

## Course Information Sheet for entry in 2026-27: DPhil in Medical Sciences



### Course facts

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

### About the course

The DPhil in Medical Sciences is a research-based course aimed at basic scientists and clinicians with an interest in pursuing research in a scientific field related to medicine.

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

You will be based in the Radcliffe Department of Medicine (RDM) and admitted directly onto a research project with one of the department's world-leading scientists, who will act as your supervisor. In most cases, students choose a project from our advertised project list, but in some cases, students design their own project in collaboration with their proposed supervisor. In either case, you will be expected to play an active role in shaping your project over the course of the DPhil. Graduate students are a valuable part of the department and they are encouraged to be involved with the scientific and social life of the department at all levels.

Your project and development during your DPhil studies will be guided by a specialised team led by your academic supervisor.

Your training will be tailored to your particular needs, drawing from the vast range of training available at Oxford and covering both specialist scientific methods and techniques and transferable skills. Please note that there is no formal taught component of the DPhil in Medical Sciences.

Much of your training will take place in the lab, where you will be trained by your supervisor or members of the lab team in the variety of techniques and protocols used. A brief statement of the training you will receive in the lab is included in the training description of your chosen project (<https://www.rdm.ox.ac.uk/graduate-study/how-to-apply/supervisor-profiles>).

As a member of the Medical Sciences Graduate School you will be entitled to enrol on courses run by the Medical Sciences Skills Training (<https://www.medsci.ox.ac.uk/study/skills-training>) programme. You will be able to attend the wide variety of sessions covered through the MRC Weatherall Institute of Molecular Medicine (WIMM) Methods and Techniques course.

### 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 (<https://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.

Completing the DPhil on a part-time basis has the same requirements as the full-time DPhil and normally takes between six and eight years of study, compared with a full-time DPhil which normally takes three to four years to complete.

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. During a candidate's probationary period the attendance arrangements must take account of relevant induction and training events scheduled 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 \(https://www.it.ox.ac.uk/what-to-bring\)](https://www.it.ox.ac.uk/what-to-bring) at Oxford.

You will be allocated space within your supervisor's lab. The Radcliffe Department of Medicine (RDM) has state-of-the-art research facilities across the spectrum of our research expertise and where specialist facilities do not exist within RDM itself it is usually possible to use facilities elsewhere in Oxford.

RDM provides students with the facilities, support and career development opportunities needed to thrive. The department recognizes the importance of a good work-life balance and has developed [policies and support mechanisms \(https://www.rdm.ox.ac.uk/intranet\)](https://www.rdm.ox.ac.uk/intranet) to help staff and students find the right balance for them.

The RDM Career Development Committee organises an annual Career Day at which RDM alumni and other speakers look at the different career paths that can be taken after your DPhil. There is also an [RDM Researcher Association \(https://www.rdm.ox.ac.uk/intranet/career-development/a-community-to-enrich-the-rdm-researcher-experience-through-social-events-career-development-and-advice\)](https://www.rdm.ox.ac.uk/intranet/career-development/a-community-to-enrich-the-rdm-researcher-experience-through-social-events-career-development-and-advice) which aims to enrich the RDM researcher experience through social events, career development and advice. They liaise with the RDM Career Development Committee to address any concerns and suggestions raised by RDM researchers.

RDM's [mentoring scheme \(https://www.rdm.ox.ac.uk/intranet/career-development/mentoring\)](https://www.rdm.ox.ac.uk/intranet/career-development/mentoring) is open to all students and staff and aims to assist them in achieving personal and professional growth through a mentorship relationship that provides support as they progress and develop within the University.

The department has a Student Forum comprised of a number of student representatives from across RDM. It meets termly to discuss any concerns students may have and to provide feedback on the various aspects of life as an RDM student. Two members of the forum also sit on the Graduate Studies Committee. They act as the point of contact for students and ensure that any concerns amongst students can be heard by the department and acted upon.

## Supervision

The allocation of graduate supervision for this course is the responsibility of the Radcliffe Department of Medicine 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 Radcliffe Department of Medicine.

As well as your academic supervisor, students also have one or more formal co-supervisors, who can provide additional scientific and/or practical advice in their specialist areas and offer another viewpoint on the student's project. Together, they form the specialised team that will advise you on your academic progress. Typically, you should expect to have meetings with your supervisor or a member of the supervisory team with a frequency of once every two weeks averaged across the year. The regularity of these meetings may be subject to variations according to the time of the year, and the stage you are at in your research.

You will also have the support of a local Director of Graduate Studies, the RDM Director of Graduate Studies and the Graduate Studies team. All activity relating to graduate students within the department is overseen by the Graduate Studies Committee.

## Assessment

All students will be initially admitted to the status of Probationer Research Student (PRS). Within a maximum of four terms as a full-time PRS student or eight terms as a part-time PRS student, you will be expected to apply for transfer of status from Probationer Research Student to DPhil status.

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 after three or, at most, four years from the date of admission. If you are studying part-time, you will 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 Medical Sciences 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:

- cardiovascular medicine
- diabetes
- endocrinology and metabolism
- epidemiology and clinical trials
- haematology and pathology
- immunology
- regenerative medicine and stem cells
- acute stroke.

## 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, associated costs may be incurred if students attend conferences over the

course of their programme. These costs will vary according to the location and length of the conference and the department estimates that these costs may range from £100 to £1,500 or more. You will need to meet these additional costs yourself, although you may be able to apply for small grants from professional societies and other sources.

### 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, associated costs may be incurred if students attend conferences over the course of their programme. These costs will vary according to the location and length of the conference and the department estimates that these costs may range from £100 to £1,500 or more. You will need to meet these additional costs yourself, although you may be able to apply for small grants from professional societies and other sources.

### 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) ([//www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/living-costs](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) ([//www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/living-costs#field\\_listing\\_content\\_content-item--2](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) ([//www.ox.ac.uk/students/visa/before/family](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) ([//www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/living-costs](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) ([//www.ox.ac.uk/students/visa/before/visitors](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
<b>Food</b>	£315	£545
<b>Accommodation</b>	£825	£990
<b>Personal items</b>	£160	£310
<b>Social activities</b>	£50	£130
<b>Study costs</b>	£35	£90
<b>Other</b>	£20	£40
<b>Total</b>	£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) ([//www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/living-costs](https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/living-costs)) page of our website.

## **Document accessibility**

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