

Course Information Sheet for entry in 2016-17

DPhil in Atomic and Laser Physics

About the course

The department researches the interaction of light and matter over an enormous range of conditions, from high-energy plasmas created by the most powerful lasers in the world, to the coherent manipulation of single quantum particles for implementing quantum information processing, to the creation of exotic states of quantum matter such as Bose-Einstein condensation.

Research in atomic and laser physics (ALP) involves some of the most rapidly developing areas of physical science and ranges from the fundamental physics of quantum systems to interdisciplinary application of lasers. The themes include the following, using both experiment and theory:

quantum computation

quantum cryptography

quantum chaos

quantum memories

optical manipulation of cold atoms and molecules

ultra-cold matter

Bose-Einstein condensations

optical lattices and quantum simulations

ions traps and entanglement

non-linear optics

cavity quantum electrodynamics

quantum optics

high-intensity laser interactions

ultra-fast X-ray science

laser-plasma science

attosecond optics

optical metrology and precision spectroscopy

fundamental tests of QED

femtosecond combs



EPR and NMR for QIP

laboratory astrophysics

At graduate level, the department primarily offers the DPhil research degree (equivalent to a PhD). In very exceptional cases, it may be possible to do an MSc by Research in Atomic and Laser Physics. There is no graduate taught master's course in ALP.

The DPhil is a research degree and you normally start working on your main research project as soon as you arrive. A list of current projects is available on the ALP website.

In parallel with your project, you will be expected to attend a taught course in atomic and laser physics in the first year, comprising lectures, seminars and discussion classes at graduate level. Depending on your level of knowledge, the department may also require you to attend lectures in the final year (master's-level) undergraduate course at Oxford. Continuation beyond the first year is dependent on successful participation in the graduate course and on original research documented by a written report. Examination of the research element is by viva at the end of the first year.

The ALP sub-department provides a detailed timetable and syllabus list for the graduate class. Topics covered include:

basic light-matter interaction

photonics and quantum optics

laser-plasma interactions

quantum information processing and communication

trapped particles and quantum gases

high energy density science

Some subjects, such as laser-plasma interactions and high energy density science, are taught across a number of sub-departments.

In addition, the sub-department's journal club focuses on recent research highlights in atomic and laser physics, quantum technologies, and laser-plasma interactions. Active participation is compulsory for first year graduate students. Many other opportunities exist to attend training courses outside the sub-department.

Changes to courses

The University will seek to deliver each course in accordance with the descriptions 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.

Expected length of course

3 to 4 years

Annual fees for entry in 2016-2017

| Fee Status | Tuition fee | College fee | Total annual fees |
|--------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------|
| Home/EU (including islands) | £4,121 | £2,933 | £7,054 |
| Overseas | £18,770 | £2,933 | £21,703 |

The fees shown above are the annual tuition and college fees for this course for entry in the stated academic year; for courses lasting longer than one year, please be aware that fees will usually increase annually. For details, please see our guidance on likely increases to fees and charges.

Tuition and college 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 tuition and college fees).

Graduate students who have reached the end of their standard period of fee liability may be required to pay a termly University and/or college continuation charge.

The University continuation charge, per term for entry in 2016/17, is currently £440, please be aware that this will increase annually.

For part-time students, the termly charge will be half of the termly rate payable by full-time students.

If a college continuation charge applies (not applicable to non-matriculated courses) it is likely to be in the region of £100 to £400 per term. Please contact your college for more details.

Additional cost information

There are no compulsory elements of this programme that entail additional costs beyond fees and living costs. However, please note that, depending on your choice of research 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 and/or college to help you cover some of these expenses.

Living costs

In addition to your fees, you will need to ensure that you have adequate funds to support your living costs for the duration of your course.

The likely living costs for 2016-17 are published below. These costs are based on a single, full-time graduate student, with no dependants, living in Oxford. We provide the cost per month so you can multiply up by the number of months you expect to live in Oxford.

| | Likely living costs for 1 month | | Likely living costs for 9 months | | Likely living costs for 12 months | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------|----------------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| | Lower range | Upper range | Lower range | Upper range | Lower range | Upper range |
| Food | £265 | £298 | £2,384 | £2,673 | £3,177 | £3,565 |
| Accommodation | £469 | £667 | £4,221 | £6,002 | £5,627 | £8,006 |
| Personal items | £119 | £244 | £1,073 | £2,187 | £1,429 | £2,915 |
| Social activities | £60 | £107 | £539 | £960 | £718 | £1,280 |
| Study costs | £36 | £73 | £314 | £661 | £418 | £880 |
| Other | £19 | £44 | £197 | £410 | £265 | £547 |
| Total | £970 | £1,433 | £8,727 | £12,894 | £11,636 | £17,191 |

When planning your finances for any future years of study in Oxford beyond 2016-17, you should allow for an estimated increase in living expenses of 2% each year.

More information about how these figures have been calculated is available at www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/living-costs.

31 May 2016