

Course Information Sheet for entry in 2021-22: MSc in Clinical Embryology



About the course

This one year, residential, taught MSc provides graduate students, scientists and clinicians with highly advanced theoretical and practical understanding of human reproductive biology, embryology, infertility and assisted reproductive technology (ART) along with intensive 'hands-on' practical training in essential laboratory skills and the sophisticated gamete micromanipulation techniques associated with ART.

The MSc course is based alongside Oxford Fertility in purpose-built premises at the Institute of Reproductive Sciences, Oxford Business Park, with dedicated state-of-the-art teaching and research facilities. The department's intention is to inspire, motivate and train a network of future leaders in clinical embryology throughout the world.

The course runs over a period of one year, from October to September, incorporating the three University of Oxford terms: Michaelmas, Hilary and Trinity. Fundamental reproductive science and laboratory methods/practical skills are taught in the first term (Michaelmas) over five discrete modules. Applied and clinical aspects are delivered in the second term (Hilary) over a further set of five modules. Each module is delivered over a period of one to three weeks and together, the ten modules comprise the 'core content' of the course. The third term (Trinity) is extended to allow sufficient time for a high quality laboratory research project.

The department places significant emphasis on the acquisition of practical laboratory skills. A particular strength of the course is that you will be trained individually on micromanipulation and laser biopsy equipment using training beads, mouse oocytes, human sperm and surplus human oocytes when available. You will spend significant amounts of time with Oxford Fertility following senior clinicians in the clinic, and embryologists in the IVF laboratory. You will also spend time with junior/trainee embryologists to discuss career options, writing CVs and preparing for interviews and you will meet visiting clinicians and embryologists from other leading UK IVF clinics. The department's staff will also provide significant insight into the legal issues surrounding ART, along with quality management, ethics and ISO-accreditation. You will attend professional development seminars covering a wide range of topics including medical ethics, communication and presentation skills and experimental design.

The course is taught primarily by senior members of staff from the Nuffield Department of Women's & Reproductive Health and Oxford Fertility. A variety of teaching methods are used to enhance and optimise student learning: class lectures, group tutorials, laboratory practical classes, self-directed learning sessions (every other week during term time), journal clubs, problem-based learning, workshops and in-house demonstrations by visiting companies. You will also attend lectures given by visiting scientists who are world experts in their field. Private study sessions are timetabled during Michaelmas and Hilary Term, students are expected to use this time to work on formative and summative assignments.

Supervision

The allocation of graduate supervision for this course is the responsibility of the Nuffield Department of Women's & Reproductive Health 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 Nuffield Department of Women's and Reproductive Health. Students on the MSc in Clinical Embryology receive individual mentorship by the Course Director and other members of the course staff at regular intervals throughout the course and whenever required. Each student will also be allocated with a Departmental Mentor (a senior member of the academic or clinical staff) and will also be allocated with a Graduate Advisor within their college. Students usually meet their Departmental Mentor and their Graduate Advisor once a term.

Assessment

There are five summative assessments in total:

- A computer based multiple choice examination at the end of Michaelmas Term
- A 4000 word extended essay during Hilary Term
- A short essay written examination at the start of Trinity Term
- A 10,000 word dissertation based on the extended Trinity Term laboratory research project
- A viva voce examination at the end of the extended Trinity 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) | £42,210 |
| Overseas (including EU) | £42,210 |

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

You will have the option to attend national or international conferences in the field, such as meetings organised by the Society for Reproduction and Fertility, the British Andrology Society and the European Society for Human Reproduction & Embryology. If you choose to attend such meetings, you will have to cover all expenses related to your attendance, eg travel and accommodation costs, registration fee, etc. Costs for attending such meetings will depend entirely upon the precise location of the meeting. As a rough guide, attendance of the basic ESHRE meeting is likely to cost in the region of £600 to £900, while attendance at national meetings are more likely to cost £200 to £300.

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>).