

Course Information Sheet for entry in 2026-27: MTh in Applied Theology



Course facts

Mode of study	Full Time	Part Time
Expected length	2 years	3-4 years

About the course

The MTh in Applied Theology is designed to enable theological reflection upon experience in pastoral practice.

This course may be taken if you hold a ministerial or pastoral appointment at present, or if you are able to include a period of approved pastoral experience in your course of study on the MTh.

Course structure

An overview of the course structure is provided below. Details of the compulsory and optional elements of the course are provided in the *Course components* section of this page.

Core classes and seminars on methodology, approaches and topics in applied theology will be offered weekly and comprise Part I of the course. Both full-time and part-time students attend these classes and seminars in person during their first year.

The classes will include required reading and discussion. Extended essays for particular units will be supervised by an individual tutor.

Part II of the course is a dissertation.

In addition to the core classes, the Applied Theology Research Seminars provide an opportunity for all students to hear from senior members of the University as well as visiting scholars. The Research Presentation Seminars allow students to present their current research to one another and receive feedback. Thus there is a balance of supported learning and independent research.

You will be encouraged to attend further lectures and postgraduate seminars offered by the Faculty of Theology and Religion. Participation in some of these may require permission of the convenor. Colleges may offer further seminars for their Applied Theology students.

Progression to the DPhil in Theology relies on a strong performance in the taught course as well as an outstanding application and a research project that can be supervised by a member of the faculty. The faculty would normally expect a final grade of 67% or above.

Attendance

This 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 \(https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/after-you-apply/accommodation/residence-requirements\)](https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/after-you-apply/accommodation/residence-requirements).

The full-time course is studied over two years. The part-time course has the same requirements, but is studied over three to four years. You may transfer from full-time to part-time after the first year.

As a part-time student, you may be non-residential but you must attend classes and seminars in Oxford on at least one day each week of term, sometimes more, during your first year and continue to take part in occasional seminars and supervisions for your essays during the subsequent years.

Colleges may also require attendance at their own postgraduate seminars. For example, if you are a student at Wycliffe Hall you will be expected to attend a weekly seminar in college.

Ordinands and those in ministerial training will have additional classes and commitments arranged by their college which will require their attendance.

It is strongly advised that you live within commutable distance of Oxford (UK) for at least the first year of the course.

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.

The Schwarzman Centre for the Humanities

The Faculty of Theology and Religion is based in the Schwarzman Centre for the Humanities, a brand-new building at the University of Oxford. It houses seven faculties, two institutes, a new library, a large number of well-equipped teaching and seminar rooms, and performance and arts venues. The faculty has its own centre and social hub within the building which facilitates interdisciplinary and collaborative work. At the heart of the building is a large atrium - called the Great Hall - which is a beautiful space, bringing light into the building, and serving as a space for informal work, relaxation, meeting with friends, taking breaks, having refreshments - and much more.

The library, part of the Bodleian Libraries, houses lending collections for Theology. There are 340 general reader seats, and around 80 graduate study seats - with a further 320 formal and informal study seats throughout the building outside the library.

Open-shelf lending collections are complemented by access to electronic resources, scan on demand, and material requested from the Bodleian's Collections Storage Facility. As well as the Library's extensive staffed hours, there is a 24/7 study space, including smart lockers for self-collect of borrowable items out of hours. Subject support is provided by a team of subject librarians.

Further libraries

The Philosophy and Theology Faculties Library (PTFL) is located in the Radcliffe Observatory Quarter on the same site as the Schwarzman Centre. The PTFL is a lending library primarily for staff and students of the two faculties, in support of research, teaching and learning. It has a collection of c. 30,000 books for loan on open access, with a further 20,000 available by request from remote store. It is also a delivery location for books from the Bodleian stacks for reference use in the library.

Many books are now also available in electronic format; some are downloadable for 24-hour loan. Students may also use their college library, which contains some of the core theological texts.

Languages

The Oxford University Language Centre offers free or discounted courses to members of the University who wish to learn or improve a foreign language relevant to their academic work – or indeed for their general interest and education. Access to classes may be arranged if you wish to read primary sources (eg Bonhoeffer or Barth) in their original language. It also offers courses in academic English, which may be particularly useful for international students, as well as general English classes for partners of students.

