

Course Information Sheet for entry in 2026-27: MSc in Digital Scholarship



Course facts

Mode of study	Full Time Only
Expected length	10 months

About the course

The MSc in Digital Scholarship is a taught course exploring how digital tools transform humanistic research. It combines lectures, seminars, and a practicum, culminating in a dissertation with optional digital outputs.

It is anticipated that you will learn to lead and manage digital projects in and outside the strictly academic domain and gain the expertise to progress to innovative doctoral research projects.

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.

The course is comprised of four main elements, each of which helps you prepare for the dissertation. These include a core paper Elements of Digital Scholarship, two technical options papers around Methods of Digital Scholarship, a subject-specific paper and a Practicum placement to gain experience developing your proposed research topic.

All of this work culminates in the dissertation, which is formulated flexibly to encourage both traditional academic prose and non-traditional digital outputs. You will work with a supervisor and have up to six hours of contact time/ support from them, starting at the end of Michaelmas term and continuing through Hilary term, though the bulk of the work will be concentrated in Trinity (summer) term.

You will be able to participate in the rich research culture of [Oxford's Digital Scholarship @ Oxford](https://digitalscholarship.web.ox.ac.uk/) (<https://digitalscholarship.web.ox.ac.uk/>). This includes a programme of talks and seminars, an annual Summer School, and networking opportunities within Oxford's vibrant digital scholarship community at the Bodleian's Centre for Digital Scholarship.

[The Oxford Centre for Research in the Humanities \(TORCH\)](https://torch.ox.ac.uk/) (<https://torch.ox.ac.uk/>) offers a stimulating range of interdisciplinary activities. Further opportunities for exchange are provided by the interdisciplinary communities fostered within individual colleges.

You will also be able to attend seminars and other events from across the faculties of the Humanities Division, thereby encountering a wide range of leading writers, critics, and theorists from within and beyond the University.

If your application is successful, it is recommended that you take the [Humanities Research in the Digital Age open-access online course](https://www.oocdtp.ac.uk/article/new-online-course-digital-humanities) (<https://www.oocdtp.ac.uk/article/new-online-course-digital-humanities>) (developed by the Open-Oxford-Cambridge AHRC Doctoral Training Partnership) before the MSc begins, to ensure that you have comprehensive background knowledge of the field.

Attendance

The course is full-time and requires 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 course is taught through lectures, seminars, technical classes, and one-to-one supervision for the dissertation, as well as a project placement. Michaelmas term is the most teaching intensive term with about 10-12 contact hours with further classes taking place in Hilary term. In Trinity term, apart from the Practicum placement which you will attend for a minimum of 20 days in total, you will be expected to be doing independent work on your dissertation. You should expect to undertake a significant number of hours of self-directed study throughout the year, including during the vacations, and you will be usually working for about 40 hours per week between teaching and independent work.

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

You will be based in the Schwarzman Centre for the Humanities, a brand-new building at the University of Oxford expected to open in 2025, which will accommodate seven faculties, two institutes, a new library, a large number of well-equipped teaching and seminar rooms, and performance and arts venues. Each faculty will have its own centre and social hub within a building which will also facilitate interdisciplinary and collaborative work. At the heart of the building will be a large atrium – called the Great Hall – which will be 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 building will enable the recently-established Cultural Programme to flourish, with a 500-seat world class concert hall, a theatre, experimental performance venue, 100-seat cinema, and exhibition hall. Many of these venues will support academic and student-led activities, as well as performances and creative works by professional artists. The cultural programme will enrich the lives of students, and will also provide opportunities to get involved.

The library, part of the Bodleian Libraries, will be open to all students, and will house lending collections for English, Film Studies, History of Medicine, Internet Studies, Music, Philosophy and Theology. There will be 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 will be 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 will be 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.

Supervision

The allocation of graduate supervision for this course is the responsibility of the steering committee for the MSc in Digital Scholarship in consultation with faculties in the Humanities Division, 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 Humanities Division.

Each student will be given the opportunity to participate in an optional career mentor system in which they are paired with one of Oxford's renowned digital scholars with whom they can discuss and seek advice on their own careers.

Assessment

Elements of Digital Scholarship

Elements of Digital Scholarship will be assessed by two essays, one due at the start of Hilary term and the other due at the start of Trinity Term.

Methods of Digital Scholarship

Methods of Digital Scholarship (Technical Option Papers): the aim is for the student to obtain sufficient mastery of the specific digital tools and methods needed for their dissertation projects. Assessment methods will depend on the options chosen but are likely to involve both a practical and written element.

Subject-Specific Paper

The Subject-Specific Paper will follow the assessment regime determined by the convenor of the individual course selected by the student.

Practicum placement

The practicum placement is designed to offer each student the opportunity to join one of Oxford's flagship digital projects deploying innovative digital methods to teaching, research, or collections in the humanities. The specific team chosen will typically be the one most closely related to some aspect of your own dissertation project. The placement will be assessed by submission of a digital asset and short report due at the end of Trinity term.

Dissertation

The dissertation (or equivalent if a practical component or digital asset is included) will be due in at the beginning of August. The supervisor will give advice on the scope of the dissertation, guide the research, and give feedback on written work.

Course components

Compulsory study

Elements of digital scholarship

This core paper provides a systematic overview of every stage of a digital project and its data life-cycle. Each topic is illustrated by ongoing work in one or more of Oxford's flagship digital scholarship projects, the key problems they have encountered and the solutions they have developed. As such, the series also serves to introduce students to the division's major projects in the field, with a view to choosing the practicum placement and the dissertation topic.

Practicum placement

This element will allow you to gain experience developing your proposed research topic while working within Oxford's vast array of flagship Digital Scholarship projects and to plan your own research project with potential supervisors.

Dissertation

The dissertation is formulated flexibly to encourage both traditional academic prose and non-traditional digital outputs.

Options

Methods of Digital Scholarship

Methods of Digital Scholarship, running in the first term, will require you to choose two technical options papers which provide the hands-on training needed to equip students with specific methods relevant to their project.

Subject-specific paper

You will choose a subject-specific paper in a discipline of your choice in the second term. The option will be selected from a list of existing master's papers available from faculties of the Humanities Division. Please note that availability of options may vary from year to year.

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 \(//www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/courses/changes-to-courses\)](https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/courses/changes-to-courses) and the [provisions of the student contract \(//www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/after-you-apply/your-offer-and-contract\)](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	£19,900
Overseas	£43,730

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

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 the Humanities Division 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 \(//www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/living-costs\)](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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