

Course Information Sheet for entry in 2016-17

MSc by Research in Materials

About the course

The Oxford MSc by Research in Materials is a master's level research degree programme, typically of two years duration, carried out under the supervision of an experienced member of staff. Research projects in this leading department are available in most branches of materials science, as well as some aspects of solid state physics and chemistry.

As a student on the Oxford MSc by Research in Materials you will be part of one of the top-ranked materials departments in the world. This vibrant research school consists of around 28 academic staff, 15 Senior Research Fellows, and around 195 research students and 75 postdoctoral researchers. Research students are of many nationalities and come to the department from diverse backgrounds; being graduates in the traditional subjects of materials science, physics, chemistry and engineering and also mathematics, earth sciences and biology.

Only a small number of places are offered on the MSc by Research in Materials each year as the majority of our research students are enrolled on the doctoral programme, the DPhil in Materials. The MSc students work, train and study alongside the DPhil students, together forming a cohort of research students in materials.

The MSc by Research in Materials is normally carried out in two years of full-time study under the supervision of an experienced member of staff. It is examined at the end of the programme by means of a written thesis and an oral examination. A wide range of exciting projects is available. In common with other UK universities the first year is a probationary year, after which, subject to satisfactory progress, students normally transfer to full MSc by Research status. Details of research degree programmes, including training opportunities (academic courses, research-specific skills and generic transferable skills) and progression requirements, can be found in the current version of the Graduate Course Handbook.

Research interests of the department extend over most branches of materials science, as well as some aspects of solid state physics and chemistry: they include the study of a wide range of materials of relevance in advanced technological applications, including metals and alloys, composites, semi- and super-conductors, polymers, biomaterials, ceramics and materials for quantum information processing.

Much of the research is carried out in close collaboration with industry. World-leading research takes place on:

characterisation of materials, where there is emphasis on electron microscopy and related techniques;

processing and manufacturing of materials;

modelling of materials, where there is attention to both structures and processes;



properties of materials;

energy materials, including those for batteries, nuclear fusion and photovoltaics; and

quantum information processing, which includes groups working on experimental studies, theory and modelling.

Each of the department's research groups works within one or more of the following broad themes and research projects available to applicants for the MSc by Research in Materials are listed under these themes:

energy materials

structural and nuclear materials

ceramics and composites

applied superconductivity

device materials (including semiconductors, superconductors and NEMS)

polymers and biomaterials

nanomaterials

processing and manufacturing

characterisation of materials

computational materials modelling

quantum information processing (experimental studies, theory, and modelling).

Further information on current research and individual members of staff is available via the Materials Science website.

An overview of the provision for Materials research students can be found at the Outline of Provision for Materials Research Students webpage. Also available is Guidance on Supervision Arrangements and an Outline of Some Compulsory Requirements for the DPhil in Materials.

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

2 years

Annual fees for entry in 2016-2017

Fee Status	Tuition fee	College fee	Total annual fees
Home/EU (including islands)	£4,121	£2,933	£7,054
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 stated 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

There are no compulsory elements of this programme that entail additional costs beyond fees and living costs. However, please note that, depending on your choice of research 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.

31 May 2016