

Philosophy, Politics and Economics Information Sheet for entry in 2020

PPE was born of the conviction that study of the great modern works of economic, social, political and philosophical thought would have a transformative effect on students' intellectual lives, and thereby on society at large. This conviction remains as firm today as it was then. As the world has evolved, so has PPE. The course brings together some of the most important approaches to understanding the world around us, developing skills useful for a wide range of careers and activities.

PPE is a highly flexible degree which allows you to shape your own path through it: you may choose to specialise in two branches at the end of the first year, or continue with all three. You can also explore a wide variety of disciplines under the overarching headings of Philosophy, Politics, and Economics - for example, you can specialise in Sociology or International Relations by choosing the [relevant Politics options](#).

Studying philosophy develops analytical, critical and logical rigour, enabling you to apply these skills to questions concerning how we acquire knowledge or make ethical judgements.

In turn, the study of politics provides a thorough understanding of the impact of political institutions on modern societies. It helps you to evaluate the choices that political systems must regularly make, to explain the processes that maintain or change those systems, and to examine the concepts and values used in political analysis.

Economics is the study of how consumers, firms and government make decisions that collectively determine how resources are allocated. An appreciation of economics has become increasingly necessary to make sense of governmental policy-making, the conduct of businesses and the enormous economic transformations throughout the world. All three branches of PPE at Oxford have an international reputation, supported by more than 200 renowned scholars.

A typical week

Your weekly timetable will usually be divided between six to eight lectures and two meetings, which may be either tutorials or classes, supplemented by private study which will be mainly spent preparing essays or problem sets for tutorials and classes.

Tutorials are usually 2-4 students and a tutor. Class sizes may vary depending on the options you choose. Teaching in all three PPE subjects is normally done in tutorials rather than classes. Where classes do form part of the teaching for a paper, there would usually be no more than around 20 students though classes for some of the more popular papers may be up to 30 students. Most tutorials, classes, and lectures are delivered by staff who are tutors 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	
<p>COURSES All three branches of PPE are studied equally:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Philosophy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ General philosophy ○ Moral philosophy ○ Elementary logic • Politics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The theory of politics (introductory political theory) ○ The practice of politics (introductory comparative government and politics) ○ Political analysis (introductory empirical and quantitative methods) • Economics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Microeconomics: the functioning of the market economy ○ Macroeconomics: dealing with national output and employment, exchange rates and policy issues ○ Mathematical techniques used in economics 	<p>ASSESSMENT First University examinations: three written papers</p>
YEARS 2 AND 3	
<p>COURSES Students choose to continue with all three branches (be <i>tripartite</i>) or concentrate on any two (be <i>bipartite</i>), taking compulsory courses in the chosen branches along with optional courses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Philosophy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ethics ○ <i>Either</i> Early modern philosophy <i>or</i> Knowledge and reality <i>or</i> Plato's <i>Republic</i> <i>or</i> Aristotle's <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> • Politics (any two of these) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Comparative government ○ British politics and government since 1900 ○ Theory of politics ○ International relations ○ Political sociology • Economics (all three if bipartite, two if tripartite) 	<p>ASSESSMENT Final University examinations: eight papers, typically assessed by written examination, but in some cases by coursework. One of these eight papers may be a thesis/supervised dissertation.</p>

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Microeconomics○ Macroeconomics○ Quantitative economics• Optional courses<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ More than 50 choices <p><i>Please note that the options offered may change. A full list of current options is available on the course website.</i></p> | |
|--|--|

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.

Fees

These annual fees are for full-time students who begin this undergraduate course here in 2020.

Fee status	Annual Course fees
Home/EU	£9,250
Islands (Channel Islands & Isle of Man)	£9,250
Overseas	£27,285

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

Please note that the course fees you pay include your fees for both University and college services and are divided between the University (including your department or faculty) and your college on a formula basis. More information is provided in your Terms and Conditions.

Additional Fees and Charges Information for Philosophy, Politics and Economics

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

Living costs

Your living costs will vary significantly dependent on your lifestyle. These are estimated to be between £1,135 and £1,650 per month in 2020-2021. Each year of an undergraduate course usually consists of three terms of eight weeks each but you may need to be in Oxford for longer. As a guide you may wish to 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	£270	£385	£2,430	£3,465
Accommodation (including utilities)	£630	£760	£5,670	£6,840
Personal items	£130	£245	£1,170	£2,205
Social activities	£45	£110	£405	£990
Study costs	£40	£95	£360	£855
Other	£20	£55	£180	£495
Total	£1,135	£1,650	£10,215	£14,850

In order to provide these likely living costs, the University and the Oxford University Students' Union 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 likely lower and upper ranges above are based on a single student with no dependants living in college accommodation (including utility bills) and are provided for information only.

When planning your finances for future years of study at Oxford beyond 2020-21, you should allow for an estimated increase in living expenses of 3% each year.