

Course Information Sheet for entry in 2026-27: MSc in Clinical Embryology



Course facts

Mode of study	Full Time Only
Expected length	12 months

About the course

This one year, residential, taught MSc provides highly advanced theoretical and practical training in human reproductive biology, embryology, infertility and ART, including hands-on laboratory skills and gamete micromanipulation techniques.

The MSc course offers graduate students, scientists, and clinicians intensive, hands-on practical training in essential laboratory skills and the sophisticated gamete micromanipulation techniques associated with ART.

You will be based alongside TFP Oxford Fertility in purpose-built premises at the Institute of Reproductive Sciences, Oxford Business Park, with dedicated state-of-the-art teaching and research facilities. The department's intention is to inspire, motivate and train a network of future leaders in clinical embryology throughout the world.

Course structure

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

The course runs over a period of one year, from October to September, incorporating the three University of Oxford terms: Michaelmas, Hilary and Trinity. Fundamental reproductive science and laboratory methods/practical skills are taught in the first term (Michaelmas) over five discrete modules. Applied and clinical aspects are delivered in the second term (Hilary) over a further set of five modules. Each module is delivered over a period of one to three weeks and together, the ten modules comprise the 'core content' of the course. The third term (Trinity) is extended to allow sufficient time for a high quality laboratory or desk-based research project.

The department places significant emphasis on the acquisition of practical laboratory skills. A particular strength of the course is that you will be trained individually on micromanipulation and laser biopsy equipment using training beads, mouse oocytes and human sperm. You will spend time with TFP Oxford Fertility following senior clinicians in the clinic, and embryologists in the IVF laboratory. You will also meet visiting clinicians and embryologists from other leading UK IVF clinics. The department's staff will also provide significant insight into the legal issues surrounding ART, along with quality management, ethics and ISO-accreditation. You will attend professional development classes covering a wide range of topics including IT skills, communication and presentation skills, statistics and experimental design.

The course is taught primarily by senior members of staff from the Nuffield Department of Women's & Reproductive Health and TFP Oxford Fertility.

Attendance

The course is full-time and requires 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). (<http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/after-you-apply/accommodation/residence-requirements>)

A variety of teaching methods are used to enhance and optimise student learning. You will be required to attend class lectures, group tutorials, laboratory practical classes, journal clubs, problem-based learning, workshops and in-house demonstrations by visiting companies. You will also attend lectures given by visiting scientists or clinicians, who are world experts in their field. Private study sessions are timetabled during Michaelmas and Hilary Term, students are expected to use this time to work on formative and summative assignments.

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 provided with a desk space within the postgraduate study room and are encouraged to bring your own laptop. IT support is predominantly provided by the Medical Sciences Division IT Unit, based at the John Radcliffe Hospital, in addition to the University's IT Services.

The University of Oxford has an incredibly diverse library service including the Radcliffe Science Library. MSc students predominantly use the Health Care Libraries, particularly the Cairns Library situated on the John Radcliffe Hospital site.

Experimental sessions are held in a dedicated modern laboratory equipped with a range of top-quality equipment, including state-of-the-art gamete manipulation/injection systems. Sufficient experimental apparatus is provided to allow each student significant 'hands-on' training.

Supervision

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

You will have the opportunity to receive individual mentorship by the Course Director and other members of the course staff throughout the course. You will also be allocated a Departmental Mentor (a senior member of the academic or clinical staff) and a Graduate Advisor within your college. Most students meet their Departmental Mentor and their Graduate Advisor once a term. During the research project you will be allocated a project supervisor who will be responsible for your supervision and training.

Assessment

Taught modules are assessed by a multiple-choice examination, extended essay and written examination. The taught modules are assessed toward the end of the term in which they are delivered or at the beginning of the following term. The dissertation is assessed by a written thesis and viva voce examination at the end of the academic year. Please note the assessment regime is currently being reviewed and applicants/offer holders will be advised of changes.

You will have the opportunity to submit formative assignments to develop your writing skills and receive feedback prior to completing your summative assessed work.

Course components

Compulsory study

You will complete five compulsory modules during the first term (Michaelmas) and five compulsory modules during the second term (Hilary). Each module is delivered over a period of one to three weeks and together. The ten modules listed below comprise the 'core content' of the course:

1. Essential cellular and molecular biology
2. Laboratory methods and practical skills
3. The mammalian reproductive system
4. Fertilisation and early embryogenesis
5. Embryonic development and pregnancy
6. Infertility
7. Assisted reproductive technology (ART)
8. Assisted conception: skills and techniques
9. Micromanipulation in ART
10. Infertility and ART: developments and current issues

In the third term you will carry out a high-quality laboratory or desk-based research project.

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](https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/courses/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](https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/after-you-apply/your-offer-and-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

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

Fees for the 2026-27 academic year at the University of Oxford

Fee status	Annual Course fees
Home	£36,920
Overseas	£51,560

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

As part of your course requirements, you may choose to attend national or international conferences in the field, such as Fertility (UK), or the European Society for Human Reproduction and Embryology (ESHRE). If you choose to attend such meetings, you will have to cover all expenses related to your attendance, such as travel, accommodation, and registration fee. As a rough guide, attendance of the basic ESHRE meeting is likely to cost in the region of £800 to £1200, while attendance at national meetings is more likely to cost £600 to £1000. You will need to meet these additional costs yourself, although you may be able to apply for small grants from relevant reproductive societies. In addition, as part of your course requirements, you will need to choose a research project. This element of the course is mandatory and forms part of the assessment for the course. Depending on the location of your research project, you may incur additional expenses, such as travel expenses and accommodation. These costs will only apply if the project is solely or partly based outside of Oxford. The department estimates that these costs may range from £150 to £2500 or more. You will need to meet these additional costs yourself. There are no other compulsory elements of this course that entail additional costs beyond fees and living costs.

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 \(//www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/living-costs\)](https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/living-costs) and/or [living costs for family members or other dependants \(//www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/living-costs#field_listing_content_content-item--2\)](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 \(//www.ox.ac.uk/students/visa/before/family\)](https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/visa/before/family) 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 \(//www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/living-costs\)](https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/living-costs) page of our website.

Document accessibility

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