

Course Information Sheet for entry in 2016-17

MPhil in Theology

About the course

The Master of Philosophy (MPhil) in Theology offers more extensive study of a particular field of theology at an advanced level, with rigorous training in relevant research methods and a period of scholarly research and writing.



This course offers extensive postgraduate education in a specialist field of theology for very able students. It includes a short thesis of up to 30,000 words based on independent scholarly research, which may contribute to a future research degree, and at least three formal examination papers or groups of assessed essays.

The choice of essays and dissertation topics is decided by the student, subject to advice from the supervisor and final approval.

If you are successful in the MPhil then you may be allowed to expand the MPhil thesis for a DPhil. The total investment of time necessary for the DPhil by this route need not be longer and the route via the taught course may be an especially good foundation for a teaching career.

You will be assigned a supervisor and in most cases this will be the course co-ordinator for the specific subject stream that you are enrolled on.

The Faculty of Theology runs graduate seminars in different subjects, which offer a space for all those doing graduate work to meet regularly, to share aspects of your work with your peers and to be informed by that interaction. The seminars are an important way of staying in touch with peers and present some of your research at various stages of development.

Students on the MPhil in Theology work in one of the following areas:

Old Testament

New Testament

Christian Doctrine, specialising in one of the following fields: History of Doctrine: Patristic Theology (c. AD 100-787)

History of Doctrine: Scholastic Theology (c. AD 1050-1350)

History of Doctrine: Theology of the Reformation Period (c. AD 1500-1650)

Issues in Theology with special reference to Patristic Theology

Issues in Theology with special reference to Scholastic Theology

Issues in Theology with special reference to Reformation Theology

Issues in Theology with special reference to theology from 1780 to the present day

Ecclesiastical History

Christian Ethics

Students taking Ecclesiastical History may study more than one of five periods (The Early Church AD 200-476, The Western Church AD 476-1050, The Western Church AD 1000-1400, European Christianity AD 1400-1800, or European Christianity AD 1800-2000).

The subject areas of the MPhil, as well as other graduate taught and research courses in theology, fall into one of these subject streams:

Old Testament

New Testament

Patristic Theology

Scholastic Theology

Reformation Theology

Modern Theology

Ecclesiastical History

Christian Ethics

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