

Course Information Sheet for entry in 2021-22: MSt in Linguistics, Philology and Phonetics



About the course

The MSt in Linguistics, Philology and Phonetics is a nine-month taught course offering a range of options for those seeking a graduate qualification in language studies and wishing to specialise in general linguistics (including phonetics but not applied linguistics), in historical and comparative linguistics, or in the linguistics of a specific language.

Course strands

Students are admitted to the MSt in Linguistics, Philology and Phonetics via one of two strands:

Research Preparation strand

The Research Preparation strand is designed for applicants who have studied linguistics as undergraduates to a more advanced level and who thus already have a solid background in all core areas of general linguistics; they will typically have a degree in which linguistics forms at least 50% of the teaching and assessment, or who can otherwise demonstrate that they have studied linguistics to an equivalent level. In order to be admitted to this programme, applicants will already have to have identified, by means of a detailed research proposal, a topic on which they will want to write a master's thesis.

Students will be working on their master's thesis from their first term. They will attend the Faculty's training in research methods and in addition, they may attend some more advanced classes that are of relevance to their thesis work, and they will have the opportunity to follow courses on the Advanced Core Training in Linguistics programme.

Advanced Study strand

The Advanced Study strand is designed for applicants who have previously studied linguistics at an introductory level, and are keen to familiarise themselves further with the discipline, but who have not studied linguistics to a more advanced level during their undergraduate degree.

During their first term and into their second term, students will follow a Foundation Course in Linguistic Theory, a course of lectures and practical classes with extensive sets of compulsory exercises covering the main areas of linguistics and providing an overview of the field.

Option papers common to both strands

Students on both strands will also study for two option papers that are of particular interest to them. Options are chosen from those listed in Option B, Option C, or in Option D, below. Those intending to study options chosen from C or D below should normally have, and may be required to demonstrate, some knowledge of the chosen (group of) language(s) and those intending to offer options chosen from C will normally be expected to be able to read secondary literature in French and German.

If students would like to specialise fully in Indo-European comparative philology via option C, they are strongly encouraged to apply for the MPhil in General Linguistics and Comparative Philology instead. There is also scope for some work in historical and comparative linguistics in the MSt via the module in Historical and Comparative Linguistics under option B, and via options in the history and structure of specific languages.

Please note that not all options may be offered every year, depending on the availability of teaching.

Option B

You will select two options from the following range:

- Phonetics and Phonology
- Syntax
- Semantics
- Historical and Comparative Linguistics
- Psycholinguistics and Neurolinguistics
- History and Structure of a Language
- Sociolinguistics.

You may also ask for one option in another subject in general linguistics; approval will be subject to the availability of proper instruction and provision for examination. There are two other Option B papers, which are not normally available to MSt students unless they have some prior training in that subject sufficient to begin work on these options from their first term on the course:

- Experimental Phonetics
- Computational Linguistics.

Option C

You will select two options from following three subjects:

- The comparative grammar of Indo-European languages
- The historical grammar of Indo-European languages
- Translation from, and linguistic comment upon, texts in Indo-European languages.

Option D

You may select either ancient (eg Latin, Sanskrit) or modern languages (eg French, Italian, German, Slavic languages), for two of the following:

- The history of one language, or of two historically related languages
- The structure of the language or languages chosen
- one of the following:
 - Translation from, and/or linguistic comment upon, texts in the language or languages chosen
 - any paper from B (above) except History and Structure of a Language
 - a project on an aspect of the structure or history of the language, or family of related languages, studied.

Supervision

The allocation of graduate supervision for this course is the responsibility of the Faculty of Linguistics, Philology & Phonetics 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 Faculty of Linguistics, Philology and Phonetics.

Assessment

Research Preparation strand

If you choose to undertake this strand, you will produce a master's thesis of up to 15,000 words.

Advanced Study strand

If you choose to undertake this strand, assessment will comprise three exams. One for the general linguistics paper and two other exams at the end of the year. Exams are three hours in length. Subject to approval by the Director of Graduate Studies, one or more exams can be replaced by written submissions, but the exam for the general linguistics paper is compulsory.

Option papers common to both strands

In addition to the assessment for the specific stand you have chosen, you will study for two option papers from either Option B, Option C, or Option D above.

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	9 months

Costs

Annual fees for entry in 2021-22

Fee status	Annual Course fees
Home (UK, Republic of Ireland, Channel Islands & Isle of Man)	£12,070
Overseas (including EU)	£27,460

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

Depending on the student's choice of options, and especially the choice of thesis project, some fieldwork or experimental work may be required. Some thesis options will require laboratory experiments, for which a budget of £75 is available to pay participants. Some may require overseas fieldwork, for which the Faculty has a budget of £500 towards travel and subsistence costs. The Faculty makes available some funding for language training, where relevant.

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
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>).