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## Philosophy, Politics and Economics (BA) (three-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

Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE) arose from the belief that the advanced study of all three subjects would transform students' intellectual lives, to great social benefit. 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.

The three subjects each make a distinctively valuable contribution to the degree. Studying philosophy develops analytical, critical, and logical rigour – a highly transferable skill – through discussion of deep, puzzling questions such as 'what can we (really) know?' and 'why be moral?' that are fascinating in their own right.

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 include up to eight lectures and two tutorials and/or classes, supplemented by private study, which will be mainly spent preparing essays or problem sets for tutorials and classes.

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Tutorials typically involve two to four 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 a class does form part of the teaching for a paper, it will typically include around six to ten students, although one computer-based training course in Politics may have up to 24 students in it.

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

Year 1	
INDICATIVE COURSES	ASSESSMENT
<p>All three branches of PPE are studied:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Philosophy</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ General philosophy</li><li>○ Moral philosophy</li><li>○ Elementary logic</li></ul></li><li>• <b>Politics</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ The theory of politics (introductory political theory)</li><li>○ The practice of politics (introductory comparative government and politics)</li><li>○ Political analysis (introductory empirical and quantitative methods)</li></ul></li><li>• <b>Economics</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Microeconomics: the functioning of the market economy</li><li>○ Macroeconomics: dealing with national output and employment, exchange rates and policy issues</li><li>○ Mathematical and statistical techniques used in economics</li></ul></li></ul>	<p>First University examinations: three written papers</p>

## Years 2 and 3

### INDICATIVE COURSES

Students choose to continue with all three branches (*tripartite*) or concentrate on any two (*bipartite*), taking compulsory courses in the chosen branches along with optional courses:

- **Philosophy**
  - Ethics
  - Either Early modern philosophy or Knowledge and reality or Plato's *Republic* or Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics*
- **Politics (any two of these)**
  - Comparative government
  - British politics and government since 1900
  - Theory of politics
  - International relations
  - Political sociology
- **Economics**
  - If bipartite, at least one of Microeconomics, Macroeconomics and Quantitative economics
  - If tripartite, at least one of Microeconomics, Macroeconomics, Quantitative economics and History of the World Economy
  - Option choices in Economics depend on having completed pre-requisite courses which are one of the courses listed above.
- **Optional courses**
  - The optional courses available may change from year to year. The courses currently available are as follows:

**Philosophy:** Early modern philosophy; Knowledge and reality; Ethics; Philosophy of mind; Philosophy of science and social science; Philosophy of religion; The philosophy of logic and language; Aesthetics and the philosophy of criticism; Medieval philosophy: Aquinas; Medieval philosophy: Duns Scotus, Ockham; The philosophy of Kant; Post-Kantian philosophy; Theory of politics; Plato's *Republic*; Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics*; Intermediate philosophy of physics; Philosophy of

### 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.

## Years 2 and 3

mathematics; Philosophy of science; Philosophy of cognitive science; Philosophical logic; Practical ethics; The philosophy of Wittgenstein; Plato on knowledge, language, & reality in the Theaetetus & Sophist (in translation); Aristotle on nature, life and mind (in translation); Knowledge and scepticism in Hellenistic philosophy (in translation); Jurisprudence; Feminist theory; Indian philosophy; The ethics of artificial intelligence and digital technology; Philosophy of Fiction and Literature; Thesis.

**Politics:** Comparative government; British politics and government since 1900; Theory of politics; Modern British government and politics; Government and politics of the United States; Politics in Europe; Politics in Russia and the Former Soviet Union; Politics in Sub-Saharan Africa; Politics in Latin America; Politics in South Asia; Politics in the Middle East; International relations in the era of two world wars; International Relations in the era of the Cold War; International relations; Political thought: Plato to Rousseau; Political thought: Bentham to Weber; Marx and Marxism; Sociological theory; Political sociology; Social policy; Comparative demographic systems; Politics in China; The politics of the European Union; Advanced paper in theories of justice; Comparative political economy; International security and conflict; Feminist theory; Thesis.

**Economics:** Quantitative economics; Macroeconomics; Microeconomics; History of the World Economy; Econometrics; Economics of developing countries; Economics of industry; Environmental economics and climate change; Finance; Game theory; International economics; Labour economics and inequality; Microeconomic analysis; Money and banking; Public economics; Thesis.

More information about each course is in the handbook [on the course website](#).

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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.

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	£43,600

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](#).

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### 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
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1,405</b>	<b>£2,105</b>	<b>£12,645</b>	<b>£18,945</b>

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 Philosophy, Politics and Economics

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.