



Course Information Sheet for entry in 2020-21

MSc in Education (Higher Education)

About the course

The MSc Education (Higher Education) at the University of Oxford provides a broad introduction to the complex field of theories and practice in higher education globally.

The increasing significance of university rankings, the growing range of international student exchange schemes and public discussion of the 'vocationalisation' of degree programmes, are just some of the current issues within higher education in many countries. Debates about the benefits of higher education to graduates, employers and the state underpin considerations of student fees and how they should be funded.

During this full-time course, students will have the opportunity to consider these and other complex issues that university and college leaders, higher education policy-makers and higher education researchers are addressing today. Teaching sessions will combine tutor input and class discussion, plus small group working.

Course members study three core papers which consider national higher education systems and their economic impacts from theoretical, historical and empirical perspectives. Invited speakers will present their own recent research findings, ensuring that the course content reflects live debates and emerging understandings within the field of higher education policy.

In addition to these three pathway-specific core papers, two core papers in research methods develop students' understanding of key concepts and principles of educational research design and methodology, using quantitative and qualitative methods and data. Students benefit from the expertise available through the [Qualitative Methods Hub](#) and the [Quantitative Methods Hub](#) at the Department of Education. MSc Education students also choose one assessed option paper from a selection offered by academic staff across the department.

This MSc is aimed at future leaders in the field – academics, policy-makers, researchers and managers. It is assessed through written assignments, a two-hour examination, and a research dissertation. Work towards this dissertation will be supported by practical sessions, that develop themes covered in the research design and methodology lectures, and one-to-one meetings with a supervisor throughout the course.

Supervision

The allocation of graduate supervision for this course is the responsibility of the Department of Education. This will be done on the basis of the topic of research and the availability of individual supervisors. 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.

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. For further information, please see the University's Terms and Conditions.

Expected length of course

Mode of study	Full Time Only
Expected length	12 months

Costs

Annual fees for entry in 2020-21

Fee status	Annual Course fees
Home/EU (including Islands)	£13,075
Overseas	£23,505

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 2020-21 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 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	£270	£385	£2,430	£3,465	£3,240	£4,620
Accommodation	£630	£760	£5,670	£6,840	£7,560	£9,120
Personal items	£130	£245	£1,170	£2,205	£1,560	£2,940
Social activities	£45	£110	£405	£990	£540	£1,320
Study costs	£40	£95	£360	£855	£480	£1,140
Other	£20	£55	£180	£495	£240	£660
Total	£1,135	£1,650	£10,215	£14,850	£13,620	£19,800

When planning your finances for any future years of study at Oxford beyond 2020-21, 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.