If a course is required for study or research, there is a priority enrolment scheme.

Classes in Biblical languages may also be available in college or in advanced postgraduate seminars in the Faculty of Theology and Religion. Your course director can advise you on your options.

Supervision

This course has unit/module-specific supervision arrangements, meaning that supervisors are assigned for each module/assessment unit rather than for the full duration of the course. Therefore, it is usual for students to be supervised by several different supervisors over the course of their studies.

You will be assigned supervisors to help you formulate and prepare your essay projects, as well as the dissertation. The number of meetings with supervisors will vary, but you should expect around three supervisions per essay and more for the dissertation. Postgraduate students at Oxford are expected to take responsibility for contacting assigned supervisors to set up times to meet and to ensure that they do this in a timely and considerate way. In addition you will meet with course tutors, college course directors and/or the MTh Course Coordinator, whether at classes or in one-to-one meetings.

For this course, the allocation of teaching of weekly classes and leading research seminars is the responsibility of the Faculty of Theology and Religion. Allocation of supervisors for assessed work is the responsibility of the student's college and is arranged in consultation with their college Course Director. Under exceptional circumstances a supervisor may be found outside the Faculty of Theology and Religion. It is not always possible to accommodate the preferences of incoming graduate students to work with a particular member of staff.

Assessment

Part I of the MTh consists of four units, each of which is assessed by an extended essay of 7,000 words. Part II is assessed by a 15,000-20,000-word dissertation on an agreed aspect of applied theology. There are two submission windows each year: after the end of Hilary term (Friday of 0th week of Trinity term) and at the end of the Long Vacation (Friday of 0th week of Michaelmas term). In most circumstances, full-time students submit one essay (typically the Doctrine, Context and Practice unit), or occasionally two, after the end of Hilary term and the rest of the Part I essays at the end of the Long Vacation. Occasionally, permission is given to submit the Experiential Project at the end of Hilary term of the second year. The dissertation must be submitted by the end of the second Long Vacation. Submission timelines for part-time students typically require at least one essay submitted ideally by the end of the first Hilary term but at the latest by the end of the first Long Vacation and the rest of the Part I essays by the end of the second Long Vacation. The dissertation would then be due before completing their time on the course.

Course components

Compulsory study

The course is divided into two parts.

Part I:

You will take four units in total during Part I of the course. The two core units are:

- Doctrine, Context and Practice
- Experiential Project with Theological Reflection.

In Part II of the MTh, you will write a dissertation of up to 20,000 words on an agreed aspect of applied theology.

Options

The remaining two units studied in Part I may include the following options, subject to supervisor availability:

- Sociology of Religion
- Pastoral Psychology
- Science and Faith in the Modern World
- The Use of the Bible
- Christian Spirituality
- Liturgy and Worship
- Christian Ethics
- Mission in the Modern World
- Inter-faith Dialogue
- Ecclesiology in an Ecumenical Context.

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. (Supervisors may also change during your studies where the course has unit or module-specific supervision arrangements – as explained in the ‘Supervision’ section of this page where this applies.)

For further information please see our page on [changes to courses](https://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](https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/after-you-apply/your-offer-and-contract-2024) (<https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/after-you-apply/your-offer-and-contract-2024>), 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	£15,920
Overseas	£36,920

Part-time study

Fee status	Annual Course fees
Home	£7,960
Overseas	£18,460

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).

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); and
- [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).

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 and living costs. However, as part of the course requirements, students may need to choose a dissertation, a project or a thesis topic. Please note that, depending on the choice of topic and the research required to complete it, there may be additional expenses, such as travel expenses, research expenses, and field trips. Students will need to meet these additional costs, although they may be able to apply for small grants from their faculty to help cover some of these expenses.

Part-time study

Please note that this course requires that you attend in Oxford for teaching, 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 and living costs. However, as part of the course requirements, students may need to choose a dissertation, a project or a thesis topic. Please note that, depending on the choice of topic and the research required to complete it, there may be additional expenses, such as travel expenses, research expenses, and field trips. Students will need to meet these additional costs, although they may be able to apply for small grants from their faculty to help 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) ([//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
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) ([//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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