

Course Information Sheet for entry in 2021-22: PGDip 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 draws upon a tradition of more than half a century of academic excellence in preparing its alumni to occupy a large number of senior posts in the diplomatic and other political fields.

The DSP is a programme designed primarily for professionals. It is best suited 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. Non-diplomats with relevant academic background and professional experience are also encouraged to apply. Members come from an extremely broad range of countries, and one of the attributes of the course is the extensive opportunities it offers to share and learn from peers' experiences and perspectives.

Course structure and content

The Postgraduate Diploma (PGDip) in Diplomatic Studies comprises four taught courses, in addition to several foundational lectures and seminars. The PGDip in Diplomatic Studies offers intensive modules on Diplomatic Practice, International Politics, Public International Law, and International Trade and Finance. Diplomatic Practice focuses on 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. In International Politics the module 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. The module in 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. The module in 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. 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 of 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.

Study tours

As part of the course in diplomatic practice, the DSP usually includes study visits to government departments, international organisations and business and media institutions in the United Kingdom and elsewhere in Europe.

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

The course is assessed by 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	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)	£24,450
Overseas (including EU)	£24,450

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 may 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
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>).