

Course Information Sheet for entry in 2016-17

MPhil in Classical Indian Religion

About the course

This course introduces you to classical Indian religion in a way that bases understanding on original sources and that equips you to continue in the same vein. Formally, the course is in two parts. The first, of five months, is an intensive study of the rudiments of Sanskrit. In the second part of the course you have regular classes in reading Sanskrit religious texts and write supervised essays on topics in Indian religion.

The first part of the course, lasting five months, is an intensive study of the rudiments of Sanskrit. It leads to a written examination at the end of March of your ability to translate prepared texts and of your knowledge of grammar. You are not allowed to proceed to the second part of the course unless you pass this examination.

In the second part of the course you will have regular classes in reading Sanskrit religious texts. There are four short lists of prescribed texts - Shaiva, Vaishnava, Buddhist, and also what might be termed mainstream - and you will read the texts from two of these lists. In the final examination there is one three-hour written paper in the linguistically-based parts of the course. The paper is divided into two parts, which carry equal weight, a part on translation from the prepared set texts and a part on unprepared translation from Sanskrit, the latter usually consisting of one passage in epic Sanskrit and one from a typical commentary on a religious text.

In the final examination there are also two three-hour written papers on the history of classical Indian religion, with the subject matter divided more or less chronologically. To prepare for this, there are normally lectures in the first term of the course introducing the religions indigenous to India. In subsequent terms you will be given regular tutorials, for which you will often prepare essays to discuss with your tutors. From time to time there are also other relevant lectures and seminars.

Besides the three written examinations already mentioned, you either have to offer a fourth written three-hour paper, on approaches to the study of Indian religion, or to write a thesis of up to 20,000 words. In practice most students choose the latter option. It is usual to write the thesis mostly during the vacations, and it has to be handed in at the beginning of the final term. Tutors will discuss the choice of topic with you and supply a bibliography, and may criticise a first draft, but the final version of the thesis is entirely your own work. If you are subsequently admitted for a research degree, a successful MPhil thesis may form the basis of your doctoral dissertation.

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

21 months



Annual fees for entry in 2016-2017

Fee Status	Tuition fee	College fee	Total annual fees
Home/EU (including islands)	£6,550	£2,933	£9,483
Overseas	£17,555	£2,933	£20,488

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).

Additional cost information

There are no compulsory elements of this course that entail additional costs beyond fees and living costs. However, as part of your course requirements, you may need to choose a dissertation, a project or a thesis topic. Please note that, depending on your choice of 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.

21 October 2015