Course Information Sheet for entry in 2022-23:
MSc in Digital Scholarship

About the course

This course introduces students to the full range of issues which arise when digital tools and methods are applied to traditional humanistic scholarship, and equips students with the tools and knowledge to surmount those challenges, enabling them to develop a digitally-enhanced scholarly project of their own.

The course will equip you to lead and manage digital projects in and outside the strictly academic domain, and provide you with the expertise to progress to innovative doctoral research projects.

Course structure

The course is comprised of four main elements, each of which helps you prepare for the dissertation.

Paper 1

This core paper provides a systematic overview of every stage of a digital project and its data life-cycle. Each topic is illustrated by ongoing work in one or more of Oxford's flagship digital scholarship projects, the key problems they have encountered and the solutions they have developed. As such, the series also serves to introduce students to the Division's major projects in the field, with a view to choosing the practicum placement and the dissertation topic.

Paper 2

Methods of Digital Scholarship, running in the first term, will require you to choose two Technical Options Papers which provide the hands-on training needed to equip students with specific methods relevant to their project.

Paper 3

You will choose a Subject-Specific Paper to provide graduate-level work of a more traditional kind in each student's 'home discipline' in the second term. The option will be selected from a list of existing master's papers available in the faculties of the Humanities Division.

Paper 4

The fourth element is a practicum placement in which you will gain experience developing your proposed research topic while working within Oxford's vast array of flagship Digital Scholarship projects and planning their own research projects with potential supervisors.

Paper 5

All of this work culminates in the dissertation, which is formulated flexibly to encourage both traditional academic prose and non-traditional digital outputs. You will work closely with a supervisor, starting at the end of Michaelmas term and continuing through Hilary term, though the bulk of the work will be concentrated in Trinity (summer) term.

Further information

If your application is successful, it is recommended that you take an open-access online course Humanities Research in the Digital Age (developed by the Open-Oxford-Cambridge AHRC Doctoral Training Partnership) before the MSc begins to ensure that you have comprehensive background knowledge of the field.

Supervision

The allocation of graduate supervision for this course is the responsibility of the steering committee for the MSc in Digital Scholarship in consultation with faculties in the Humanities Division, 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 Humanities Division.

Each student will be given the opportunity to participate in an optional career mentor system in which they are paired with one of Oxford's renowned digital scholars with whom they can discuss and seek advice on their own careers.

Assessment

Paper 1

Elements of Digital Scholarship will be assessed by two essays, one due at the start of Hilary term and the other due at the start of Trinity Term.

Paper 2

Methods of Digital Scholarship (Technical Option Papers): the aim is for the student to obtain sufficient mastery of the specific digital tools and methods needed for their dissertation projects. These skills will be assessed by a practical test for each option.

Paper 3

The Subject-Specific Paper will follow the assessment regime determined by the convenor of the individual course selected by the student. This will normally be an essay submitted by the start of Trinity term.

Paper 4

The practicum placement is designed to offer each student the opportunity to join one of Oxford's flagship digital projects deploying innovative digital methods to teaching, research, or collections in the humanities. The specific team chosen will typically be the one most closely related to some aspect of your own dissertation project. The placement will be assessed by submission of a digital asset and short report due at the end of Trinity term.

Paper 5

The dissertation will be of 10,000-12,000 words (or equivalent if a practical component or digital asset is included) and will be due in at the beginning of August. The supervisor will give advice on the scope of the dissertation, guide the research, and give feedback on written 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	11 months

Costs

Annual fees for entry in 2022-23

Fee status	Annual Course fees
Home	£14,140
Overseas	£28,560

Further details about fee status eligibility can be found on the fee status webpage (http://www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/feestatus).

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. However, 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 2022-23 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

	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	£290	£410	£2,610	£3,690	£3,480	£4,920
Accommodation	£680	£810	£6,120	£7,290	£8,160	£9,720
Personal items	£135	£260	£1,215	£2,340	£1,620	£3,120
Social activities	£45	£120	£405	£1,080	£540	£1,440
Study costs	£45	£100	£405	£900	£540	£1,200
Other	£20	£55	£180	£495	£240	£660
Total	£1,215	£1,755	£10,935	£15,795	£14,580	£21,060

When planning your finances for any future years of study at Oxford beyond 2022-23, 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).