

## Course Information Sheet for entry in 2026-27: MSt in Practical Ethics



### Course facts

Mode of study	Part Time Only
Expected length	2 to 3 years

### About the course

The MSt in Practical Ethics offers high quality training in practical ethics through flexible, part-time learning.

This course is run jointly by the [Uehiro Oxford Institute \(https://www.uehiro.ox.ac.uk/\)](https://www.uehiro.ox.ac.uk/) and the [Department for Continuing Education \(https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/courses/continuing-education\)](https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/courses/continuing-education), and draws on the internationally recognised research and expertise of the Uehiro Oxford Institute and the [Ethox Centre \(https://www.ethox.ox.ac.uk/\)](https://www.ethox.ox.ac.uk/).

The course is highly interdisciplinary in character but the primary focus is ethical and philosophical. Students will learn how to apply rigorous philosophical analysis to real-life ethical problems and will be provided with a grounding in key ethical concepts and methods, as well as in major debates in practical ethics. Students will also have the opportunity for in-depth research on a topic of their choice.

The course is relevant to students from a wide range of professional backgrounds, including philosophy and bioethics, medicine and health, the technology sector, and the legal and public policy sectors.

The University of Oxford was ranked as the top university for the study of ethics by the [Centre for World University Rankings in 2017 \(https://cwur.org/2017/subjects.php#Ethics\)](https://cwur.org/2017/subjects.php#Ethics), and has consistently ranked as the top university in applied ethics by the [Philosophical Gourmet Report \(https://www.philosophicalgourmet.com/theory-of-value/\)](https://www.philosophicalgourmet.com/theory-of-value/), including its most recent report (2024-25).

### 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.

In this course, students undertake six taught modules and a dissertation. There is one compulsory module and a choice of five out of eight option modules.

Each module will be taught over an intensive residential teaching week (~25 contact hours) in Oxford to include lectures, seminars, and discussion groups. Modules are normally provided in clusters, offering students options around the number of visits to Oxford each year. Online materials are available including essential readings, alongside forums where students can communicate and continue discussion when away from Oxford.

It is expected that students undertake significant independent study in order to complete the assessments to the appropriate level. This will vary from student to student and over the period of the course according to the modules taken, but is expected to be around 16 hours of independent study per week for periods equivalent to the length of term (three sets of eight weeks) throughout the year, although the course will not stick rigidly to the term structure.

### Attendance

This course is part-time. You will be expected to attend six, five-day residential teaching weeks in Oxford over the duration of the course.

Face-to-face teaching is often carried out in teaching rooms within the Department for Continuing Education but may be carried out in a college or other University venue.

### 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>) at Oxford.

During the teaching blocks in Oxford and other study visits, you will have physical access to university buildings, facilities and support, including libraries, IT services, career and counselling services, and sport and recreation, though many of Oxford's facilities are now also readily available online.

Readings required for the taught course will be provided online.

The Uehiro Oxford Institute (<https://www.uehiro.ox.ac.uk/>) hosts a large international community of scholars in practical ethics, and students will be able to use the shared desk space, add their bio to the website, and join the institute's events and other activities.

## Supervision

The allocation of graduate supervision for this course is the responsibility of the Uehiro Oxford Institute and/or the Department for Continuing Education. It is not always possible to accommodate the preferences of incoming graduate students to work with a particular member of staff. In exceptional circumstances, a supervisor may occasionally be found outside the Uehiro Oxford Institute or the Department for Continuing Education when appropriate.

## Assessment

Assessment for each module is based on one essay per module. Students will also complete a dissertation on a topic chosen in consultation with a supervisor.

## Course components

### Compulsory study

Compulsory module:

- Ethical Concepts and Methods

### Options

Option modules:

- Artificial Intelligence Ethics
- Climate, Environment and Animals
- Data and Digital Ethics
- Ethics of the Beginning and End of Life
- Neuroethics
- Philosophy, Psychiatry and Mental Health
- Research Ethics and Empirical Ethics
- Well-Being, Disability and Enhancement

The compulsory module runs yearly and five of the eight option modules should run each year.

## Dissertation

You will also complete a dissertation on a topic chosen in consultation with a supervisor.

## 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 (<https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/courses/changes-to-courses>) and the provisions of the student contract (<https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/after-you-apply/your-offer-and-provisions-of-the-student-contract>).

contract regarding changes to courses.

## Costs

### Modular course fees

The fees for this course are charged on a modular basis. You will pay an annual course fee and an additional fee for each module studied. A minimum of two annual course fees are payable for this course. If this course includes a dissertation, three module fees will be charged for the dissertation.

### Fees for the 2026-27 academic year

Fee status	Annual Course Fee	Fee per module	Total estimated fees
Home	£2,770	£2,325	Please see the department's website for <a href="https://www.conted.ox.ac.uk/about/mst-in-practical-ethics">further details</a>
Overseas	£2,770	£2,325	<a href="https://www.conted.ox.ac.uk/about/mst-in-practical-ethics">. (https://www.conted.ox.ac.uk/about/mst-in-practical-ethics)</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 \(//www.ox.ac.uk/students/new/contract\)](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

Please note that this course requires that you attend in Oxford for six, five-day residential teaching weeks over the duration of the course and you may incur additional travel and accommodation expenses for this. Accommodation costs in Oxford can start at around £98 per night in a college or around £120 in a hotel (single rate). Students should also factor in costs for meals during their stay. You will need to meet these additional costs yourself. There are no other compulsory elements of this course that entail additional costs beyond fees and living costs.

### 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 \(//www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/living-costs\)](https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/living-costs) (if [visitor visa eligibility criteria \(//www.ox.ac.uk/students/visa/before/visitors\)](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 \(//www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/living-costs\)](https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/living-costs) page of our website.

#### Document accessibility

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