

Course Information Sheet for entry in 2016-17

MSt in Philosophy of Physics

About the course

This one-year taught graduate course offers graduate education in philosophy of physics of the highest possible quality, and aims to provide a foundation on which you can go on to pursue doctoral work in the area. It is likely to be of particular interest for candidates whose background is in physics rather than in philosophy and it presumes an undergraduate-level physics education.

This course consists of core courses in the philosophy of physics and philosophy of science and one elective subject. You are examined on the basis of four essays. Tuition is offered in the form of one-to-one supervisions, lectures and classes.

Philosophy of physics

During the first two terms, you will attend the undergraduate (intermediate) lecture courses on the philosophy of physics, participate in a dedicated graduate class running once per week and should receive twelve hours of one-to-one supervisions, eight hours in the first term and four hours in the second term. The subject of discussion during the supervisions will be chosen by you in consultation with your supervisor, normally on an issue arising out of the class and lectures.

You will write an essay for each supervision and discussion of this essay will form the basis of the supervision.

This subject is examined by two essays of no more than 5,000 words, to be written over the Easter vacation, on topics of your choosing within the philosophy of physics. At most one essay may fall under each of the following subjects:

the philosophy of quantum theory

the philosophy of space, time and symmetry

the philosophy of statistical mechanics and thermodynamics

other topics in the philosophy of physics

Philosophy of science

You will attend the undergraduate lecture courses in the philosophy of science and the graduate class in philosophy of science and should receive six hours of one-to-one supervisions. This subject is examined by one essay of no more than 5,000 words on a topic of your choosing, but excluding topics specifically in the philosophy of physics (as specified above).

Elective subject

You will study one of the following subjects:

metaphysics and theory of knowledge



philosophy of mind and action

philosophical logic and philosophy of language

philosophy of mathematics

You will attend the graduate class in the elective subject and should receive six hours of one-to-one supervisions. This subject is examined by one essay of no more than 5,000 words on a topic of your choosing.

In completing the course, it is expected that you will have:

pursued a course requiring a high standard in each of the three examined elements, ie philosophy of physics, philosophy of science and an elective subject;

studied these subjects through individual supervisions with an expert supervisor and via classes convened by an expert or experts in the relevant field;

been examined on your chosen areas by a requirement to write four essays of no more than 5,000 words each;

had many opportunities to hear and participate in philosophy and philosophy of physics, by attending an annual Graduate Philosophy Conference, talks by invited speakers, philosophy societies and discussion groups, and especially by attending the philosophy of physics research seminars and graduate philosophy of physics discussion classes; and

been a member of a college graduate community, associating with graduates from many countries, cultures, and academic disciplines.

The course has no fieldwork, industrial placement or year abroad element, but you may decide to attend conferences, workshops or research training elsewhere.

You may also attend any undergraduate and graduate classes, seminars and lectures in and outside of the Faculty of Philosophy which are of interest to you, provided those classes, seminars and lectures are open to you.

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	£8,460	£2,933	£11,393

(including islands)			
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