

Course Information Sheet for entry in 2021-22: MPhil in Global and Area Studies



About the course

The MPhil in Global and Area Studies draws on the multidisciplinary and area expertise of OSGA's seven regional centres, to deliver an innovative Comparative Area Studies programme, which addresses contemporary global challenges through developing innovative multidisciplinary approaches.

The overall objectives of the MPhil are:

1. To equip you with the conceptual and theoretical expertise to interrogate the notions of 'area', 'comparative area' and the implications for disciplinary enquiry;
2. To provide you with a multi-/interdisciplinary and comparative understanding of different regions of the world;
3. To allow you to work on key thematic global challenges from a comparative area studies perspective;
4. To embed inter-cultural understanding and global citizenship in the study of area;
5. To develop research methods and skills that are appropriate for the comparative study of areas and regions including through the development of new digital approaches for area studies;
6. To promote a wider international network of area studies scholars and practitioners

Course structure

The course is structured around six study components, facilitating an interdisciplinary approach to comparative study across two or more regions and a critical approach to area studies.

Courses are taught through a combination of lectures and classes. You will be required to submit essays and make class presentations. Through a Research Methods element, you will receive relevant training in methodologies to enable you to carry out research and writing for your 30,000 word thesis. The thesis is expected to incorporate a global or comparative area studies approach and/or to address key cross-region global challenges from an area studies perspective.

Option courses will vary from year to year.

In addition, lively programmes of seminars, workshops and conferences throughout OSGA will complement the MPhil and you are encouraged to make the most of these opportunities.

The six study components are:

1. Theories and Approaches in Global and Area Studies;
2. Comparative Area Studies;
3. Research Methods for Social Sciences and Humanities;
4. Area Studies immersion;
5. Specialist Area Studies Options;
6. Comparative Area Studies Research Thesis

First year

In your first year you will study the following:

- Core Course 1- Competing Approaches in Area Studies
- One Comparative Area Studies Course from a list of options
- Area Studies Qualitative Methods
- One additional research methods course from a list of options
- One Area Studies course from a list of options

You will also submit a Research Proposal in preparation for the thesis submission

Second year

In your second year, you will study:

- Core Course 2 - Global Area Studies Seminar
- Two Area or Comparative Area Studies courses from a list of options

During this year, you will undertake a period of Area Studies immersion. Immersion options include but are not necessarily limited to: a period of overseas or domestic fieldwork research for your thesis; or for the development of advanced language skills; auditing relevant substantive courses delivered at a partner university or approved alternative; an internship period at a relevant organisation.

You will also submit one 30,000 word thesis.

Supervision

The allocation of graduate supervision is the responsibility of the Oxford School of Global and Area Studies 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 Oxford School of Global and Area Studies.

You will meet with your supervisor three to four times per term.

You will have one dedicated supervisor allocated according to your initial research and subject interests. The supervisor will typically share the your broad interests and will monitor your overall progress. The supervisor will help you to identify a viable topic and offer guidance regarding secondary literature, primary sources, appropriate methodologies, any fieldwork planned, and a research and writing timetable. With this support you will present an essay setting out your proposed research and you will present this proposal in a thesis workshop involving the programme's Teaching Committee. This provides an additional opportunity for you to receive feedback from academic members of staff and peers.

By the end of the Trinity term, you will be expected to have developed a thesis outline, identified the means (eg field or archival work) through which you will gather your primary sources, and agreed a timetable for the summer's work with the supervisor. During the second year, you will present your work in progress thesis in research seminar workshops or webinars convened for this purpose. Further arrangements for feedback and comments on drafts will progress through a series of meetings held by arrangement between you and your supervisor during the Hilary term of the second year.

Assessment

The MPhil in Global and Area Studies is assessed using a range of formative and summative assessments. Whilst many OSGA option courses are assessed through three hour written examinations, other elements of the course involve a range of different assessment modalities.

Core courses

- Competing Approaches to Area Studies (year one): Assessed by an end of year three hour examination, allowing for integration of the course content with the rest of the programme
- Global and Area Studies (year two): Assessed by essay submission in Trinity (Summer) term of your second year

Research Methods Courses

- Qualitative Methods: Assessed by a one week take-home exam in Michaelmas (Autumn) term in your first year
- Quantitative Methods: Assessed by a one week take-home exam in Hilary (Spring) term in your first year
- Historical Research Methods: Assessed by submission of a 3,000 word essay in Hilary term of your first year

Research Proposal

A 4,000 word research proposal is to be submitted during Trinity term of your first year for formative purposes, providing an important building block in your thesis preparation.

Comparative Area Studies courses

Courses are typically assessed by an end of year, three hour examination.

Option courses

Courses are typically assessed by an end of year, three hour examination.

Research Thesis

The 30,000 word thesis will be submitted in Trinity term of the second year of the course.

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. These may include significant changes made necessary by a pandemic (including Covid-19), epidemic or local health emergency. For further information, please see the University's Terms and Conditions (<http://www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/terms>) and our page on changes to courses (<http://www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/coursechanges>).

Expected length of course

	Full Time Only
Expected length	21 months

Costs

Annual fees for entry in 2021-22

Fee status	Annual Course fees
Home (UK, Republic of Ireland, Channel Islands & Isle of Man)	£22,930
Overseas (including EU)	£27,460

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

Whilst there are no compulsory elements of this programme that entail additional costs beyond fees and living costs, students may incur additional expenses, such as travel expenses, research expenses, and field trips, depending on a student's choice of research topic and the research required to complete it. Each student will need to meet these additional costs themselves.

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 2021-22 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 2021-22

	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	£280	£400	£2,520	£3,600	£3,360	£4,800
Accommodation	£655	£790	£5,895	£7,110	£7,860	£9,480
Personal items	£130	£250	£1,170	£2,250	£1,560	£3,000
Social activities	£45	£115	£405	£1,035	£540	£1,380
Study costs	£45	£100	£405	£900	£540	£1,200
Other	£20	£55	£180	£495	£240	£660
Total	£1,175	£1,710	£10,575	£15,390	£14,100	£20,520

When planning your finances for any future years of study at Oxford beyond 2021-22, 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.

Document accessibility

If you require an accessible version of the document please contact Graduate Admissions and Recruitment by email (graduate.admissions@admin.ox.ac.uk) or via the online form (<http://www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/ask>).