If you require a more accessible version of the document, please contact Undergraduate Admissions by email (uao.comms@admin.ox.ac.uk) or via the online form (www.ox.ac.uk/ask).

Computer Science (BA) (three-year course); (MCompSci) (four-year course) Course Information Sheet for entry in 2026

Entry requirements

Visit Admission requirements for 2026 entry to view a summary table of each undergraduate course's entry requirements.

If English is not your first language you may also need to meet our English language requirements.

About the course

Computer science is about understanding computer systems and networks at a deep level. You will use your understanding of mathematical reasoning to reason rigorously about the behaviours of computer programmes and systems.

This course concentrates on creating links between theory and practice, covering a wide variety of software and hardware technologies and their applications.

The course offers the opportunity to develop more understanding of Computer Science as a subject, and focuses on the mathematical underpinnings of computer science. It offers the opportunity to gain practical problem-solving and programme design skills.

The first year and part of second year you will spend acquiring a grounding in core topics. Students can then choose from a range of options in Computer Science subjects starting in second year.

In the second year, students take part in a group design practical, which may be sponsored by industry.

A typical week

During the first part of the course, a typical week would be made up of around eight lectures, two tutorials and up to two practical sessions.

Tutorials are usually 2-4 students with a tutor. Class sizes may vary depending on the options you choose. There will usually be around 8-15 students though classes for some of the more popular papers may be larger. Lectures can be up to 120 students.

As the course progresses there will be opportunity to undertake project work. There will be a group project in year two, an (optional) individual project in year three and, for those that choose to continue to year four, a large individual project.

Throughout your time studying you will learn from leading computer science specialists and researchers.

Most tutorials, classes, and lectures are delivered by staff who are tutors in their subject. Many are world-leading experts with years of experience in teaching and research. Some teaching may also be delivered by postgraduate students who are studying at doctoral level.

To find out more about how our teaching year is structured, visit our [Academic Year](#) page.

Significant self-study is expected of all students – for further details see [workload and independent study](#) information. Undergraduate courses at Oxford are full-time during term time. Students typically spend approximately 40 hours per week on academic work.

Course structure

Computer Science can be studied for three years (BA) or four years, leading to an award of Master of Computer Science (MCompSci).

Students do not need to choose between the three-year and four-year options when applying to the course. All students apply for the four-year course, and then decide by the end of their third year whether they wish to continue to the fourth year. In order to proceed into the fourth year (part C), students will need to achieve a 2:1 or higher classification at the end of their third year.

YEAR 1

COURSES	ASSESSMENT
Core courses (100%): • Continuous mathematics • Design and analysis of algorithms • Digital systems • Discrete mathematics • Functional programming • Imperative programming • Introduction to proof systems • Linear algebra • Probability	Four exam papers

YEAR 2

COURSES	ASSESSMENT
Core courses (50%): • Algorithms and data structures • Compilers • Concurrent programming • Models of computation • Group design practical Current options (50%) include:	Eight exam papers. Group Design Practical is assessed by a demonstration and presentation.

YEAR 2

- Artificial intelligence
- Computer architecture
- Computer graphics
- Databases
- Logic and proof
- Quantum information

YEAR 3

COURSES

Current options (75%) include:

- Computer-aided formal verification
- Computational complexity
- Computer security
- Geometric modelling
- Lambda calculus and types
- Machine learning
- Principals of programming languages

Optional project work (25%), to be confirmed

ASSESSMENT

Six exam papers plus project report, or eight exam papers

YEAR 4

COURSES

Current options (62%) include:

- Advanced security
- Automata, logic and games
- Categories, proofs and processes
- Concurrent algorithms and data structures
- Computational biology
- Computational game theory
- Computational learning theory
- Database systems implementation
- Foundation of self-programming agents
- Geometric deep learning
- Graph representational learning
- Probabilistic model checking

ASSESSMENT

Five take-home exams or written papers plus project report

YEAR 4	
• Quantum software Project work (38%) (Not all options may be available every year – these are subject to change, as explained in the Terms & Conditions and for reasons of staff availability and student demand. The department may add extra options.)	

Most Oxford courses are assessed by examinations. These are typically at the end of the first and last years but you may have assessments at other times and some courses have exams in the second year also. First year examinations are often called Prelims or Moderations, and you need to pass these exams to progress to the second year. You must pass your final year exams, or 'finals', to pass your degree. For more information on assessment for your course, please see the Course Structure.

Finals also determine the classification of your degree. For some courses you may also be assessed on your practical work, or you may be required to submit a dissertation. Please check the assessment details for your 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 registration. For further information, please see the University's Terms and Conditions and information about potential course changes.

You are also referred to the Student Handbook (which is updated every September).

Fees

These annual fees in 2026/27 are for full-time students who begin this undergraduate course here in 2026. Information about how much fees and other costs usually increase each year is set out in the University's Terms and Conditions.

For details of annual increases, please see our guidance on likely increases to fees and charges.

Fee status	**Annual Course fees in 2026/27**
Home	£9,790
Overseas	£62,820

In the 2027-28 academic year course fees for Home fee status students will rise to £10,050 (in line with the government fee cap.)

Further details about fee status eligibility can be found on the fee status webpage.

Living costs

Living costs for the academic year starting in 2026 are estimated to be between £1,405 and £2,105 for each month you are in Oxford. Students at Oxford can benefit from our world class resources and college provision, which may help to keep costs down. Entitlement to certain types of support may depend on your personal financial circumstances.

Our academic year is made up of three eight-week terms, so you would not usually need to be in Oxford for much more than six months of the year but may wish to budget over a nine-month period to ensure you also have sufficient funds during the holidays to meet essential costs. For further details please visit our living costs webpage.

Living costs breakdown

	Per month		Total for 9 months	
	Lower range	Upper range	Lower range	Upper range
Food	£315	£545	£2,835	£4,905
Accommodation (including utilities)	£825	£990	£7,425	£8,910
Personal items	£160	£310	£1,440	£2,790
Social activities	£50	£130	£450	£1,170
Study costs	£35	£90	£315	£810
Other	£20	£40	£180	£360
Total	**£1,405**	**£2,105**	**£12,645**	**£18,945**

In order to provide these estimated likely living costs (which are rounded to the nearest £5), the University in collaboration with the Oxford SU conducted a living costs survey in May 2025 to complement existing student expenditure data from a variety of sources, including the UK government's Student Income and Expenditure Survey and the National Union of Students (NUS).

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. When planning your finances for any future years of study in Oxford beyond 2026-27, it is suggested that you allow for potential increases in living expenses of around 4% each year – although this rate may vary depending on the national economic situation.

Additional Fees and Charges Information for Computer Science

There are no compulsory costs for this course beyond the fees shown above and your living costs.

Regulation - The University of Oxford is regulated by the Office for Students and subscribes to the Office of the Independent Adjudicator for Higher Education student complaints scheme.