

Course Information Sheet for entry in 2021-22: MSc in Evidence-Based Health Care (Medical Statistics)



About the course

This is a course for health professionals who wish to strengthen their statistical skills and ability to analyse data. Students will gain confidence in carrying out the methods that are widely used in medical statistics, and interpreting the results for the practice of evidence-based health care.

This course is designed for doctors, nurses, pharmacists, midwives and other healthcare professionals, seeking to consolidate their understanding and ability in medical statistics. Core modules introduce the students to methods for observational and clinical trials research. Optional modules offer the students skills in growth areas such as systematic review, meta-analysis, and big data epidemiology, or specialist areas such as statistical computing, diagnosis and screening research and others.

The course aims to give students high competence in the concepts, methods, terminology and interpretation of medical statistics; and hence, enhance their ability to carry out their own research and to interpret published evidence.

Students should gain:

- competence in execution and interpretation of core statistical techniques used by medical statisticians, particularly those used in multivariable analyses: multiple linear regression, logistic regression, and survival modelling, statistical analysis plans and statistical reporting
- competence in execution and interpretation of core statistical techniques used by medical statisticians in clinical trials
- competence in execution and interpretation of four other areas, selected by the student from the following options: meta-analysis; systematic review; big data epidemiology; statistical computing; diagnosis and screening; study design and research methods
- hands-on experience, supervised by a senior member of our medical statistics team, of the analysis or meta-analysis of healthcare data, in order to address a question in evidence-based health care.

Compared to the main EBHC course, MSc in Evidence-Based Health Care, this will suit those with basic statistical understanding who now seek deeper understanding on a broader base of statistical methods.

This is a joint course offered between the Nuffield Department of Primary Care Health Sciences and the Department for Continuing Education. The programme works in collaboration with the renowned Centre for Evidence-Based Medicine in Oxford.

This course has teachers and contributors who are internationally recognised leaders in the field of evidence-based practice and teaching. The flexible structure of the course has been devised to fit with the structure of specialist training and to accommodate student choice.

Teaching is tailored to non-statisticians and delivered by an experienced team of tutors from University of Oxford who bridge the disciplines of medical statistics and evidence-based health care.

Course structure

This course guides students through core and optional modules and a dissertation to a qualification in the application of medical statistics to evidence-based health care.

The majority of modules are run over an eight-week blended learning cycle. An initial period of self-directed study is spent working on introductory activities using a Virtual Learning Environment (VLE). This is followed by a week spent in Oxford for supported face to face teaching, and then a further period of Post-Oxford activities (A mixture of self-directed and supported distance learning also delivered through the VLE). The final week of each module is for self-directed personal study, shortly followed by the assignment submission.

Some modules are run entirely online. These are delivered through the VLE with the first week allocated to self-directed introductory activities. There are then a number of units to work through which are released week by week. Each unit includes a mixture of supported and self-directed learning with discussion forums, tasks and activities. Students then have five weeks of self-directed personal study with use of a revision forum and the requirement to submit an assignment electronically the following week.

Modules are spaced out throughout the academic year, allowing a choice of options to be taken over the two to four years students attend the course. Further details about the course and modules can be found on the course page, on the Department for Continuing Education Website (See *Further Information and Enquiries*).

Supervision

The allocation of graduate supervision for this course is the responsibility of the Nuffield Department of Primary Care Health Sciences and/or the Department for Continuing 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 Nuffield Department of Primary Care Health Sciences and/or the Department for Continuing Education.

Assessment

Assessment for each module will be based on a written assignment of not more than 4,000 words. The dissertation will be on a topic chosen in consultation with your supervisor and the course director and should not normally exceed 15,000 words.

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 to 4 years |

Costs

Modular course fees

The fees for this course are charged on a modular basis. You will pay an annual course fee and an additional fee for each module studied. A minimum of two annual course fees are payable for this course. If this course includes a dissertation, three module fees will be charged for the dissertation.

Fees for the 2021-22 academic year

| Fee status | Annual Course Fee | Fee per module | Total estimated fees |
|---|-------------------|----------------|---|
| Home (UK, Republic of Ireland, Channel Islands & Isle of Man) | £6,850 | £2,080 | Please see the department's website for further details |
| Overseas (including EU) | £6,850 | £2,080 | |

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

This course has residential sessions in Oxford. You will need to meet your travel and accommodation costs in attending these sessions. Further, as part of your course requirements, you may need to choose a dissertation, a project or a thesis topic. 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.

If you are studying part-time your living costs may vary depending on your personal circumstances but you must still ensure that you will have sufficient funding to meet these 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>).