If you require an accessible version of the document, please contact Undergraduate Admissions by email (uao.comms@admin.ox.ac.uk) or via the online form (http://www.ox.ac.uk/ask).

Mathematics and Philosophy (BA) (three-year course); (MMathPhil) (four-year course) Course Information Sheet for entry in 2026

Entry requirements

Visit Admission requirements for 2026 entry to view a summary table of each undergraduate course's entry requirements.

If English is not your first language you may also need to meet our English language requirements.

About the course

This course brings together two of the most fundamental and widely applicable intellectual skills.

Mathematical knowledge, and the ability to use it, is the most important means of tackling quantifiable problems. Philosophical training enhances the ability to analyse issues, question received assumptions and clearly articulate understanding. The combination provides a powerful background from which to proceed to graduate study in either mathematics or philosophy or to pursue a diverse range of careers.

Historically, there have been strong links between mathematics and philosophy. Logic, an important branch of both subjects, provides a natural bridge between the two, as does the Philosophy of mathematics module.

The degree is founded on the belief that the parallel study of these related disciplines can significantly enhance your understanding of each.

The Philosophy Faculty is the largest in the UK, and one of the largest in the world. We have more than 70 full-time members and admit around 450 undergraduates annually to read our various degrees involving philosophy.

Many faculty members have a worldwide reputation, and the faculty has one of the highest research ratings of any philosophy department in the UK. The Philosophy Library is among the best in the country.

The large number of undergraduates and graduates reading philosophy with a variety of other disciplines affords the opportunity to participate in a diverse and lively philosophical community.

In turn the Mathematics Department, housed in the Andrew Wiles Building, is also one of the largest and best in the UK and contains within it many world-class research groups. This is reflected in the wide choice of mathematics topics available to you, especially in the fourth year.

A typical week

- Years 1 and 2: up to ten lectures a week, two–three tutorials a week
- Years 3 and 4: up to eight lectures a week. Equivalent of eight units taken each year. Weekly tutorials per philosophy subject. Fortnightly classes per mathematics unit.

Tutorials are usually 2-4 students and a tutor. Class sizes may vary depending on the options you choose. There would usually be around 8-12 students though classes for some of the more popular papers may be larger.

Most tutorials, classes, and lectures are delivered by academics who are specialists in their subject. Many are world-leading experts with years of experience in teaching and research. Some teaching may also be delivered by postgraduate students who are studying at doctoral level.

To find out more about how our teaching year is structured, visit our Academic Year page.

Significant self-study is expected of all students – for further details see workload and independent study information. Undergraduate courses at Oxford are full-time during term time. Students typically spend approximately 40 hours per week on academic work.

Course structure

There are two Mathematics and Philosophy degrees, the three-year BA and the four-year MMathPhil. Decisions regarding continuation to the fourth year do not have to be made until the third year.

The mathematics units in this joint course are all from the single-subject Mathematics course. Accordingly, the standard in mathematics for admission to the joint course is the same as for admission to the single-subject Mathematics course.

The compulsory core mathematics for the joint course consists mainly of the pure (as opposed to applied) mathematics from the compulsory core for the single-subject Mathematics course. The philosophy units for the Mathematics and Philosophy course are mostly shared with the other courses with philosophy.

In the first year, all parts of the course are compulsory.

In the second and third years some subjects are compulsory. These consist of core mathematics and philosophy and bridge papers on philosophy of mathematics and on foundations (logic and set theory), but you also choose options.

In the fourth year there are no compulsory subjects, and you can do all mathematics, all philosophy, or a combination of the two.

