



Course Information Sheet for entry in 2020-21

MPhil in Biodiversity, Conservation and Management

About the course

The MPhil in Biodiversity, Conservation and Management aims to provide a critical and conceptually sophisticated understanding of biodiversity science and the socio-economic, political, cultural and institutional environments within which management and policy decisions are made. The second year is devoted to researching and writing a thesis of 30,000 words.

The MPhil is a two year course. In the first year, you will take the coursework associated with the MSc in Biodiversity Conservation and Management. The course design is informed by the recognition that biodiversity conservation, as a domain of science and policy, needs to become more contextual and multi-level in its conception. The course content is rooted in our established strengths in conservation biogeography, governance and planning, in global change and in research design. The course design also responds to the rise of market-based conservation including engagements with enterprise and the transformative potential of new technologies.

The specific course objectives are to develop your abilities to:

- critically engage with concepts and theory in biodiversity science and management from interdisciplinary perspectives and at an advanced level
- describe by whom and by what space and territory is produced and governed in conservation over time
- critically assess the modes through which conservation builds and extends power and describe in detail the factors that explain the emergence and performance of different governance modes
- appreciate the role of ethics, values and norms in producing culturally attuned and effective conservation interventions
- embrace the implications of new technological forces for the future of biodiversity science and management
- link theory, hypothesis, methods, data and field work so as to identify and develop advanced research questions and design.

The objectives are delivered through nine core modules: conservation landscapes, conservation biogeography, conservation governance, ecosystems, species responses to climate change, conservation and society, economics of the environment, professional research practice and research methods. The core modules are assessed by written examination.

Teaching takes place through lectures, seminars, workshops and study days, which provide in-depth exploration of key issues. The elective modules offer a tutorial-style teaching and discussion environment within smaller groups, based on a suite of contemporary research themes that reflect the specific interests of core faculty and visiting research associates. The teaching aim is to foster discussion and debate between academic staff and students to identify and explore theory, methods and practice in an academic space that encourages a critical dialogue. In the second year you will work on your thesis project with the support of a specialist supervisor.

There is a two-day 'induction' field trip, currently to Dorset, and a week-long field trip during the Easter vacation, currently to Tenerife in the Canary Islands.

At the end of the first year you take the examinations associated with the MSc in Biodiversity, Conservation and Management. You must pass the examinations taken at the end of the first year in order to proceed into the second year. In the first year there are two assessed essays linked to elective courses.

The second year is devoted to researching and writing a thesis of 30,000 words. The research topic will be devised in your first year and, once approved; a supervisor will be allocated to you. The thesis accounts for half the marks for the degree. In addition, in the second year you will take a further elective course, assessed by a submitted essay.

Supervision

For this course, the allocation of graduate supervision is the responsibility of the School of Geography and the Environment and it is not always possible to accommodate the preferences of incoming graduate students to work with a particular member of staff. Under exceptional circumstances a supervisor may be found outside the School of Geography and the Environment.

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	24 months

Costs

Annual fees for entry in 2020-21

Fee status	Annual Course fees
Home/EU (including Islands)	£18,455
Overseas	£24,910

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.

Additional cost information

There are no compulsory elements of this course that entail additional costs beyond fees 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.

Most costs associated with compulsory fieldwork are paid for by the department. This excludes the costs associated with obtaining the appropriate visa required to attend the non-UK based field trips. Non-EEA nationals might require a visa in order to travel to the country where the field trip is being held and any costs associated with obtaining the appropriate travel visa is the responsibility of the student. Students will also have to pay for some meals during the field course. Furthermore, as part of your course requirements you need to develop and research a dissertation topic. Depending on your choice of topic and the field work research required to complete it, you may incur additional costs (eg relating to travel, accommodation, field assistants, lab fees and/or research visas). You will need to meet these additional costs, although you may be able to apply for small grants/bursaries 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.