

Course Information Sheet for entry in 2022-23: MSc in Radiation Biology



About the course

This one-year, full-time, taught course leads to an MSc in Radiation Biology, which comprises a seven-month theoretical lecture-based syllabus followed by a five-month research project.

The core theoretical course covers the emerging areas of fundamental radiation biology for oncology and its treatment by radiotherapy, along with the hazards associated with radiation exposure. Lectures will also introduce students to key areas of research and innovative developments in treatment.

The modules are:

- Physics and Chemistry of Radiation Action
- Molecular Radiation Biology
- Cellular Radiation Biology
- Normal Tissue and Applied Radiation Biology
- Whole Body Exposure and Carcinogenesis
- Radiation Epidemiology
- Imaging Technologies
- Tumour Microenvironment
- Applications of Radiation Therapy
- Translational Radiation Biology
- Clinical Radiation Biology
- Radiation Protection.

Each module is delivered over a period of one to two weeks and together the 12 modules comprise the core content of the course. Lectures will be led by local, national and international experts, with time allocated for questions and informal discussion. These lectures are supported by additional tutorials, practical sessions and demonstrations to provide a wide knowledge and understanding of radiation biology. Students should expect to spend 6-8 hours per week in formal lectures and a further 2-3 hours in tutorial or practical sessions in the first two terms. It is expected that students will spend approximately 20 hours per week engaging in independent study. This can include required preparatory reading for lectures, completing set tasks ahead of tutorial sessions, completion of formative and summative essays, exam preparation, and further self-directed reading.

The high-quality laboratory research project in basic or clinically applied research lasts approximately five months and projects are hosted by active research groups. Specific training and guidance is provided to enable students to complete the research project. There will be a short transition period between the taught content and the research project in the third term of study, after which the student will be embedded full time with their research group.

Full details of the syllabus, schedule and assessments can be found on the course webpage on the Department of Oncology's website.

This MSc is designed for individuals who are interested in a career in academic research in radiation biology, radiation oncology or a career in professions that require knowledge of radiation biology (eg academic personnel associated with radiation protection issues). The MSc provides excellent training for students interested in studying academic research at a PhD/DPhil level.

Applicants are recommended to visit the Department of Oncology website to review the range of radiation research undertaken within the department before they apply.

Supervision

The allocation of graduate supervision is the responsibility of the Department of Oncology 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 Oncology.

All students will have termly one-to-one meetings with the Course Director to review their progress. During the research project students are expected to meet with their supervisor on a regular basis, at least twice a month, with additional day-to-day support provided by members of their group or collaborators on the project.

Assessment

In order to be awarded the MSc you need to successfully complete the following summative assessments that contribute to your final degree:

- Qualifying examination (December)
- Short essay (December)
- Extended essay (April)
- Written examination (May)
- Dissertation (August) and Viva (September).

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 2022-23

Fee status	Annual Course fees
Home	£10,970
Overseas	£26,940

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 (or, after fee liability ends, continuation charges) 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>).