

Course Information Sheet for entry in 2023-24: MPhil in Russian and East European Studies



About the course

The MPhil in Russian and East European Studies is a two-year programme for graduates who are interested in gaining a deeper knowledge and understanding of Russia, Eastern Europe and Eurasia through the study of the region across a range of disciplines including history, economics, politics, international relations and sociology.

Course outline

In the first year of the programme students will study the following three core courses, along with Research Methods for Area Studies and Russian Language.

- History of Russia, the USSR and Eastern Europe in the Twentieth Century
- Contemporary Russian and East European Studies Part 1: Politics and international relations. Covering topics in the politics, security and international relations of Russia and Eastern Europe.
- Contemporary Russian and East European Studies Part 2: Sociology and economics. Covering topics in the economics and sociology of Russia and Eastern Europe.

Courses are taught through a combination of lectures and classes. Students will be required to submit essays and make class presentations. Through the research methods course, students will receive training in relevant qualitative and quantitative methodologies to enable them to carry out research and writing for the 30,000-word thesis, while the Russian language course will deepen students' connection with the region. It is a full time programme with ample time for self study.

In the second year students will be able to specialise more narrowly through the choice of two option courses chosen from a list of options available for that academic year. Option courses include:

- Central Asia and the South Caucasus
- Islam in the USSR
- Ideology and Popular Culture
- Illiberalism in Central and Eastern Europe
- Russian International Relations and Foreign Policy
- Post-Communist Cultures of Corruption, Practices, Institutions, Networks
- South East Europe Politics and European Intervention.

Russian language tuition will continue and students will work on completing their thesis which must be submitted during Trinity term.

Russian language tuition

Russian classes will focus on the development of language and communication skills relevant to research and study in the REES field. Students are required to pass the relevant Russian language qualifying exam as part of the MPhil programme. Students have two hours of tuition each week across two terms in the first year and one term in the second year. Additional language learning is available through the Oxford University Language Centre.

Advanced research seminars and webinars

Students will also be required to participate in weekly research seminars, which explore the societies and political economies of the region and showcase scholarship. The programme hosts the famous 'Monday Seminar' for the wider Oxford and UK academic community, which takes place at St Antony's College. Student participation in research seminars is an important part of the programme, providing opportunities to see leading international scholars present their work and for networking and scholarly development.

Handwriting as a competence standard

Mastering the ability to handwrite in Russian has been identified as a competence standard for a mandatory core element of this course. This means that students will be required to produce handwritten work for assessment and it will not be possible to complete the assessment in an alternative format.

Supervision

The allocation of graduate supervision for this course is the responsibility of the Oxford School of Global and Area Studies (OSGA) 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 (OSGA).

In the case of students who require specific help to adjust to the programme in acquiring a new range of skills, the supervisor will work with them to ensure that they have additional support.

Students will typically meet with their supervisor at least two to three times per term.

Assessment

In order to receive the MPhil degree, students must obtain pass marks in two, 3-hour written examinations (CREES 1, CREES 2), an extended essay (History), plus two option courses (methods of assessment vary). Students must also obtain a pass mark for their MPhil thesis.

In addition, students must also pass the Russian language qualifying exam and satisfy on a pass/fail basis each section of the Research Methods requirement (qualitative and quantitative). Whilst students must pass the Russian language and Research Methods components of the degree programme, any marks obtained are not part of the determination of the overall results and classification but are only recorded as pass/fail grades on the transcript. The skills learnt during the Research Methods training will be used in the development of the students' thesis work.

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 2023-24

Fee status	Annual Course fees
Home	£16,610
Overseas	£26,450

Information about course fees

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 (<http://www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/terms>).

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. The use of primary sources through fieldwork is not compulsory for successful completion of the MPhil thesis. Students who decide to undertake fieldwork as part of their research should note that they will ordinarily have to meet all of the costs themselves. These costs are likely to include, but may not be limited to, travel, subsistence, insurance, and, where appropriate, visa and medical fees (eg for vaccinations). As research sites are ultimately determined by the individual, costs can vary considerably according to the duration and location of the proposed fieldwork. Travel grants of up to £150 per year may be made available to selected students as a contribution to the costs of conducting primary research activities connected with their thesis, subject to the approval of the Russian and East European Studies Management Committee. You may also be able to apply for small grants from your college to help you cover some of these expenses. Standard travel insurance can be provided by the University. However, students may be required to pay any additional insurance premiums associated with travel to areas with an increased level of risk, and should factor this into their planning for fieldwork.

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 2023-24 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 one month

	Lower range	Upper range
Food	£300	£470
Accommodation	£715	£860
Personal items	£180	£305
Social activities	£40	£90
Study costs	£35	£80
Other	£20	£35
Total	£1,290	£1,840

Likely living costs for nine months

	Lower range	Upper range
Food	£2,700	£4,230
Accommodation	£6,435	£7,740
Personal items	£1,620	£2,745
Social activities	£360	£810
Study costs	£315	£720
Other	£180	£315
Total	£11,610	£16,560

Likely living costs for twelve months

	Lower range	Upper range
Food	£3,600	£5,640
Accommodation	£8,580	£10,320
Personal items	£2,160	£3,660
Social activities	£480	£1,080
Study costs	£420	£960
Other	£240	£420
Total	£15,480	£22,080

When planning your finances for any future years of study at Oxford beyond 2023-24, it is suggested that you allow for potential increases in living expenses of 5% or more each year – although this rate may vary significantly depending on how the national economic situation develops.

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>).