

## Course Information Sheet for entry in 2026-27: MSc in Evidence-Based Health Care



### Course facts

Mode of study	Part Time Only
Expected length	2 to 4 years

### About the course

The MSc in Evidence-Based Healthcare is a part-time, taught course combining core and optional modules with a dissertation, equipping health professionals to integrate research evidence into clinical and policy decision-making.

The MSc in Evidence-Based Healthcare will position you to integrate the best available research evidence with your clinical expertise and patient values to make better informed decisions in your field of healthcare. It can be taken part-time alongside work commitments, generally over two to four years.

The MSc is a joint course between the Nuffield Department of Primary Care Health Sciences and the Department for Continuing Education. The course works in collaboration with the renowned Centre for Evidence-Based Medicine in Oxford.

The course has teachers and contributors who are internationally recognised leaders in the field of evidence-based practice and teaching. The flexible structure of the course has been devised to fit with the structure of specialist training and to accommodate student choice.

The aims of the course are for you to:

- find and appraise quantitative and qualitative research evidence critically and efficiently and understand what the results mean in different contexts and for different healthcare decisions
- integrate and synthesise different sorts of information, from diverse sources, when making both individual patient and health policy decisions in a wide range of situations
- work comfortably in situations of uncertainty and make sound judgements in the absence of definitive evidence
- understand how to work with colleagues to make informed decisions based on evidence and operate effectively in a variety of team roles
- understand, apply and evaluate the process of translating knowledge into action within a healthcare system
- present and communicate information about research evidence and evidence-based practice clearly in written, electronic and oral forms to a range of audiences
- be able to produce a robust research protocol, for a variety of different types of research question, in a format that can be submitted as an application for research funding
- be able to play a lead role in the conduct and presentation of research according to Good Clinical Practice.

### 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.

You will take two core modules and four option modules, followed by a dissertation.

The majority of modules are run over either an eight, or fifteen week learning cycle and are spaced out throughout the academic year. This allows for a choice of options to be taken over the two to four years that you attend the course.

Most modules are either delivered fully online or in a blended format, however, some modules are only delivered with a blended format that includes a five day attendance in Oxford, and some are only run entirely online. In any given year, not all delivery formats for a module may be available.

Further details about the course and modules can be found on the course page, on the Oxford Lifelong Learning website (See *Further Information and Enquiries*).

#### Blended format

An initial period of self-directed study is spent on introductory activities using a Virtual Learning Environment (VLE). This is followed by a week spent in Oxford for supported face-to-face teaching, and then a further period of Post-Oxford activities (a mixture of self-directed and supported distance learning also delivered through the VLE). The final week of each module is for self-directed personal study, shortly followed by the assignment submission.

#### Fully online format

Fully online modules are delivered through the VLE with the first week allocated to self-directed introductory activities.

For some courses, you will have a number of units to work through which are released week by week. Each unit includes a mixture of supported and self-directed learning with discussion forums, tasks and activities. You will then have five weeks of self-directed personal study with use of a revision forum and the requirement to submit an assignment electronically the following week. These courses that usually run over a 15 week period.

For other courses, five consecutive days of synchronous and asynchronous teaching sessions will be followed by a further period of activities (a mixture of self-directed and supported distance learning also delivered through the VLE). The final week of each module is for self-directed personal study, shortly followed by the assignment submission. These courses usually run over an eight week period.

## Attendance

As a part-time student, you will be required to attend a minimum of two modules (one of which must be a compulsory module) 'in person' in Oxford. Each 'in person' module requires you to attend a week (five days) in Oxford for supported face to face teaching. Your other four modules can be made up of a mix of 'in person', or fully online modules. All students are required to attend a minimum of one module in each academic year on course. This can either be 'in person' or fully online.

## 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 [Rewley House Continuing Education Library \(https://www.conted.ox.ac.uk/about/library-facilities\)](https://www.conted.ox.ac.uk/about/library-facilities), one of the Bodleian Libraries, is situated in Rewley House. The department aims to support the wide variety of subjects covered by departmental courses at many academic levels. The department also has a collection of around 73,000 books together with periodicals, and you will have access to the full range of electronic resources subscribed to by the University of Oxford. The Jessop Reading Room adjoining the library is available for study. The department provides various [IT facilities \(https://www.conted.ox.ac.uk/about/online-support\)](https://www.conted.ox.ac.uk/about/online-support), including the Student Computing Facility which provides individual PCs for your use.

## Supervision

The allocation of graduate supervision for this course is the responsibility of the Nuffield Department of Primary Care Health Sciences and/or the Department for Continuing Education 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 Primary Care Health Sciences and/or the Department for Continuing Education.

Most students have the opportunity to either meet, or contact their supervisor at least once per month.

## Assessment

Assessments are conducted at the end of each module and comprise a written paper, submitted via an online portal. The dissertation will be on a topic chosen in consultation with your supervisor and the course director and should not normally exceed 15,000 words.

Students typically submit a 'Notification of Provisional Title', a calendar year before their dissertation submission date. A full draft is usually submitted two months prior to the submission deadline. The final submission is usually due on the last working day of September, for the given year of completion.

- updating and improving their clinical practice
- facilitating effective and timely decision making in health care
- developing and applying research critically to improve health for individuals, populations and healthcare systems
- disseminating and translating knowledge for patient and public benefit
- opening up new career opportunities.

## Course components

## Compulsory study

You will take the following two core modules:

- Practice of Evidence-Based Health Care
- Introduction to Study Design and Research Methods

## Options

You will choose an additional four modules from the following options. Please note that not all modules are guaranteed to run every year.

- Big Data Epidemiology
- Clinical Trial Management
- Complex Reviews
- Economics of Healthcare
- Essential Medical Statistics
- Evidence-Based Diagnosis and Screening
- Evidence-Based Policy
- Introduction to Statistics for Healthcare Research
- Knowledge into Action
- Meta-analysis
- Mixed Methods in Health Research
- Qualitative Research Methods
- Randomised Controlled Trials
- Realist Reviews and Realist Evaluation
- Statistics for Clinical Trials
- Systematic Reviews
- Teaching Evidence-Based Practice.

## 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 \(//www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/courses/changes-to-courses\)](http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/courses/changes-to-courses) and the [provisions of the student contract \(//www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/after-you-apply/your-offer-and-contract\)](http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/after-you-apply/your-offer-and-contract) regarding changes to courses.

## Costs

### Modular course fees

#### 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

#### 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 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 \(//www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/living-costs\)](https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/living-costs) (if [visitor visa eligibility criteria \(//www.ox.ac.uk/students/visa/before/visitors\)](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**

	<b>Lower range</b>	<b>Upper range</b>
<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 \(//www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/living-costs\)](http://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 \(graduate.admissions@admin.ox.ac.uk\)](mailto:graduate.admissions@admin.ox.ac.uk).