

Course Information Sheet for entry in 2026-27: MPhil in Jewish Studies



Course facts

Mode of study	Full Time Only
Expected length	21 months

About the course

The MPhil in Jewish Studies is a taught course exploring Jewish history and culture from antiquity to modern times, with intensive study of Modern or Biblical Hebrew or Yiddish, four option papers, and a dissertation.

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 MPhil is a taught master's course, designed to teach the methods, sources and languages required for more specialised research within Jewish Studies. You will complete 6 terms of language study in the same language, select four courses from a range of options and complete a dissertation of up to 30,000 words.

The degree course is intensive and is based on small classes, seminars, tutorials and close faculty-student contact.

Teaching typically consists of a weekly one hour tutorial or class for each option. Language courses typically consist of five hours of class teaching per week. In addition students can expect to meet with their thesis supervisor twice a term.

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). ([/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))

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.

You will have access to the Leopold Muller Memorial Library at the Clarendon Institute which has a collection specialising mainly in the areas of Jewish history and Hebrew literature. It comprises some 90,000 Hebrew volumes and pamphlets and an archive of 400,000 newspaper cuttings mostly from the Hebrew press. A significant addition to the holdings was the library of Gedalyah Elkoshi (1910-1988), a collection containing some 17,000 books, and constituting a richly varied library in Jewish studies and Hebrew literature. The library also holds a collection of more than 900 Yizkor Books, the largest unified and open-access collection of this literature in Europe. Yizkor Books - memorials to Jewish communities destroyed in the Holocaust - are indispensable sources of information regarding Jews in Eastern and Central Europe.

The library contains several other important collections: the Montefiore Book Collection, one of the most significant collections of its kind in the UK and a major resource for the study of modern European Jewish history; the Copenhagen Collection, comprising nearly 30,000 books relating to the history of Dutch Jewry from the early 17th century until the end of the 20th century; the Rabbinic library donated by Rabbi Dr Louis Jacobs, in particular the sections on Kabbalah, Mysticism and Hasidism. The section on Halakhah, containing Responsa from early to modern times, provides an exceptional resource for the study of Rabbinic Judaism and is probably the only one of its kind in Europe. The Western Hebrew Library, collected by Sir Samuel Montagu, 1st Baron Swaythling for the New West End Synagogue, has nearly two thousand books, the majority 17th and 18th century Hebrew prints. The Hugo Gryn Library and Archive, the Loewe Pamphlet Collection and the Loewe Archive, are important resources for the study of Anglo-Jewry.

The main sections of the library are: Bible, Bibliography, History of the Jewish People, Holocaust, Israel Judaism, Modern Hebrew Literature, Yizkor Books, and Zionism. The library is situated next to the common room for Hebrew and Jewish Studies, where tea and coffee are available and staff and students can meet.

The Bodleian Library has unrivalled collections of Hebrew and Yiddish manuscripts and printed books. You will also benefit from the Nizami Ganjavi Library part of the Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, which contains Biblical, Jewish, Islamic and other Asian and Middle Eastern works.

You will have access to the University's centrally provided electronic resources, the Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies' IT Officer, and other bibliographic, archive or material sources as appropriate to the topic. There is a computing room for the use of graduate students in the Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, as well as a common room where tea and coffee are available and staff and students can meet.

Supervision

The allocation of graduate supervision for this course is the responsibility of the Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies 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 Asian and Middle Eastern Studies.

Most students have the opportunity to meet individually with their supervisor at least twice a term.

Assessment

You will be required to pass a qualifying examination in the language chosen at the end of the first year of the course, unless exempted.

Most option courses are assessed by two essays to be handed in at the end of the vacation following the term in which they were taught, though for certain courses there is a timed examination at the end of the third term of the second year. The language studied will also be assessed by a timed examination at the end of Trinity term (summer term) of the final year of the course. Finally, a dissertation will be assessed. Conferral of the degree requires that students pass all components of the course.

Further information on the course, and the examination process, can be found in the course handbook via the course webpage on the faculty's website.

Course components

Compulsory study

You will be required to complete six terms of language study in the same language. You may choose to study either Modern Hebrew or Biblical Hebrew or Yiddish at elementary, intermediate or advanced level.

You will also write a dissertation of up to 30,000 words.

Options

You will also be required to select four courses from a range of options. The options of this course, which vary from year to year, must be selected from those on offer.

Options are subject to availability of teaching each year but might include:

- Septuagint and Related Studies
- Introduction to Rabbinic Texts
- Modern Jewish History
- The Emergence of Modern Religious Movements in Judaism
- The Religion of Israel
- The Holocaust: From History to Memory
- Written Culture in the Medieval Jewish World
- On Sherd and Papyrus: Jews in ancient documents from Hellenistic and early Roman Egypt
- Main Themes in Israeli Society and Politics
- Modern Hebrew Literature.

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

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	£18,290
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 their faculty 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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