

Course Information Sheet for entry in 2023-24: MSt in Theology



About the course

The Master of Studies (MSt) in Theology is offered in different areas of theology, such as Biblical Interpretation, Science and Religion, Christian Doctrine, Christian Ethics, Ecclesiastical History, New Testament studies and Hebrew Bible studies. Students of Christian Doctrine specialise in one of two areas: early Christian or modern theology. You will be part of an active and vibrant community of graduate students within the Faculty of Theology and Religion.

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 classes or tutorials, 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 learn to analyse and evaluate both primary and secondary literature, how to select the most significant materials, and combine them to form a structured argument. You also develop the habits of critical questioning, clear exposition, and objective evaluation.

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 and Christian Ethics. 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.

The choice of essays and dissertation topics is decided by the student, subject to advice from the supervisor, and final approval from the Graduate Studies Committee at the Faculty of Theology and Religion. For those who intend to proceed to the DPhil, the topic of the dissertation normally provides 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 (AD 200-600, AD 400-110, AD 1000-1500, AD 1400-1800, or AD 1800 to present)
- Christian Ethics
- Biblical Interpretation
- Science and Religion

Supervision

You work closely with your supervisor and course coordinator for the specific subject stream of the MSt in Theology on which you are enrolled. They provide support, guidance, and overall direction for your studies.

The allocation of graduate supervision for this course is the responsibility of the Faculty of Theology and Religion 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 Theology and Religion. In such circumstances, a second internal supervisor may be appointed.

Assessment

The MSt degree is awarded on the basis of two short essays, a written examination, and a dissertation in Trinity term. These assessments 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.

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 2023-24

Fee status	Annual Course fees
Home	£13,550
Overseas	£30,910

Information about course fees

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 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 2023-24 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 one month

	Lower range	Upper range
Food	£300	£470
Accommodation	£715	£860
Personal items	£180	£305
Social activities	£40	£90
Study costs	£35	£80
Other	£20	£35
Total	£1,290	£1,840

Likely living costs for nine months

	Lower range	Upper range
Food	£2,700	£4,230
Accommodation	£6,435	£7,740
Personal items	£1,620	£2,745
Social activities	£360	£810
Study costs	£315	£720
Other	£180	£315
Total	£11,610	£16,560

Likely living costs for twelve months

	Lower range	Upper range
Food	£3,600	£5,640
Accommodation	£8,580	£10,320
Personal items	£2,160	£3,660
Social activities	£480	£1,080
Study costs	£420	£960
Other	£240	£420
Total	£15,480	£22,080

When planning your finances for any future years of study at Oxford beyond 2023-24, it is suggested that you allow for potential increases in living expenses of 5% or more each year – although this rate may vary significantly depending on how the national economic situation develops.

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>).