



Course Information Sheet for entry in 2020-21

DPhil in Radiation Oncology (1+3)

About the course

The Department of Oncology offers a four-year combined taught and research programme in radiation oncology comprised of the MSc in Radiation Biology in the first year followed by the DPhil in Oncology in the second to fourth years.

This course is designed for DPhil students who recognise the benefit of having a much broader understanding of the multi-disciplinary field of radiation biology and oncology. This will not only enable the student to have a greater understanding of the context of their research project but also will be helpful in identifying future career opportunities. Only one application is needed and following your successful completion of the MSc your place on the DPhil is confirmed the following year

The MSc

The MSc is a one-year, full-time, taught course which leads to an MSc in radiation biology, which comprises a five-month core theoretical lecture-based syllabus followed by a six-month research project.

The five-month core theoretical course covers the emerging areas of fundamental radiation biology for oncology and its treatment by radiotherapy, along with the hazards associated with radiation exposure. Lectures will also introduce students to key areas of research and innovative treatments in development. The 12 modules are:

- Physics and Chemistry of Radiation Action
- Molecular Radiation Biology
- Cellular Radiation Biology
- Normal Tissue and Applied Radiation Biology
- Whole Body Exposure and Carcinogenesis
- Radiation Epidemiology
- Imaging Technologies
- Tumour Microenvironment
- Applications of Radiation Therapy
- Translational Radiation Biology
- Clinical Radiation Biology
- Radiation Protection

Each module is delivered over a period of one or two weeks and together the 12 modules comprise the core content of the course. Lectures will be led by local, national and international experts, with time allocated for questions and informal discussion. These lectures are supported by additional tutorials, practical sessions and demonstrations given by local staff to provide a wide knowledge and understanding of radiation biology and oncology.

The high-quality laboratory research project in basic or clinically applied research lasts approximately six months. The project will be hosted in the same research group in which they will be registered for their DPhil. Specific training and guidance is provided to enable students to complete the research project. The training, experience and techniques gained during the project will also be invaluable for the subsequent DPhil project.

The DPhil

On successful completion of the MSc taught programme, students progress to the full-time DPhil in Oncology. Their doctoral research is conducted under the supervision of same academic that oversaw the student's MSc project.

Students begin the three-year DPhil in Oncology programme as a probationary research student (PRS). Towards the end of the first year, students are required to write a report prior to transfer to DPhil (PhD) status. Progress is evaluated by two academic assessors, who are not directly involved in the student's supervision. Continuation on the DPhil programme is subject to passing the Transfer of Status assessment.

Students must confirm their DPhil status and are encouraged to do so during their eighth term and by no later than the end of the ninth term. Students are expected to submit their thesis between the ninth and twelfth terms from being admitted as a PRS.

In addition to the standard University milestones described above, a student's progress is formally recorded via supervisor feedback forms submitted termly, ie three times per year. The University has a code of practice for supervision of research under which

supervisors must:

- advise, guide and support the student in all aspects of their research project
- identify a clear plan of research
- draw up a timetable for research
- have regular meetings
- report on the student's progress
- identify the student's training needs
- encourage the student to participate in the wider Oxford community.

Changes to courses

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.

Expected length of course

Mode of study	Full Time Only
Expected length	4 years

Costs

Annual fees for entry in 2020-21

During the first year of the course you will be charged course fees at the MSc in Radiation Biology fee rate. These fees are shown in the table below.

Annual MSc in Radiation Biology (first year) fees for the 2020-21 academic year

Fee status	Annual Course fees
Home/EU (including Islands)	£7,970
Overseas	£24,910

In each subsequent year, you will be charged course fees at the DPhil in Oncology fee rate for that year of study. For an indication of costs, the table below shows the annual DPhil in Oncology course fees for the 2020-21 academic year.

Annual DPhil in Oncology fees for the 2020-21 academic year

Fee status	Annual Course fees
Home/EU (including Islands)	£7,970
Overseas	£26,405

Course 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 course fees). For courses lasting longer than one year, please be aware that fees will usually increase annually. Information about how much fees and other costs may increase is set out in the University's Terms and Conditions.

Course fees cover your teaching as well as other academic services and facilities provided to support your studies. Unless specified in the additional cost information (below), course fees do not cover your accommodation, residential costs or other living costs. They also don't cover any additional costs and charges that are outlined in the additional cost information.

Graduate students who have reached the end of their standard period of fee liability may be required to pay a termly University and/or a college continuation charge.

The University continuation charge, per term for entry in 2020-21 is £508, please be aware that this will increase annually. For part-time students, the termly charge will be half of the termly rate payable by full-time students.

If a college continuation charge applies (not applicable for non-matriculated courses) it is likely to be in the region of £100 to £400 per term. Please contact your college for more details.

Additional cost information

There are no compulsory elements of this course that entail additional costs beyond fees (or, after fee liability ends, continuation charges) 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 course 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 2020-21 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	£270	£385	£2,430	£3,465	£3,240	£4,620
Accommodation	£630	£760	£5,670	£6,840	£7,560	£9,120
Personal items	£130	£245	£1,170	£2,205	£1,560	£2,940
Social activities	£45	£110	£405	£990	£540	£1,320
Study costs	£40	£95	£360	£855	£480	£1,140
Other	£20	£55	£180	£495	£240	£660
Total	£1,135	£1,650	£10,215	£14,850	£13,620	£19,800

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

More information about how these figures have been calculated is available at www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/livingcosts.