

Course Information Sheet for entry in 2025-26: MSc in Integrated Immunology (Part-time)



Course facts

Mode of study	Part Time
Expected length	24 months

About the course

Immunology is an interesting, complex and dynamic subject, the applications of which have changed society. The discoveries and inventions of immunologists have led to worldwide successes in vaccination, immunotherapy, transplantation and immunodiagnostics.

The aim of the taught MSc in Integrated Immunology (Part-time) is to provide students with a stimulating and comprehensive education, high-quality research training and the professional skills required for a rewarding career in modern immunology. The department particularly welcomes exceptional candidates from challenging or unconventional backgrounds, those residing in low- and middle-income countries, and those with caring or professional responsibilities.

Structure and Content

The part-time online MSc in Integrated Immunology explores immunology in breadth and depth and is intended for science and medical postgraduates. It is a 24-month, part-time course comprising two taught units followed by an extended research project typically hosted by a University of Oxford research group. The first taught unit focuses on the fundamental science of immunology. This is taught over Michaelmas and Hilary terms of the first academic year. The second unit explores the applied, clinical and therapeutic aspects of immunology, and is taught over Trinity term and the long vacation of the first year. The third unit research project takes place over the second year of study, beginning in Michaelmas term and ending during Trinity term.

Taught units are each delivered across a series of five linked topic themes to ensure holistic coverage of modern immunology.

Course content includes:

Unit 1 Scientific Principles of Immunology taught themes:

- Fundamentals in immunology
- Innate immunity and inflammation
- Antigen presentation and recognition
- Adaptive immunity
- Evolution of human immunity

Unit 2 Clinical and Applied Principles of Immunology taught themes:

- Infection & immunity
- Failure of immunity
- Aberrant or unwanted immunity
- Cancer immunology
- Manipulation of immunity

Unit 3 Experimental Principles of Immunology:

- Research project (remote, desk based)

Teaching and Learning

The course is designed to support you with flexible part-time study, therefore, written, recorded and interactive materials are accessible asynchronously, allowing you to study at a time that suits you. The class will meet 'live' online, typically at fortnightly intervals during taught units. Pre-recorded lectures are given by speakers drawn from the University of Oxford Immunology Network, Oxford University Hospitals or external institutions. During the third unit you will undertake a desk-based remote project with staff affiliated to a top-ranked research department or institute across the Medical Sciences Division. Oxford has one of the highest concentrations of research-active immunologists in the world; students on this MSc course are therefore uniquely placed to benefit from this wealth of expertise.

Within taught units, topic themes each last between two and four weeks. In an average teaching week, students usually watch three to four pre-recorded lectures and complete related reading and asynchronous interactive activities. Each topic theme includes one or two synchronous 'live' online small group discussions, collaborative activities or problem-based learning sessions, which are led by tutors or students. Continuing professional development classes, including in scientific skills, careers and special research seminars take place during both taught terms. Self-directed study is also required alongside structured teaching. In the third unit you will undertake an original, supervised research project to gain a working understanding of research techniques in immunology or a related area. Research supervisors provide support and guidance during the course of the desk-based project, and students are normally expected to work on their projects part-time during the week, or as agreed with their supervisor.

The course includes a one-week residential which will provide special seminars and other academic activities, opportunities for professional networking and time to explore your college and the wonderful city of Oxford. This will include social events with your fellow students and the course team.

Attendance

This part-time postgraduate course is delivered online over two years, with a one-week residential component in Oxford. The residential will be held in Oxford towards the end of the first year of study, usually in September. While not mandatory, attendance is strongly encouraged. There are no academic penalties for non-attendance.

The course is aimed at those who wish to study the exciting subject of immunology at a world-class institution, but who are not able to relocate to Oxford to study full-time in-person.

On average, over the units of study during the course term time it is expected that students devote an average of 12 hours per week to their studies.

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.

As part of the Bodleian libraries, you will have access to the Bodleian Health Care Libraries. You will therefore have online access to further reading materials recommended by lecturers.

All resources, including lecture presentations and recommended further reading as well as material for problem-based learning sessions and/or small-group discussion classes, are made available through Canvas, the virtual learning environment for which you will receive training at the beginning of the course.

During your research projects, you will become a member of the hosting research group and you will conduct a desk-based project with remote support from them. The Course Team will also maintain contact with you and your peers during this time.

Supervision

The allocation of graduate supervision for this course is the responsibility of the Nuffield Department of Surgical Sciences 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 Surgical Sciences.

The Course Director will be your primary supervisor throughout the course. They typically have close contact with the class during the first two terms and you will have the opportunity to meet with them online to discuss your progress. In the third term day-to-day supervision is devolved to the project supervisor, however the Course Director remains available to meet with students and will continue to monitor their progress.

Assessment

By the end of the course students should be able to clearly demonstrate their understanding of how the fundamental principles of immunology integrate with the clinical aspects of immune-driven disease, and with other relevant bioscience disciplines. Successful graduates should also be able to respond to complex questions and challenges in immunology using their comprehensive understanding of the field and their analytical and research skills. To evidence this, students undertake six assessments across the two-year course.

At the end of each taught unit, you will take a computer-based examination to test core knowledge. Further elements of the overall assessment are a critical essay in Unit 1, a set of clinical case commentaries in Unit 2, a research dissertation in Unit 3 and a final viva voce examination, which will normally take place live online.

All students are required to resit and pass any failed assessments, with resits typically scheduled early in the following term.

Students can exit the course with a Postgraduate Diploma (PGDip) in Integrated Immunology, upon satisfying the assessment requirements for Units 1 and 2.

Detailed assessment instructions and marking criteria will be provided at the beginning of each unit. The course also includes formative assessment and feedback opportunities, designed to prepare you for the main assessments and to develop your academic and professional skills.

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	£10,685
Overseas	£19,205

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

All students on this course will need access to a computer, webcam, microphone and a reliable broadband internet connection (compulsory). The recommended bandwidth for the software used is 1Mbps. This is estimated to cost approximately £1,000. Departmental or college bursaries may be available for this. There will be a one-week residential component in Oxford towards the end of the first year of study. Travel and subsistence for this visit is estimated to be £1000 for overseas candidates and £600 for home students, and the course will underwrite these expenses at these rates. There are no academic penalties for non-attendance.

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>).