

Course Information Sheet for entry in 2026-27: DPhil in Women's and Reproductive Health



Course facts

Mode of study	Full Time	Part Time
Expected length	3 to 4 years	6 to 8 years

About the course

The DPhil in Women's and Reproductive Health offers a wide range of opportunities to carry out multidisciplinary research on important issues in human reproduction and applied basic science.

Research carried out in the Nuffield Department of Women's & Reproductive Health encompasses a broad range of topics.

To learn more about the research topics you'll have the opportunity to explore, please refer to the *Research areas* section on this page.

As a student in Department of Women's and Reproductive Health, you will be expected to regularly attend the weekly department seminars, and undertake any relevant training required for your project (ie statistics, bioinformatics, flow cytometry, proteomics etc).

As well as carrying out research projects, you will also have the opportunity to attend a variety of skills training sessions and career planning events offered by the Medical Sciences Division.

The Women's Centre has a lecture theatre where weekly research and clinical seminars are held during term time. You will be strongly encouraged to participate in these activities which bring research students together with academic and other research staff in the department to hear about ongoing research, and provide an opportunity for networking and socialising.

The department holds an annual Graduate Student Symposium and an annual Women's Health Forum where you will have the opportunity to develop your presentation skills. The Medical Sciences Division hosts a DPhil Open Day where you will be able to meet and present your work to a wider audience of students and staff from other departments.

Course outline

Year one

In the early stages of your DPhil, you will spend the first few months reading scientific literature and planning your first set of experiments. The nature of the work will differ depending upon whether the project involves work in a laboratory or a computer based project. A variety of types of projects are possible, mixing laboratory work with data analysis. Experimental work will be mixed with group discussions with the research team with an opportunity for you to present your results and future plans. Termly reports are submitted by you, your supervisor and the Director of Graduate Studies. You will also have the opportunity to interact with your college tutor. Various training courses are required to be taken in each year of the DPhil and these depend on the nature of the project. Towards the end of your first year, you will be planning your transfer report, which is an important milestone to assess progress and next steps.

Year two

A very similar year to year one with ongoing research work and a significant amount of literature reviewing to make sure the project fits in with current knowledge. During this year, many DPhil students start putting down the basis of their thesis introduction. There will be opportunities to attend local conferences and if significant progress has been made, you will submit abstracts, normally in the form of a poster presentation. During year two, you should start putting your research results into a thesis plan.

Year three

This is a key year for you where the thesis needs to take shape. You should have a degree of autonomy during the final year, managing your future direction in discussions with your supervisor. Day to day tasks are very similar to year two but you will start putting results in a chapter format. Many students submit or start compiling research papers in year three. Submitting a research abstract to a large international conference should be a target for all DPhil students in year three. By term nine you will undergo a confirmation of status with two internal assessors. This will go over the background to the research, the contents of chapters and the plan for completing the research work and writing the thesis. It is expected that all DPhil students give a WRH departmental seminar in the final year of their DPhil.

Attendance

The course can be studied full-time or part-time with both modes requiring attendance in Oxford. Full-time students are subject to the University's Residence requirements. (<http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/after-you-apply/accommodation/residence-requirements>). Part-time students are required to attend course-related activities in Oxford for a minimum of 30 days each year.

Part-time study is not suitable for all projects and you will need to check with your supervisor that they are able to accommodate part-time study.

As a part-time student, attendance is to be arranged with the agreement of your supervisor, for the period that your name remains on the Register of Graduate Students unless individually dispensed by the Board. You will have the opportunity to tailor your part-time research in liaison with your supervisor and agree your pattern of attendance.

Provision exists for students on some courses to undertake their research in a 'well-founded laboratory' outside of the University. This may require travel to and attendance at a site that is not located in Oxford. Where known, existing collaborations will be outlined on this page. Please read the course information carefully, including the additional information about course fees and costs.

Resources to support your study

As a graduate student, you will have access to the University's wide range of resources including libraries, museums, galleries, digital resources and IT services.

The Bodleian Libraries is the largest library system in the UK. It includes the main Bodleian Library and libraries across Oxford, including major research libraries and faculty, department and institute libraries. Together, the Libraries hold more than 13 million printed items, provide access to e-journals, and contain outstanding special collections including rare books and manuscripts, classical papyri, maps, music, art and printed ephemera.

