

Course Information Sheet for entry in 2022-23: MSt in Diplomatic Studies



About the course

The Oxford University Diplomatic Studies Programme (DSP) is a one-year programme of mixed academic and vocational study of diplomacy and related subjects. Established over 50 years ago as the Oxford Foreign Service Programme (FSP), the DSP is regarded as one of the world's leading diplomacy programmes.

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 or international career.

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 resume their careers on successful completion of the course. Applications are also invited from candidates with professional experience and academic qualifications in related fields who meet the entry requirements for the course.

DSP members come from a wide range of countries. A major attraction of the course is the opportunity to interact with and learn from the experience of peers, serving and former diplomats, and distinguished guest speakers from across the globe.

Course structure and content

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

Both PGDip and MSt students undertake the same intensive course in aspects of current diplomatic practice, focusing on both diplomatic skills (oral, written and strategic) and on key issues relating to contemporary professional practice of digital, economic, cultural and public diplomacy.

You will also benefit from regular practical exercises including simulations and workshops in areas such as international negotiations, crisis management, media interview techniques and effective public speaking.

Your Diplomatic Practice course is complemented by the intensive study of three core courses in International Politics, Public International Law and International Trade and Finance.

- International Politics treats key concepts in International Relations leading to central issues in world politics, with particular emphasis on change in the international system and the evolving role of diplomacy in consequence.
- Public International Law expounds the principles of international law and the processes of legal reasoning, and applies this to current world problems ranging from the nature of international law to the use of force and conflict settlement.
- International Trade and Finance covers the basics of international trade theory and macroeconomics, and focuses on such applied and political economy topics as trade liberalisation, globalisation, and international resource transfers.

The DSP course is delivered through a variety of lectures, seminars, workshops and small group tutorials. Throughout the year, you will be invited to attend a number of special guest lectures delivered by prominent academics and professionals. A number of lunches and dinners with special guest speakers may occasionally be arranged.

While the number of contact hours is likely to vary each year, these typically amount to 180 lectures/seminars and 24 tutorials. For non-native speakers of English, advanced academic literacy skills classes provide students with the opportunity to polish their oral proficiency in the language and to develop advanced academic writing skills.

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, engaging in debates and participating in clubs and societies.

Detailed information on course content and structure can be found on the DSP website.

Dissertation

In addition to the four taught courses above, you will be required to complete a substantial individual research project leading to a dissertation of up to 15,000 words on an approved course-related topic of personal interest. To help equip you with the framework and contextual knowledge to plan, structure and write a successful Master's dissertation, you will follow a compulsory introductory course in research methods for the social sciences.

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 Europe. A study tour to Northern Ireland may also take place.

It is not possible to confirm at this time whether any study tours can go ahead due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

Languages

Applicants whose first language is not English must produce certified evidence of their degree of proficiency in English at the University's higher level of IELTS 7.5 or approved equivalent. Please note that this is the minimum level of English language proficiency required.

Supervision

The allocation of graduate supervision for this course is the responsibility of the Department for Continuing Education and this role will usually be performed by the Course Director.

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.

MSt students usually meet their supervisor up to 14 times (in hourly sessions). However, such sessions may be replaced with the equivalent time spent on the provision of written feedback.

Assessment

In addition to the dissertation, the four taught courses are assessed by four year-end examinations, comprising mainly of essay questions, but they may also require answers in the form of a position paper, a report, a speech, a mini case study or in a specific professionally-structured format (eg a diplomatic telegram).

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	£26,940
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

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 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>).