

Course Information Sheet for entry in 2021-22: MPhil in Law



About the course

The MPhil in Law is a one-year research master's degree during which you will write a 25,000- to 30,000-word dissertation. The course can either serve as a qualification in its own right or a route into the DPhil in Law.

Prior to 2018-19, the MPhil was exclusively for students who had completed the BCL, Magister Juris, or MSc in Law and Finance and students who had not first completed these degrees were instead admitted to the MSt in Legal Research. From 2018-19, the restrictions on MPhil admission were removed, so all suitably qualified graduates were eligible for admission, and the MSt was absorbed into the MPhil.

Students undertake the faculty's course in legal research methods during their first two terms. This provides training in legal research methodology, but will also expose you to the diversity of intellectual challenges involved in legal scholarship and will serve as a forum of peers in which you will be able to discuss the methodological challenges involved in your own research. The course comprises seven compulsory two-hour seminars during Michaelmas term while in Hilary term, students must attend eight hours of seminars from a wider range of options, including seminars offered by other social sciences departments and the faculty's Centres for Criminology and Socio-Legal Studies. Students must also attend the course conference at the start of Trinity term. For the most part, however, students will be spending their time undertaking self-directed study, though with the help of their supervisors.

Throughout the period of your studies, you will work with an assigned supervisor who will meet regularly with you to discuss your work and provide feedback and advice. You will also be able to have the opportunity to take part in a range of seminar programmes and discussion groups, affording plentiful opportunities for interaction with your peers and academics working in the same or related research areas to yours.

Supervision

The allocation of graduate supervision for this course is the responsibility of the Law Faculty 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 Law Faculty. In such circumstances, a joint supervisor from within the faculty may be appointed.

Throughout the period of your studies, you will work with an assigned supervisor who will meet regularly with you to discuss your work and provide feedback and advice.

Students generally meet their supervisors nine times per year and for the MPhil, there is likely to be a concentration of meetings in the first term.

Assessment

Candidates must submit the completed 25,000- to 30,000-word dissertation by 1 August. The examination method for the thesis is the same as that used for the DPhil - two examiners are appointed who read the thesis and hold an in-depth oral examination, known as a viva voce, with you. The examiners will then write a report which may either recommend that you be awarded the degree, or awarded the degree with a distinction grade, or should be given the opportunity to re-submit for the degree within a further term.

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	12 months

Costs

Annual fees for entry in 2021-22

Fee status	Annual Course fees
Home (UK, Republic of Ireland, Channel Islands & Isle of Man)	£8,570
Overseas (including EU)	£24,450

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.

For this course, the period of fee liability is normally three terms. Following the *viva voce* examination at the end of the third term, candidates whose theses are referred and who are given the opportunity to re-submit for the degree within a further term, will be charged an additional term's course fees. For the 2021-22 academic year, this is £2,857 for students whose fee status is Home/ROI (including Islands), and £8,150 for students whose fee status is Overseas; this rate will increase on an annual basis (see further details).

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 (or, after fee liability ends, continuation charges) and living costs. However, please note that, depending on your choice of research 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 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>).