

Course Information Sheet for entry in 2025-26: MSc in Intellectual Property



Course facts

Mode of study	Part Time Only
Expected length	9 months

About the course

This programme builds on the foundations of the PGDip in Intellectual Property and Practice and provides in-depth research training, encompassing perspectives drawn from the fields of copyright, design, patents and trade marks.

The programme provides a unique opportunity to reach a greater degree of theoretical content, exploring historical and comparative ways of approaching the study of intellectual property, driven by the research and expertise of Oxford academics. Teaching is undertaken in Oxford in intensive short periods and despite the part-time nature of the course, the degree has been designed to ensure that students may still enjoy the unique Oxford experience, including college life, small class sizes, tutorials and interaction with Oxford faculty and students.

Students select two of five taught option courses:

- Comparative Copyright
- Incentivising Innovation
- Law and Technology
- Incentivising Aesthetic Progress
- Trade Marks and Brands

The remaining part of the year is dedicated to writing a dissertation that tests academic research skills and the ability to develop and maintain a detailed argument across an extended piece of writing. This not only provides more in depth research training, encompassing perspectives drawn from the fields of copyright, design, patents and trade marks but also demands a higher level of critical engagement. Students will be encouraged to view individual issues in particular areas in the broader context of the relationship between the state and the market, and deep dive into the technical aspects of a subject and their relationship with broad policy issues.

Led by academics from the Law Faculty and the Oxford Intellectual Property Research Centre, the programme also draws on the assistance of eminent practitioners with a broad interest and wide knowledge of intellectual property law.

Students will be expected to spend between seven to ten hours studying each week during term, and to undertake some further study during weeks in which essays are due. During the first two terms you will be advised to divide your time between the optional courses and your tutorials as follows:

- At least eight hours per week in preparation for each option
- Four hours per week in seminars (two hours for each)
- At least six hours per term in preparation for tutorials
- Six hours per term in tutorials (two hours for each)

During the third term, students will be expected to spend eight hours per week preparing their dissertation.

Attendance

The course is part-time. Part-time students are required to attend course-related activities in Oxford for a minimum of 30 days each year.

The MSc in Intellectual Property is not available by distance learning. Although there will be no requirement to live in Oxford, part-time students must attend the Faculty of Law at least one day per week in term-time (October and November, mid-January to mid-March, and late April to mid-June) for lectures, seminars, and supervision meetings.

You cannot be enrolled in the part-time course if you need a visa to study in the UK.

Resources to support your study

As a graduate student, you will have access to the University's wide range of world-class 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.

The Law Faculty is fortunate to have outstanding library facilities provided by the Bodleian Law Library. As part of the Bodleian, the Law Library shares in all the advantages of being part of the largest university library in the country, including the receipt, under legal deposit legislation, of legal material published in the UK and Ireland.

The Law Library offers the vast majority of its holdings - some 550,000 items - on open shelves across four floors. Selected low-use material is housed in a book storage facility and is retrievable within half a day. The library serves a large community of graduate readers and academics in their research requirements. The strength of the collection lies in the depth of its UK holdings, combined with extensive holdings for European and Commonwealth jurisdictions. In addition the library holds materials relating to international law, Roman law, and jurisprudence. To complement the paper collection, the Law Library provides a wide range of online legal resources. The Bodleian's collection of Official Papers is also housed in the Law Library.

The library has reader workstations, which provide access to legal databases. There is a Graduate Reading Room, a large seminar room, IT rooms and small 'discussion rooms' for private study or group work. The law librarians offer a range of classes and one-to-one sessions to support the specific research needs of graduate students.

Supervision

The allocation of graduate supervision for this course is the responsibility of the Faculty of Law 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 Faculty of Law.

Students will have six tutorials during their two modules. For their dissertation, students will have three meetings with their supervisor, either online or in person during Michaelmas term and the first half of Hilary term.

Assessment

The option courses are assessed at the end of the term in which they are run. Two modules (Comparative Copyright, and Trade Marks and Brands) rely on a final examination and three (Incentivising Aesthetic Progress, Incentivising Innovation, and Law and Technology) are assessed by two extended essays.

The dissertation is to be submitted at the end of the third term. The two option courses each contribute 25% of the final degree outcome, and the dissertation will contribute 50%. To pass the degree, students must pass both option courses and the dissertation.

Changes to this course

The University will seek to deliver this course in accordance with the description set out above. 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 you commence your course. These might include significant changes made necessary by any pandemic, epidemic or local health emergency. For further information, please see the University's Terms and Conditions (<http://www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/terms>) and our page on changes to courses (<http://www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/coursechanges>).

Costs

Annual course fees

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

Fees for the 2025-26 academic year at the University of Oxford

Fee status	Annual Course fees
Home	£12,965
Overseas	£12,965

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 cost information (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 information section 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, please be aware that fees will usually increase annually. Information about how much fees and other costs may increase is set out in the University's Terms and Conditions (<http://www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/terms>).

Additional cost information

Please note that this course requires that you attend in Oxford for teaching, and you may incur additional travel and accommodation expenses for this. Further, as part of your course requirements, you will need to choose a dissertation topic. Depending on your choice of 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 small grants from your department and/or college to help you cover some of these expenses. Attendance at the Residential Programme and Workshops (including refreshments and lunches) are included in the Annual Fees. All other costs such as travel and accommodation will need to be met by students. Currently the Residential Programme and Revision Workshops are held in Oxford with the remaining workshops held in London. Students will need to pay for any accommodation for the two-week residential programme held in Oxford at the beginning of the course which we can arrange for you. This cost is expected to be in the region of £1,200 for 10 nights, including breakfast and dinner. Students can also choose to stay over the weekend for an extra cost per night including breakfast.

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.

If you are studying part-time your living costs may vary depending on your personal circumstances but you must still ensure that you will have sufficient funding to meet these costs for the duration of your course.

The likely living costs for the 2025-26 academic year are published below. These costs are based on a single, full-time graduate student, with no dependants, living in Oxford. We provide the cost per month so you can multiply up by the number of months you expect to live in Oxford.

Likely living costs for one month

	Lower range	Upper range
Food	£330	£515
Accommodation	£790	£955
Personal items	£200	£335
Social activities	£45	£100
Study costs	£40	£90
Other	£20	£40
Total	£1,425	£2,035

Likely living costs for nine months

	Lower range	Upper range
Food	£2,970	£4,635
Accommodation	£7,110	£8,595
Personal items	£1,800	£3,015
Social activities	£405	£900
Study costs	£360	£810
Other	£180	£360
Total	£12,825	£18,315

Likely living costs for twelve months

	Lower range	Upper range
Food	£3,960	£6,180
Accommodation	£9,480	£11,460
Personal items	£2,400	£4,020
Social activities	£540	£1,200
Study costs	£480	£1,080
Other	£240	£480
Total	£17,100	£24,420

When planning your finances for any future years of study at Oxford beyond the 2025-26 academic year, it is suggested that you allow for potential increases in living expenses of 4% each year – although this rate may vary depending on the national economic situation.

More information about how these figures have been calculated is available at www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/livingcosts.

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) or via the online form (<http://www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/ask/form>).