

Course Information Sheet for entry in 2016-17

Environmental Research (NERC Doctoral Training Partnership)

About the course

The NERC-Oxford DTP in Environmental Research is a four-year DPhil programme which offers a novel training environment across three broad science streams.

The DTP focuses on finding solutions to real-world problems in collaboration with its outside partners. You will carry out your research projects in one of six departments after an initial training period.

The three streams of the NERC-Oxford DTP are as follows:

Biodiversity, ecology and evolutionary processes

This stream spans research into biological processes, systems and their interactions at scales ranging from the organism to the population and in spheres ranging from human health to natural ecosystems, over all timescales.

Physical climate system

This stream spans research across all aspects of the physical climate system; present, past and future, with strong links to climate impacts and mitigation.

Dynamic Earth, surface processes and natural hazards

This stream spans activities from theoretical seismology and isotope geochemistry to the analysis of natural resources, quantification of surface processes over all timescales, and geophysical hazards and risk.

You will begin your course based in the DTP suite located in the Department of Zoology. After the first term you will be matched to a research project. During the second term you will move out to the department where the research project will be carried out. During the first two terms you will undergo an intensive training programme during which you will have the opportunity to gain experience and skills in all six departments and acquire an understanding of how researchers in other disciplines operate before being matched with a research project and a supervisor. You will also be introduced to techniques of data gathering and analysis and given a broad brush understanding of fields such as statistics and modelling before choosing which more specialised training is appropriate for you. There will also be modules in more general areas such as project design, proposal writing, communication and problem solving to underpin the exploration of research methodologies.

Training will continue throughout the degree and you will be able to select from a portfolio of training courses to create your own tailored training programme. Later in the course modules will include thesis writing and paper writing. You will remain a member of the DTP even after transferring out to a department.



You will not undergo formal assessment on these training modules but will need to attain a certain number of attendance and submission credits before you begin your research degree, and thereafter each year.

You will gain your DPhil from the department in which you carry out your research project. The six departments of the DTP are as follows:

Department of Archaeology

Department of Physics (sub-department of Atmospheric, Oceanic and Planetary Physics)

Department of Earth Sciences

School of Geography and the Environment

Department of Plant Sciences

Department of Zoology.

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

4 years

Annual fees for entry in 2016-2017

Fee Status	Tuition fee	College fee	Total annual fees
Home/EU (including islands)	c. £4,200	£2,933	c. £7,133
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 2016-17 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

NERC studentships come with an additional research training support grant (RTSG) to cover costs of associated fieldwork, laboratory and equipment. Individual research projects come with variable research costs and students will need to discuss these with their supervisor and plan a budget for their project. In some cases students may need to apply for additional funding, either from the RTSG or from college or other sources. Students should always involve your supervisor with such funding requests.

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.

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