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Philosophy and Theology Course Information Sheet for entry in 2023

Philosophy and Theology brings together some of the most important approaches to understanding and assessing the intellectual claims of religion.

The study of Philosophy develops analytical rigour and the ability to criticise and reason logically. It allows you to apply these skills to many contemporary and historical schools of thought and individual thinkers, and to questions ranging from how we acquire knowledge and form moral judgements to central questions in the philosophy of religion, including the existence and nature of God and the relevance of religion to human life.

The study of Theology provides an understanding of the intellectual underpinning of religious traditions and of the social and cultural contexts for religious belief and practice. It brings together a wide range of skills and disciplines, historical, textual, linguistic, sociological, literary-critical and philosophical.

Central to this degree is a recognition that parallel study of these related disciplines leads to a deeper understanding of each.

The Philosophy Faculty is the largest in the UK and one of the largest in the world. Many faculty members have a worldwide reputation, and its library and other facilities are acknowledged as among the best in the country. Members of the Faculty of Theology and Religion include more than 100 academics ranging from experts in the ancient languages and literature of the world's religions to historians and systematic theologians. The Faculty's reputation and excellent library facilities attract scholars from all over the world.

Please note: For the first time, for entry in October 2023 we will be offering a different route to access Philosophy and Theology at Oxford. So if you're interested in studying Philosophy and Theology but your personal or educational circumstances have meant you are unlikely to achieve the grades typically required for Oxford courses, then choosing to apply for Philosophy and Theology with a Foundation Year might be the course for you. Please see our [course pages](#) for more details.

A typical week

Your weekly timetable will be divided usually between one or two tutorials, which may take place at your college or at the college of a specialist tutor. A large part of your week will be spent in independent study to prepare for tutorials. In addition, you will attend up to six lectures each week, as well as classes for some course options.

Tutorials usually involve two students and a tutor. Class sizes may vary depending on the options you choose, but there would usually be no more than around 10 students. 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 usually studying at doctorate level.

To find out more about how our teaching year is structured, visit our [Academic Year](#) page.

Course structure

YEAR 1

COURSES

Four papers are taken:

- The figure of Jesus through the centuries
- General philosophy
- Logic and moral philosophy
- And one of the following:
 - Introduction to the study of the Bible
 - Religion and religions
 - New Testament Greek
 - Biblical Hebrew
 - Qur'anic Arabic
 - Church Latin
 - Pali
 - Sanskrit

ASSESSMENT

First University examinations: four papers each assessed by written examination

YEARS 2 AND 3

COURSES

Students take eight papers, either five in Philosophy and three in Theology, or five in Theology and three in Philosophy, or four in each. A thesis in either subject may be offered as one of these. All students study:

- Early modern philosophy *or* Knowledge and reality
- Ethics *or* Plato's *Republic* *or* Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics*
- Philosophy of religion

Remaining papers are chosen from a wide range of options in Philosophy and Theology. Students may choose freely from Theology papers that cover

- Biblical Studies
- Systematic theology and ethics
- History of religions (Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam and Judaism)

ASSESSMENT

Final University examinations: eight papers (assessed either by written examination or by submitted coursework, depending upon the option), *or* seven papers plus a thesis

YEARS 2 AND 3

- Religion and religions (Contemporary Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam and Judaism)

The options listed above are illustrative and may change. More information about current options is available on the [Philosophy](#) and [Theology and Religion](#) websites.

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](#).

Fees

These annual fees are for full-time students who begin this undergraduate course here in 2023.

Information about how much fees and other costs may increase is set out in the University's Terms and Conditions.

Please note that while the University sets out its annual fees as a single figure, this is a combined figure for both your University and college fees. More information is provided in your [Terms and Conditions](#).

Fee status	Annual Course fees
Home (UK, Republic of Ireland, Channel Islands & Isle of Man)	£9,250
Overseas (including most EU students– see Note below)	£35,080

Note: Irish nationals living in the UK or Ireland, EU, other EEA, and Swiss nationals who have been granted settled or pre-settled status in the UK under the EU settlement scheme are eligible for 'Home fee' status and student loan support, subject to meeting residency requirements. We will contact you directly if we need further information from you to determine your fee status.

Please refer to the [Undergraduate fee status](#) pages for more information.

Living costs

Living costs for the academic year starting in 2023 are estimated to be between £1,290 and £1,840 for each month you are in Oxford. 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

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budget over a nine-month period to ensure you also have sufficient funds during the holidays to meet essential costs.

Living costs breakdown

	Per month		Total for 9 months	
	Lower range	Upper range	Lower range	Upper range
Food	£300	£470	£2,700	£4,230
Accommodation (including utilities)	£715	£860	£6,435	£7,740
Personal items	£180	£305	£1,620	£2,745
Social activities	£40	£90	£360	£810
Study costs	£35	£80	£315	£720
Other	£20	£35	£180	£315
Total	£1,290	£1,840	£11,610	£16,560

In order to provide these likely living costs (which are rounded to the nearest £5), the University and the Oxford SU conducted a living costs survey 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 high national rate of inflation make it very hard 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 2023-24, it is suggested that you allow for potential increases in living expenses of 5% or more each year – although this rate may vary significantly depending on how the national economic situation develops. UK inflationary increases will be kept under review and the [Living costs webpage](#) updated.

Additional Fees and Charges Information for Philosophy and Theology

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