

Course Information Sheet for entry in 2016-17

MPhil in Modern South Asian Studies

About the course

The MPhil Modern South Asian Studies combines the intensive study of one or more South Asian languages, with a wide range of optional subjects. These include the history of South Asia from the early modern period to the present, social anthropology, politics, literature, religious traditions, literatures, the history of medicine, gender and the body, and material culture.

You may choose between the following languages for intensive study: Elementary Hindi, Literary Hindi, Bengali, Brajbhasha & Old Hindi, Sanskrit, Tibetan and Persian. Please note that Bengali and Brajbhasha & Old Hindi may not be available every year. The course is appropriate if you have no experience in these languages, and if you already have some expertise and intend to extend your command. If you have good knowledge of any of the core languages you are advised to consider studying another language from the list. Previous experience in a South Asian language is not essential, but you will be expected to demonstrate strong experience and aptitude in language learning.

You are encouraged to contact the course directors if you are uncertain as to whether your previous experience is appropriate to the course.

Teaching will take the form of lectures, language classes and the small-group tutorials which are a distinctive feature of tuition in Oxford. In the second year of the course, you will tackle a major dissertation subject, in which you have the opportunity to use the language skills gained over the course.

On graduating from this course, you will have gained significant linguistic competence, skills in writing, analysis and interpretation and particular expertise in your own chosen topics of study. If you will be going on to doctoral work, the course provides an in-depth introduction to the languages and culture of the region, and to the different intellectual disciplines through which these may be studied. If you are taking the MPhil as a final degree, these skills offer important advantages in a wide range of other professional career settings, particularly in view of South Asia's rapidly growing economic and political importance in the present day.

In the first year of the course, you will take a core language course in one of the following languages: Elementary Hindi, Advanced Literary Hindi, Elementary Hindi and Urdu, Advanced Literary Hindi and Urdu, Sanskrit, Persian or Tibetan. In addition, you will attend a weekly seminar for the core course, 'Themes in the History and Culture of South Asia', for which you are expected to complete reading preparation and written assignments. You will also take two optional subjects chosen from a list, and decide on the topic of your second year thesis, in consultation with supervisors. At the end of the third (Trinity) term, you will sit the Qualifying Examination.

Over the summer vacation (late June to early October), you are expected to continue your language learning, and where possible to conduct some of the primary research towards your thesis.



In the second year of the course, you will continue your core language course and take your third optional subject. The main focus of the second year is the preparation of a 20,000-word dissertation. Towards the end of the second term of the second year (Hilary term), you will make a preliminary 20-minute presentation of your thesis topic to the weekly seminar on the history of South Asia held at St Antony's College. You will submit your thesis in the third week of Trinity term, and spend the remainder of the term preparing for the final examinations.

In addition you are expected to attend the weekly seminar on the history of South Asia, held weekly during term time in St Antony's College.

For further information on the course, option lists and examinations, please consult the Course Handbook, which can be accessed via the faculty's course webpage.

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)	£11,940	£2,933	£14,873
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