

## Course Information Sheet for entry in 2019-20

### MSt in Theology



### About the course

The Master of Studies (MSt) in Theology is offered in all major areas of theology: Biblical interpretation, Christian doctrine, Christian ethics, ecclesiastical history, New Testament studies, Old Testament studies, and science and religion. Students of Christian Doctrine specialise in one of two areas: patristic theology or modern theology.

The degree offers an intensive period of advanced study in a chosen field, with rigorous training in relevant research methods. It offers the opportunity to gain specialist knowledge of distinct topics within the field of study and includes an element of scholarly research and writing which can constitute part of the training for a future research degree.

The course is taught through a combination of core lectures and/or seminars and regular meetings with your supervisor, either one-to-one or in a very small group. Attendance at other lectures and seminars may be recommended or required. The topics being studied will normally be covered during the first two terms.

You will learn to analyse and evaluate both primary and secondary literature, be taught how to select the most significant materials and combine these to form a structured argument, and develop the habits of critical questioning, clear exposition and objective evaluation.

You will work closely with your supervisor, who will in most cases be the course co-ordinator for the subject stream of the MSt in Theology that you are enrolled on. They will provide support and guidance and an overall direction for your course. The number of students studying in each subject area varies between individual disciplines but is usually small, allowing teaching to be tailored to the needs and interests of each student.

Students are encouraged to attend and participate in research seminars in their subject area. There are regular research seminar series in the Old Testament/Hebrew Bible, New Testament, patristics, modern theology, church history, Christian ethics and science and religion. Other research seminars of interest are hosted by other faculties and regular seminars, colloquia and conferences are organised by the interdisciplinary research centres affiliated to the faculty.

You will be part of an active and vibrant community of graduate students within the Faculty of Theology and Religion.

The MSt degree is awarded on the basis of two short essays of up to 5,000 words each and a dissertation of up to 15,000 words, submitted in Trinity term, and a written examination, which may require a demonstration of linguistic competence according to your field of study. There may be an oral examination (*viva voce*) on your dissertation topic and wider knowledge of your field of study.

The choice of essays and dissertation topics is decided by the student, subject to advice from the supervisor and final approval. For those intending to proceed to the DPhil, the topic of the dissertation should normally provide a foundation for doctoral research.

Students apply to work in one of the following areas:

- Old Testament
- New Testament
- Christian doctrine, specialising in one of the following sections:
  - History of Doctrine: Patristic Theology (c. AD 100-787)
  - Modern Theology (post-1789)
- Ecclesiastical history
- Christian ethics
- Science and religion
- Biblical interpretation

On-course students in Ecclesiastical History specialise in one of five historical periods: AD 200-600, AD 400-1100, AD 1000-1500, AD 1400-1800, or AD 1800 to the present.

### 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. For further information, please see the University's Terms and Conditions.

**Expected length of course**

9 months

## Costs

### Annual fees for entry in 2019-20

Fee status	Annual Course fees
Home/EU (including Islands)	£11,160
Overseas	£25,387

The fees shown above are the annual course fees for this course, for entry in the stated academic year.

Course fees cover your teaching as well as other academic services and facilities provided to support your studies. Unless specified in the additional information section 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 below.

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. For details, please see our guidance on likely increases to fees and charges.

### Additional cost information

There are no compulsory elements of this course that entail additional costs beyond fees 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 2019-20 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 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>	£265	£371	£2,387	£3,342	£3,183	£4,456
<b>Accommodation</b>	£566	£739	£5,093	£6,655	£6,790	£8,874
<b>Personal items</b>	£122	£271	£1,098	£2,435	£1,464	£3,246
<b>Social activities</b>	£42	£126	£380	£1,138	£506	£1,518
<b>Study costs</b>	£40	£88	£359	£788	£478	£1,051
<b>Other</b>	£23	£48	£208	£432	£277	£576
<b>Total</b>	£1,058	£1,643	£9,525	£14,790	£12,698	£19,721

When planning your finances for any future years of study at Oxford beyond 2019-20, 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).