The University's IT Services is available to all students to support with core university IT systems and tools, as well as many other services and facilities. IT Services also offers a range of IT learning courses for students to support with learning and research, as well as guidance on what technology to bring with you as a new student (<https://www.it.ox.ac.uk/what-to-bring>) at Oxford.

You will have access to the department's IT support and University library services both online and through the Radcliffe Science Library and Cairns Library at the John Radcliffe Hospital.

Students undertaking experimental work are provided with bench space in a laboratory and those undertaking theoretical research have shared office space. All students are provided with personal desk space and a computer.

There is a coffee area where you will be able to meet with other students to discuss your studies.

Supervision

The allocation of graduate supervision for this course is the responsibility of the Nuffield Department of Women's & Reproductive Health 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 Nuffield Department of Women's & Reproductive Health.

You will be a member of your supervisor's research group in which you will develop your research skills with one to one supervision. Your core supervision team will consist of your principal supervisor, and one or more additional supervisors, which can also include scientists external to Oxford University.

Most students have the opportunity to meet individually with their supervisor every two weeks to plan their research and review their progress. In addition, where needed, support from the Director of Graduate Studies and a college advisor can be provided.

In the case of students who require specific help to adjust to an academic programme or to a new range of skills, the supervisor will ensure additional support is provided.

Assessment

All students will be initially admitted to the status of Probationer Research Student (PRS). Within a maximum of six terms as a full-time PRS student or twelve terms as a part-time PRS student, you will be expected to apply for transfer of status from Probationer Research Student to DPhil status. This application is normally made by the fourth term for full-time students and by the eighth term for part-time students.

A successful transfer of status from PRS to DPhil status will require a written report outlining your project plans and data obtained so far. Students who are successful at transfer will also be expected to apply for and gain confirmation of DPhil status to show that your work continues to be on track. This will need to be done within nine terms of admission for full-time students and eighteen terms of admission for part-time students.

Both milestones normally involve an interview with two assessors who are not directly involved in your supervision and therefore provide important experience for the final oral examination.

Full-time students will be expected to submit an original thesis of 50,000 words after three or, at most, four years from the date of admission. If you are studying part-time, you be required to submit your thesis after six or, at most, eight years from the date of admission. To be successfully awarded a DPhil in Women's & Reproductive Health you will need to defend your thesis orally (viva voce) in front of two appointed examiners.

Research areas

You'll have the opportunity to undertake research within the specialised themes of this course, which include:

- oocytes and sperm
- preimplantation genetic diagnosis
- genetic studies, molecular and cellular mechanisms underlying normal and aberrant reproductive function
- immunology of pregnancy
- gynaecological cancer
- pelvic pain and endometriosis
- chronic fatigue syndrome
- lactation
- clinical studies in women's health and pregnancy
- epidemiological and health services research.

Changes to this course

The University will seek to deliver this course in accordance with the description set out in this course page. 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. The safety of students, staff and visitors is paramount and major changes to delivery or services may have to be made if a pandemic, epidemic or local health emergency occurs. In addition, in certain circumstances, for example due to visa difficulties or because the health needs of students cannot be met, it may be necessary to make adjustments to course requirements for international study.

Where possible your academic supervisor will not change for the duration of your course. However, it may be necessary to assign a new academic supervisor during the course of study or before registration for reasons which might include illness, sabbatical leave, parental leave or change in employment.

For further information please see our page on [changes to courses \(//www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/courses/changes-to-courses\)](https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/courses/changes-to-courses) and the [provisions of the student contract \(//www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/after-you-apply/your-offer-and-contract\)](https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/after-you-apply/your-offer-and-contract) regarding changes to courses.

Costs

Annual course fees for the 2026-27 academic year at the University of Oxford

The fees for this course are charged on an annual basis.

Full-time study

Fee status	Annual Course fees
Home	£10,470
Overseas	£34,700

Part-time study

Fee status	Annual Course fees
Home	£5,235
Overseas	£17,350

What do course fees cover?

Course fees cover your teaching as well as other academic services and facilities provided to support your studies. Unless specified in the additional information section 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 costs information below.

How long do I need to pay 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 fees will usually increase annually, as explained in the University's [Terms and Conditions \(//www.ox.ac.uk/students/new/contract\)](https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/new/contract).

Graduate students who have reached the end of their standard period of fee liability will be required to pay a University continuation charge and/or a college continuation charge.

