

Course Information Sheet for entry in 2016-17

MSt in Japanese Studies

About the course

This one-year, taught graduate course aims to recruit students with a good undergraduate degree in Japanese, or graduates with equivalent language skills in Japanese and knowledge about Japan. You will study towards acquiring a solid specialisation within Japanese studies, including research methods and practice.

Based on your ability to use primary and secondary sources in Japanese, and your general knowledge about Japan and Japanese studies, you may expect to acquire a solid specialisation within Japanese studies, including research methods and practice within that specialisation. The course is designed around the academic expertise of academic staff in Japanese in the Oriental Institute, presently linguistics and literature. A core element of the course, within each line of specialisation, is detailed work with bodies of data (usually textual in the widest sense) within some methodological framework.

The specialisation you can acquire in the course can stand alone as a qualification for a professional career, or it can serve as preparation for pursuing a research degree, here at Oxford, or elsewhere.

Subject to availability of teaching, the course has specialised tracks in the areas of linguistics, modern literature, classical literature, and another subject at the discretion of the Board of the Faculty of Oriental Studies. You should specify which track you are applying for, and admission is to a specific track. Once admitted, you will only in exceptional circumstances be permitted to change track.

The teaching for the course is structured around four 'papers' (examinations) that are specific to a specialised track, with each paper contributing one quarter of the final mark. The teaching will be organised differently for each respective track and most teaching is track-specific. A considerable amount of self-study is also required, particularly for Papers II and IV.

For Paper I, the context, background, and history relevant to the track chosen are studied. Teaching will take place in lectures and/or seminars, and will include reading secondary texts in English (or other European languages) and to a smaller extent in Japanese. Examination will be by two essays (each max. 2,500 words) written in the first (Michaelmas) and second (Hilary) terms of the course. Essay topics will be track-specific.

For Paper II, texts relevant to the track chosen are studied. Teaching will take place in small classes and/or tutorials, but texts will also need to be studied independently. Examination will be by a three hour written exam, with translation and comment from the texts offered, taken at the end of the third (Trinity) Term.

For Paper III, the theory and methodology of the track chosen is studied, preparing students for independent research. Teaching will take place in lectures and/or seminars, to some extent backed up by tutorials. This paper will be examined by a 3 hour written exam at the end of Trinity Term.



Paper IV is a dissertation of no more than 15,000 words in proper scholarly form, submitted during Trinity Term. The choice of dissertation topic will be made in consultation with your supervisor. It is important to start thinking about and working on the dissertation early. Generally, supervision and guidance for the dissertation will take place in Hilary and Trinity Terms. A dissertation workshop will be held for all students early in Trinity Term.

Finally, you may be examined by oral examination unless you are individually excused by the examiners.

For further information on the examination procedures for the MSt Japanese Studies, 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

9 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.

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