

## Course Information Sheet for entry in 2021-22: MSt in Diplomatic Studies



### About the course

The Oxford University Diplomatic Studies Programme (DSP), formerly known as the Foreign Service Programme (FSP), is a one-year programme of mixed academic and vocational study of diplomacy and related subjects.

### Diplomatic Studies Programme

The Diplomatic Studies Programme comprises:

- PGDip in Diplomatic Studies, a nine-month full-time course (October to June)
- MSt in Diplomatic Studies, a twelve-month full-time course (October to September)

The Diplomatic Studies Programme aims to equip each of its members with the knowledge and skills required for diplomacy in today and tomorrow's world, and the confidence on which to base a successful diplomatic career within a foreign ministry, international organisation or elsewhere. The programme celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2019 and its alumni occupy a large number of senior posts in the diplomatic field.

The DSP is a programme for professionals. It is specifically designed for early- to mid-career diplomats, and a large proportion of its members are established diplomats, who return to their diplomatic careers after the course. Some are nominated by their Foreign Ministries to attend. A few non-diplomats with relevant academic background and professional experience are included. Members come from an extremely broad range of countries, and one of the attributes of the course is the extensive opportunity it offers to share and learn from peers' experiences and perspectives.

### Course structure and content

The Master of Studies (MSt) in Diplomatic Studies comprises four taught courses, plus the completion of a substantial research project.

Together with the PGDip students, you will undertake an intensive course on aspects of current diplomatic practice, focusing on both diplomatic skills (oral, written and strategic) and on aspects of contemporary diplomacy (political, economic, digital and many others). There are practical exercises, for example, in negotiation, drafting, crisis management, public speaking and handling media interviews. You will also take courses on international politics, public international law and international trade and finance. As well as key issues of the day, the DSP places emphasis on national and regional issues relevant to countries and regions from which the participants come.

The course centres on lectures, seminars and tutorials in which you will meet your tutors in small groups and discuss your work. There are many guest speakers, both professional and academic, and there may be occasional lunches or dinners with guests. Contact hours would typically amount to 180 lectures/seminars and 24 tutorials. Preparation for these is self-directed work.

For non-native speakers, advanced English language classes are an integral part of the Diplomatic Studies Programme. One advantage of the course is the opportunity it offers to build up and polish to a very high and sustained standard of effectiveness and fluency your command of the English language, the major international and diplomatic language in today's world.

You will be encouraged to take advantage of the broad range of opportunities available to you as a member of the University and one of its colleges, for example by attending lectures held elsewhere in the University and/or by improving your knowledge of other languages.

More information on a typical year's curriculum is available on the DSP website.

### Dissertation

In addition to the four taught courses, you will be required to complete a substantial research project leading to a dissertation of up to 15,000 words on a topic of your choice related to the course. You will have research methods classes to help you with methodology, and will have a supervisor to oversee your private research. The dissertation offers you an opportunity to undertake supervised in-depth research, using Oxford's generous research facilities, and to write a long paper on a topic you are passionate about.

## Study tours

As part of the course in diplomatic practice, the DSP normally includes study visits to government departments, international organisations and business and media institutions in the United Kingdom and elsewhere in Europe. A study tour to Northern Ireland may also take place.

It is not possible to confirm at this time if any study tours can go ahead.

## Languages

The working language of the course is English. You will be accepted only if you can demonstrate that you possess the necessary English language skills.

## Supervision

The allocation of graduate supervision for this course is the responsibility of 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. A supervisor may be found outside the Department for Continuing Education.

## Assessment

In addition to the dissertation, the four taught courses are assessed by four year-end examinations.

## 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)	£25,900
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

Please note that this course requires that you attend in Oxford for teaching, and you may incur additional travel and accommodation expenses for this. Further, as part of your course requirements, you will 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.

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
<b>Food</b>	£280	£400	£2,520	£3,600	£3,360	£4,800
<b>Accommodation</b>	£655	£790	£5,895	£7,110	£7,860	£9,480
<b>Personal items</b>	£130	£250	£1,170	£2,250	£1,560	£3,000
<b>Social activities</b>	£45	£115	£405	£1,035	£540	£1,380
<b>Study costs</b>	£45	£100	£405	£900	£540	£1,200
<b>Other</b>	£20	£55	£180	£495	£240	£660
<b>Total</b>	£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](http://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](mailto:graduate.admissions@admin.ox.ac.uk)) or via the online form (<http://www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/ask>).