The University continuation charge, per term for entry in 2026-27 is £656, please be aware that this will increase annually. For part-time students, the termly charge will be half of the termly rate payable by full-time students.

If a college continuation charge applies (not applicable for non-matriculated courses) it will be between £150 and £500, as explained in our [information about continuation charges \(//www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/fees-and-other-charges/continuation-charges\)](https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/fees-and-other-charges/continuation-charges). Please contact your college for more details, including information about whether your college's continuation charge is applied at a different rate for part-time study.

Where can I find more information about fees?

Our [fees and other charges \(//www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/fees-and-other-charges\)](https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/fees-and-other-charges) pages provide further information, including details about:

- [course fees and fee liability \(//www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/fees-and-other-charges/courses-fees-and-liability\)](https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/fees-and-other-charges/courses-fees-and-liability);
- [how your fee status is determined \(//www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/fees-and-other-charges/fee-status\)](https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/fees-and-other-charges/fee-status);
- [changes to fees and other charges \(//www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/fees-and-other-charges/changes-to-fees-and-charges\)](https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/fees-and-other-charges/changes-to-fees-and-charges); and
- [continuation charges \(//www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/fees-and-other-charges/continuation-charges\)](https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/fees-and-other-charges/continuation-charges).

Information about how much fees and other costs will usually increase each academic year is set out in the University's [Terms and Conditions \(//www.ox.ac.uk/students/new/contract\)](https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/new/contract).

Additional costs

Full-time study

There are no compulsory elements of this course that entail additional costs beyond fees (or, after fee liability ends, continuation charges) and living costs. However, please note that, depending on your choice of research 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 funding from your department to help you cover some of these expenses.

Part-time study

Please note that you are required to attend in Oxford for a minimum of 30 days each year, and you may incur additional travel and accommodation expenses for this. There are no compulsory elements of this course that entail additional costs beyond fees (or, after fee liability ends, continuation charges) and living costs. However, please note that, depending on your choice of research 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 funding from your department to help you cover some of these expenses.

Living costs

In addition to your course fees and any additional course-specific costs, you will need to ensure that you have adequate funds to support your living costs for the duration of your course.

Living costs for full-time study

For the 2026-27 academic year, the range of likely living costs for a single, full-time student is between £1,405 and £2,105 for each month spent in Oxford. We provide the cost per month so you can multiply up by the number of months you expect to live in Oxford. Depending on your circumstances, you may also need to budget for the costs of a student visa and immigration health surcharge (<https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/living-costs>) and/or living costs for family members or other dependants (https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/living-costs#field_listing_content_content-item--2) that you plan to bring with you to Oxford (if dependant visa eligibility criteria (<https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/visa/before/family>), are met).

Living costs for part-time study

Your living costs may vary depending on your personal circumstances but you will still need to cover your cost of living on a full-time basis for the duration of your course, even if you will not be based in Oxford throughout your studies. While the range of likely living costs for a single, full-time student living in Oxford in the 2026-27 academic year is between £1,405 and £2,105 per month, living costs outside Oxford may be different.

Part-time students who are not based in Oxford will need to calculate travel and accommodation costs carefully. Depending on your circumstances and study plans, this may include the cost of a visitor visa to attend for short blocks of time (<https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/living-costs>) (if visitor visa eligibility criteria (<https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/visa/before/visitors>), are met).

Further information about living costs

The current economic climate and periods of high national inflation in recent years make it harder to estimate potential changes to the cost of living over the next few years. For study in Oxford beyond the 2026-27 academic year, it is suggested that you budget for potential increases in living expenses of around 4% each year – although this rate may vary depending on the national economic situation.

A breakdown of likely living costs for one month during the 2026-27 academic year are shown below. These costs are based on a single, full-time graduate student, with no dependants, living in Oxford.

Likely living costs for one month in Oxford during the 2026-27 academic year

	Lower range	Upper range
Food	£315	£545
Accommodation	£825	£990
Personal items	£160	£310
Social activities	£50	£130
Study costs	£35	£90
Other	£20	£40
Total	£1,405	£2,105

For information about how these figures have been calculated as well as tables showing the likely living costs for nine and twelve months, please refer to the living costs (<https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/living-costs>) page of our website.

Document accessibility

If you require a more accessible version of this document please contact Graduate Admissions and Recruitment by email
(graduate.admissions@admin.ox.ac.uk).