Year 1	
INDICATIVE COURSES	**ASSESSMENT**
Mathematics - Algebra - Analysis - Calculus - Probability **Philosophy** - General philosophy	First University examinations: five compulsory written papers

Year 1

- o Frege, *Foundations of Arithmetic*
- o Philosophical Topics in Logic and Probability

Years 2 and 3

INDICATIVE COURSES	ASSESSMENT

Mathematics
  o Core pure mathematics (Algebra, Metric spaces, Complex analysis)
  o Foundations (Set theory, Logic)
  o Intermediate mathematics options
Philosophy
  o Knowledge and reality *or* Early Modern philosophy
  o Philosophy of mathematics
  o Further philosophy papers
	Final University examinations, Part A (Year 2): two written papers on pure mathematics core and two written papers on mathematics options
	
	Final University examinations, Part B (Year 3): four 90-minute exams in mathematics and three three-hour papers in philosophy and either two further 90-minute mathematics exams or one further three-hour philosophy paper (or the equivalent)

Year 4

INDICATIVE COURSES	ASSESSMENT

Mathematics
Advanced options including:
  o Axiomatic set theory
  o Elliptic curves
	Final University Examinations, Part C: philosophy subjects include a 5000-word

Year 4	
- Gödel's incompleteness theorems - Infinite groups - Model theory - Stochastic differential equations - Optional mathematics dissertation **Philosophy** - Advanced options in philosophy - Optional philosophy thesis The options listed above are illustrative and may change. A full list of current options is available on the Mathematics website and the Philosophy website. (Not all options may be available every year – these are subject to change, as explained in the Terms & Conditions and for reasons of staff availability and student demand. The department may add extra options.)	essay. Students study three philosophy subjects or eight mathematics units, or a mixture of the two disciplines.

Most Oxford courses are assessed by examinations. These are typically at the end of the first and last years but you may have assessments at other times and some courses have exams in the second year also. First year examinations are often called Prelims or Moderations, and you need to pass these exams to progress to the second year. You must pass your final year exams, or 'finals', to pass your degree. For more information on assessment for your course, please see the Course Structure.

Finals also determine the classification of your degree. For some courses you may also be assessed on your practical work, or you may be required to submit a dissertation. Please check the assessment details for your course.

The University will seek to deliver this course in accordance with the description 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 and information about potential course changes.

You are also referred to the Student Handbook (which is updated every September).

Fees

These annual fees in 2026/27 are for full-time students who begin this undergraduate course here in 2026. Information about how much fees and other costs usually increase each year is set out in the University's Terms and Conditions.

For details of annual increases, please see our guidance on likely increases to fees and charges.

Fee status	Annual Course fees in 2026/27
Home	£9,790
Overseas	£47,570

In the 2027-28 academic year course fees for Home fee status students will rise to £10,050 (in line with the government fee cap.)

[Further details about fee status eligibility](#) can be found on the fee status webpage.

Living costs

Living costs for the academic year starting in 2026 are estimated to be between £1,405 and £2,105 for each month you are in Oxford. Students at Oxford can benefit from our [world class resources](#) and [college provision](#), which may help to keep costs down. Entitlement to certain types of support may depend on your personal financial circumstances.

Our academic year is made up of three eight-week terms, so you would not usually need to be in Oxford for much more than six months of the year but may wish to budget over a nine-month period to ensure you also have sufficient funds during the holidays to meet essential costs. For further details please visit our [living costs webpage](#).

Living costs breakdown

	Per month		Total for 9 months	
	Lower range	Upper range	Lower range	Upper range
Food	£315	£545	£2,835	£4,905
Accommodation (including utilities)	£825	£990	£7,425	£8,910
Personal items	£160	£310	£1,440	£2,790
Social activities	£50	£130	£450	£1,170
Study costs	£35	£90	£315	£810
Other	£20	£40	£180	£360
Total	**£1,405**	**£2,105**	**£12,645**	**£18,945**

In order to provide these estimated likely living costs (which are rounded to the nearest £5), the University in collaboration with the Oxford SU conducted a living costs survey in May 2025 to complement existing student expenditure data from a variety of sources, including the UK government's Student Income and Expenditure Survey and the National Union of Students (NUS).

The current economic climate and periods of high national inflation in recent years make it harder to estimate potential changes to the cost of living over the next few years. When planning your finances for any future years of study in Oxford beyond 2026-27, it is suggested that you allow for potential increases in living expenses of around 4% each year – although this rate may vary depending on the national economic situation.

Additional Fees and Charges Information for Mathematics and Philosophy

There are no compulsory costs for this course beyond the fees shown above and your living costs.

Regulation - The University of Oxford is regulated by the Office for Students and subscribes to the Office of the Independent Adjudicator for Higher Education student complaints scheme.