

Human Sciences Information Sheet for entry in 2016

Human Sciences studies the biological, social and cultural aspects of human life, and provides a challenging alternative to some of the more traditional courses offered at Oxford. The school was founded in 1969 in recognition of the need for interdisciplinary understanding of fundamental issues and problems confronting contemporary societies. Central topics include the evolution of humans, their behaviour, molecular and population genetics, population growth and ageing, ethnic and cultural diversity and the human interaction with the environment, including conservation, disease and nutrition. The study of both biological and social disciplines, integrated within a framework of human diversity and sustainability, should enable the human scientist to develop professional competencies suited to address such multidimensional human problems.



Human Sciences at Oxford

The course draws on specialists from a number of different faculties in the University. Lectures introduce most of the material you will need and provide the core concepts and theories for each paper. Tutorials, given by specialists in different fields, allow you to consider particular topics in greater depth. They also allow students from different academic backgrounds to gain the necessary grounding across a range of subjects.

The course is unusual in having its own building within the University, the Pauling Human Sciences Centre. It has a seminar/lecture room, tutorial rooms and a reading room. The Human Sciences Centre office is a particularly valuable resource, offering a variety of information and guidance about teaching arrangements, lecture timetables, course syllabuses, and books and journals in other libraries to which students have access. In addition, the centre has a cross-section of books covering different aspects of the course, which are specifically chosen for undergraduate use. The centre is also a focus for many informal activities, ranging from student-organised symposia to regular lunches. In general, the centre provides a friendly base which contributes greatly to undergraduates' involvement in the course.

Research placements/international opportunities

There are no formal arrangements for work placements but students are encouraged to take part in small-scale research projects or expeditions during the summer holidays.

A typical weekly timetable

During years 1 and 2 your work is divided between lectures (about ten a week) and tutorials (one or two a week). In addition, some practical experience in genetics, physiology, demography and statistics is offered in certain terms. Computers are used for the option in quantitative methods and sometimes in small group teaching in demography. In the third year the tutorial and class requirement is reduced to allow more time for option papers and students' research for their dissertations.

1st year

<p>Courses</p> <p>Five courses are taken:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The biology of organisms including humans • Genetics and evolution • Society, culture and environment • Sociology and demography • Quantitative methods for the human sciences 	<p>Assessment</p> <p>First University examinations: Five written papers; satisfactory practical record</p>
<p>2nd year</p>	
<p>Courses</p> <p>Five compulsory courses are taken, plus a start on the dissertation and two optional courses.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Behaviour and its evolution, animal and human • Human genetics and evolution • Human ecology • Demography and population • Either Anthropological analysis and interpretation or Sociological theory 	
<p>3rd year</p>	
<p>Courses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dissertation to be completed by the beginning of the final term • Option courses (two chosen) from a list which may vary slightly depending on teaching availability: Anthropology of a selected region (for example Europe, Japan, Lowland South America, South Asia, or West Africa); Cognition and culture; Cognitive and evolutionary anthropology; Evolution and medicine; Gender theories and realities: cross-cultural perspectives; Health and disease; 	<p>Assessment</p> <p>Final University examinations: currently seven written papers and a dissertation (We intend to replace one written paper with an extended essay and presentation from 2017)</p>

Language; Physical and forensic anthropology: an introduction to human skeletal remains; Quantitative methods; Social policy; Sociology of post-industrial societies; South and southern Africa; plus a range of psychology options	
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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.

Fees

These annual fees are for full-time students who begin this undergraduate course here in 2016.

Fee Status	Tuition fee	College fee	Total annual fees
Home/EU	£9,000	£0	£9,000
Islands (Channel Islands & Isle of Man)	£9,000	£0	£9,000
Overseas	£17,555	£7,135	£24,690

Information about how much fees and other costs may increase is set out in the University's Terms and Conditions.

Living Costs

Your living costs will vary significantly dependent on your lifestyle. These are estimated to be between £970 and £1,433 per month in 2016-17. Undergraduate courses usually consist of three terms of eight weeks each, but as a guide you may wish to budget over a nine-month period to ensure you also have sufficient funds during the holidays to meet essential costs.

Living costs breakdown

	Per month		Total for 9 months	
	Lower range	Upper range	Lower range	Upper range
Food	£265	£298	£2,384	£2,673
Accommodation (including utilities)	£469	£667	£4,221	£6,002

Personal items	£119	£244	£1,073	£2,187
Social activities	£60	£107	£539	£960
Study costs	£36	£73	£314	£661
Other	£19	£44	£197	£410
Total	£970	£1,433	£8,727	£12,894

30 October 2015