

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



### About the course

The MSc in Clinical Trials is a two-year, part-time distance learning course that provides a thorough training in both the theoretical and practical aspects of conducting randomised clinical trials.

By the end of the course, students should have the knowledge and skills required to design and undertake a clinical trial. By running a fully integrated course covering all key aspects of clinical trials, students will acquire a good understanding of the theoretical underpinning as well as the practical aspects of randomised clinical trials and have an in-depth training in trials methodology. The course will cover different types of trials and clinical conditions, with a focus on large, streamlined clinical outcome trials in cardiovascular disease.

The specific aims are to provide:

- in-depth training in, and understanding of, the principles and practice of conducting randomised clinical trials;
- a forum for the nurturing of future global leaders in clinical trials in cardiovascular medicine and beyond.

Teaching is delivered virtually (via online lectures, tutorials and group work) during the first year, and for the first two whole terms and part of the third term in the second year. You will receive around three hours of supported study per week and will be expected to complete around two hours per week self-directed study. The curriculum comprises eight compulsory modules of varying length and intensity across six terms:

- An introduction to the principles of randomised trials
- Design to implementation
- The regulatory and ethical framework and participant involvement
- Data management and analysis
- Big data and new technologies
- Health economics and Patient Reported Outcome Measures
- Different types of trial in particular populations
- Meta-analyses and the reporting of trial results

The course will include a one-week compulsory residential period in the Long Vacation (September) between years one and two. The aim of the residential period is to allow the students to meet the tutors and course teaching staff and to provide face-to-face teaching, discussion time and leadership training. The examination will also take place during this week.

A shorter optional residential period will also take place in Trinity Term in year two. This will allow discussion about dissertation content, practical guidance on statistical content and an opportunity for face-to-face discussion between the student and dissertation supervisor.

### Supervision

The allocation of graduate supervision for this course is the responsibility of the Nuffield Department of Population Health and it is not always possible to accommodate the preferences of incoming graduate students to work with a particular member of staff. A supervisor may be found outside the Nuffield Department of Population Health.

You will meet with your supervisor once every three to four weeks.

### Assessment

During all six terms of the course there will be a series of formative assessments designed to enable teaching staff and the students to monitor progress. These assessments are compulsory but the marks do not contribute to the final degree. All students are provided with detailed feedback that will enable them to improve their learning by helping them identify their strengths and weaknesses.

There are six summative assessments in total. In Hilary term of year one, a written assignment of 2,500 words (10%) is submitted. In the break between year one and two students will upload a scientific poster (10%) for assessment. The examination (20%) will be held at the end of the long vacation during the residential week. During Michaelmas term of year two a written assignment of

3,000 words (10%) will be submitted. During Hilary term of year two students will present a 15 minute presentation (10%) and finally during the Trinity term of year two, students will write a dissertation (40%) that will be submitted in September of year two.

### 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

	Part Time Only
Expected length	2 years

## Costs

### Annual fees for entry in 2021-22

Fee status	Annual Course fees
Home (UK, Republic of Ireland, Channel Islands & Isle of Man)	£8,876
Overseas (including EU)	£8,876

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

All students on this course will need access to a computer, webcam, microphone and a reliable broadband internet connection (compulsory). The recommended bandwidth for the software used is 1Mbps. This is estimated to cost approximately £1000. Departmental or college bursaries may be available for this. Students will have to attend a compulsory residential week between Years 1 and 2, and may wish to attend a further residential period in Year 2. The department will provide food and accommodation for these residential periods, but you will need to pay for your own travel. Students can apply to the course directors for support for travel, and may also be able to apply for small grants from their college. 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.

## 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
<b>Food</b>	£280	£400	£2,520	£3,600	£3,360	£4,800
<b>Accommodation</b>	£655	£790	£5,895	£7,110	£7,860	£9,480
<b>Personal items</b>	£130	£250	£1,170	£2,250	£1,560	£3,000
<b>Social activities</b>	£45	£115	£405	£1,035	£540	£1,380
<b>Study costs</b>	£45	£100	£405	£900	£540	£1,200
<b>Other</b>	£20	£55	£180	£495	£240	£660
<b>Total</b>	£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](http://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](mailto:graduate.admissions@admin.ox.ac.uk)) or via the online form (<http://www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/ask>).