

## Course Information Sheet for entry in 2026-27: MSc in Software Engineering



### Course facts

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

### About the course

The MSc in Software Engineering is a part-time taught course covering modern software engineering principles, tools, and methods, with intensive modules and a final project and dissertation completed over three to four years.

### 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 MSc in Software Engineering offers professional study in around 30 different subjects within the area of software engineering, 15 of which are in security. To earn an MSc in Software Engineering, you must complete courses in ten different subjects, the majority of which must be in the area of software engineering.

Each course is delivered by an expert in the subject and is based around a single, intensive teaching week of classes, practical sessions, and group work; class sizes are kept small to facilitate interaction and to promote effective learning. Each subject is taught at least once a year - some are taught two or three times - and most can be studied in any order.

An assignment is typically distributed on the last day of the teaching week. This builds upon the learning of the week, allowing you to test and extend your understanding through application outside the classroom.

You will also complete a short project and associated dissertation. The project must be an original demonstration of ability and understanding, but there is no requirement to advance the state of the art in the field. You only need to choose and apply an appropriate selection of existing ideas and techniques-provided that your choice, the process of application, and any outcomes are properly explained. Generally, the project and dissertation represent the same effort as two more courses.

The project assessment involves compulsory attendance at a one-week project course, at which you will present and refine your proposal, and attend teaching sessions on research skills, engineering in context, and social, legal and ethical issues.

### Attendance

As a part-time student you will be required to attend ten modules, mostly held in-person in Oxford (though some may be online). Each module consists of an intensive week of lectures and practicals, held on Monday to Friday, usually with a half day on the Friday. You have a flexible choice of modules, subject to availability of places.

Most students will spend three or four years completing the 10 courses required for the MSc. Each course involves an expectation of about 150 hours' work typically 35 intensive contact hours during the teaching week, 10 hours before the teaching week for pre-study and 25 hours afterwards on the assignment, and the remainder of time spent on self-directed reading and related exercises.

### 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 Department of Computer Science has dedicated teaching facilities for the Professional Master's Programme, including lecture and lab space, tea and coffee making facilities, and a student break area. When attending a course, each student has sole use of a desk and Apple computer, with all relevant software; or they may bring their own laptop.

The Department of Computer Science Library contains books, monographic series, journals, technical reports and past theses covering the main research interests of the department. It is principally for use by graduate students and staff. You will also be able to access other relevant libraries elsewhere in the University such as the Radcliffe Science Library, the Whitehead Library (at the Mathematical Institute for numerical analysts and formal mathematicians), and the Engineering Science Library (especially for those interested in robotics and machine vision).

The Department of Computer Science houses lecture theatres and seminar rooms, and students are welcome to attend public seminars.

## **Supervision**

The allocation of graduate supervision for this course is the responsibility of the Department of Computer Science 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 Department of Computer Science.

You will be assigned a supervisor at the beginning of your period of study. Supervisors can provide advice on all academic matters including course selection, the choice of a suitable project and the preparation of a dissertation. Your supervisor may change when you start work on your dissertation.

## **Assessment**

The mode of assessment for the course is written assignments that are distributed on the last day of the teaching week. Assignments are to be submitted within a six-week time frame.

You will need to complete a short project and associated dissertation. The results of the project work are presented in a dissertation format. This forms the basis for formal assessment of the project, just as the written assignments form the basis for assessment of the taught modules. The dissertation can be submitted at any time during the allowed period of study, although it is usually the last piece of work undertaken.

## **Course components**

### **Compulsory study**

All students are required to complete a short project and associated dissertation.

The project assessment involves compulsory attendance at a one-week project course. Generally, the project and dissertation represent the same effort as two more courses. All students must complete ten taught modules, the majority of which must be in the area of systems security.

### **Options**

The options that are offered may vary from year to year as the course develops, and according to the interests of teaching staff. The examples below illustrate the kinds of topics that have been offered recently.

Subject areas within software engineering include:

- Object-Oriented Programming
- Database Design
- Cloud Computing
- Agile Methods
- Deep Neural Networks
- Quantum Computing
- Classical Machine Learning
- Semantic Technologies
- Software Testing

Each subject is taught at least once a year, some are taught two or three times, and most can be studied in any order. An assignment is typically distributed on the last day of the teaching week.

## **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](http://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](http://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

The fees for this course are charged on a modular basis. You will pay one programme or registration fee and an additional fee for each module studied. The registration fee is split into four instalments, which are due at or before the beginning of each year of study. This MSc can be undertaken in a minimum of two and a maximum of four years and all instalments will be due regardless of duration of study. Students must complete ten modules, together with a masters'-level project and dissertation. The cost of the project module is included in the MSc registration fee. Extension fees will apply at £100 per term beyond the four years.

### Fees for the 2026-27 academic year

Fee status	Registration Fee	Fee per module	Total estimated fees
Home	£13,390	£3,280	Please see the department's website for <a href="http://www.cs.ox.ac.uk/softeng/study/fees.html">further details</a>
Overseas	£22,330	£3,280	<a href="http://www.cs.ox.ac.uk/softeng/study/fees.html">. (http://www.cs.ox.ac.uk/softeng/study/fees.html)</a>

### 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](http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/new/contract) (<http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/new/contract>).

Our [fees and other charges](http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/fees-and-other-charges) (<http://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](http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/fees-and-other-charges/courses-fees-and-liability) (<http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/fees-and-other-charges/courses-fees-and-liability>);
- [how your fee status is determined](http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/fees-and-other-charges/fee-status) (<http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/fees-and-other-charges/fee-status>); and
- [changes to fees and other charges](http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/fees-and-other-charges/changes-to-fees-and-charges) (<http://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](http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/new/contract) (<http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/new/contract>).

### Additional costs

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 may need to choose a dissertation, a project or a thesis 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 to help you 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 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](#)

(<https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/living-costs>), (if [visitor visa eligibility criteria](https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/living-costs) (<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

	Lower range	Upper range
<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](https://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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