

Three units chosen in any combination from the lists for Physics and Philosophy. Advanced philosophy of physics is an option.

The options listed above are illustrative and may change. More information about current options is available on the [Physics](#) and [Philosophy](#) websites.

Assessment

Final University examinations, Part C:
A mix (three in all) of written papers and essays, or thesis (in Philosophy), or project (in Physics)

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.

Fees

Oxford University is committed to recruiting the best and brightest students from all backgrounds. We offer a generous package of financial support to Home/EU students from lower-income households. (UK nationals living in the UK are usually Home students.)

These annual fees are for full-time students who begin this undergraduate course here in 2018.

| Fee Status | Tuition fee | College fee | Total annual fees |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------------|
| Home/EU | £9,250 | £0 | £9,250 |
| Islands (Channel Islands & Isle of Man) | £9,250 | £0 | £9,250 |
| Overseas | £17,275 | £7,570 | £24,845 |

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

Additional Fees and Charges Information for Physics and Philosophy

There are no compulsory costs for this course beyond the fees shown above and your living costs.

Living Costs

Your living costs will vary significantly dependent on your lifestyle. These are estimated to be between £1,014 and £1,556 per month in 2018-19. Undergraduate courses usually consist of three terms of eight weeks each, but 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 | £258 | £361 | £2,318 | £3,245 |
| Accommodation (including utilities) | £536 | £677 | £4,824 | £6,093 |
| Personal items | £118 | £263 | £1,066 | £2,364 |
| Social activities | £41 | £123 | £369 | £1,105 |
| Study costs | £39 | £85 | £348 | £765 |
| Other | £22 | £47 | £202 | £419 |
| Total | £1,014 | £1,556 | £9,127 | £13,991 |

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

10 November 2017