Course Information Sheet for entry in 2021-22:
MSc in Education (Digital and Social Change)

About the course

New for 2021, the MSc Education (Digital and Social Change) is an exciting and innovative programme, in which you will develop a strong theoretical understanding of new technologies, education and society.

At the core of the programme is a strong commitment to digital inclusion and social justice that addresses contemporary issues regarding the impact of digital and social change in education. You will conceptualise and design learning technologies through participatory approaches, examining how they impact the marginalised in the UK and globally.

At a time when many people are discussing significant moral questions regarding technology and its use in education, including for example, the ethics of Artificial Intelligence, there is a pressing need for a new generation of researchers and practitioners that can affect social change through stronger theoretically-informed practice, design and policy.

Building on the past success of the MSc Education (Learning and Technology), the department welcomes students from a range of disciplinary backgrounds including but not limited to education, computer science, sociology, communications and international development. You will have a commitment to social justice in education, a questioning stance on technology and an interest in developing interdisciplinary knowledge.

Aims of the course

1. Critically assess and understand the role of technology in education across the lifecourse
2. Develop the expertise to address the challenges posed by digital inequality
3. Understand how to embed innovative learning technologies in practice
4. Cultivate design prototyping skills
5. Understand the relationship between social justice, technology and learning

Learning outcomes

By the end of the course you will develop:

1. The ability to integrate educational theory and practice
2. An in-depth and comparative understanding of learning theories and their appropriate use to develop informative research questions
3. The necessary research skills for progression to the next stage of your career, including DPhil study
4. Specialist technical and social knowledge, enabling the evaluation of technologies for digital and social change
5. An understanding of the ethics of technology when working with marginalised communities
6. Informed insights into state-of-the-art technical tools utilised in machine learning and critically evaluate their application to, and limitations for, digital and social change in education
7. The ability to develop and manage a research project, and work collaboratively and reflectively on contemporary research issues

Pathway Modules

The MSc Education (Digital and Social Change) consists of six modules.

- Module 1: Key Concepts in Digital Education and Social Change (core; taught by DSC team)
- Module 2: Social Justice and Technology (core; taught by DSC team)
- Module 3: Critical Digital Innovation (optional; taught by DSC team)
- Module 4: Education, the Internet and Society (optional; taught by DSC team)

You will take the two core research methods modules, which are common to all pathways:

- Module 5: Foundations of Education Research I (core)
- Module 6: Foundations of Education Research II (core)

You can also choose from the optional papers from the other MSc Education pathways, examples of which include:

- Module 7: Intermediate Quantitative Research (optional)
- Module 8: Globalisation in Higher Education (optional)
- Module 9: Perspectives and Debates in Qualitative Research (optional)

Supervision

The allocation of graduate supervision for this course is the responsibility of the Department of Education 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 Department of Education.

You will receive a minimum of four hours of supervision per term. You will meet with your supervisor on a number of occasions during the year: at least twice during Michaelmas term in order to discuss early ideas and plan the initial reading; at least twice during Hilary term, in order to develop a firm plan, and make the ethical approval application; normally four times in Trinity term (which includes during the summer break leading up to dissertation submission), in order (1) to discuss fieldwork, (2) plan the analysis and thesis design, (3) discuss early chapters, and (4) discuss the first complete draft. Supervisors are also available to students via email.

Your choice of dissertation topic is up to you and will be iteratively developed in collaboration with your supervisor.

Assessment

For each of the six core and option modules, you will complete a 2,000 word formative essay. Course convenors will provide feedback on these formative assignments prior to setting of the summative questions.

Five of the modules (Foundations of Educational Research parts 1 and 2, Key Concepts in Digital Education and Social Change, Education, the Internet and Society, and Social Justice Technology) will be summatively assessed by essays of 2,500-3,000 words in length. For each, you will be able to select from a choice of three to five questions set by the course convenor.

Critical Digital Innovation will be assessed through an essay totalling no more than 3,000 words, divided into two parts:

- Part 1: Select from a choice of three to five questions set by the course convenor (2,000 words)
- Part 2: A self-reflective assessment of your learning in a small group project (1,000 words).

The summative assessments for all modules held in Michaelmas term will have a deadline of noon 0th week Hilary term, and those for Hilary term will have a deadline of noon 0th week Trinity term.

You will also complete a dissertation of 15,000–20,000 words, which will normally be due in the second week of August. Dissertations can relate but are not limited to the research interests of the course team, including digital inequalities, technology for workplace training, medical and health education and innovative technologies in education.

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)	£13,600
Overseas (including EU)	£25,900

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

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 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).