

## Course Information Sheet for entry in 2026-27: MSc in Autonomous Robotics

### Course facts

Mode of study	Full Time Only
Expected length	11 months

### About the course

The MSc in Autonomous Robotics provides a comprehensive mix of theoretical knowledge and practical work in the field of autonomous robotic systems.

The course focuses on designing and developing robots capable of operating independently in real-world environments without human intervention.

It will provide a rigorous blend of research-led teaching and hands-on training, which will enable you to analyse real-world applications of robotics and design integrated autonomous systems. You will explore cutting-edge topics such as AI and machine learning, soft robot fabrication, path planning and motion generation, mapping and state estimation, and the sustainable application of robotics technologies. With access to Oxford's modern lab facilities and strong industry collaborations, you will develop the expertise needed to drive innovation and leadership in robotics research and development.

The course aims for its students to gain:

- proficiency in mathematical and algorithmic reasoning applied to robotic systems;
- the ability to program and deploy robotic systems using industry-standard tools and frameworks;
- practical skills in hardware implementation, simulation, and control of robotic platforms; *and*
- awareness of the ethical, societal, and environmental impact of robotics technologies.

The course will cultivate the next generation of roboticists, equipping you with the technical knowledge and problem-solving skills required to tackle industry challenges. By maintaining strong engagement with industry partners - such as autonomous vehicle developers, healthcare robotics firms, and AI research institutions - you will gain direct exposure to real-world applications and career opportunities. Industrial collaborations will also enable you to work on practical case studies and contribute to ongoing research projects, further enhancing future employability. Beyond technical expertise, the MSc will address the ethical, societal, and regulatory implications of autonomous systems, ensuring you are well-prepared to navigate the evolving role of robotics in society.

### Course structure

An overview of the course structure is provided below. Details of the compulsory and optional elements of the course are provided in the *Course components* section of this page.

The academic year is divided into three eight-week terms, but work on the MSc course continues throughout the year and is not restricted just to term time.

The course consists of six taught core-modules, one hands-on robotics group project that spans two terms and one dissertation for the duration of the third term and summer vacation.

Most modules run for a single term, with all taught components concentrated in the first two terms, leaving the final term for independent research and project work. Each taught module will have associated assignments, classes and some may also include practical lab sessions.

In the first term, you will establish strong foundational knowledge in robotics through core courses in programming, perception, and systems engineering. You will also develop critical reading and research skills through the Robotics Research Review module. Work on the group project also begins in the first term and continues into the second term.

Advanced topics, such as machine learning and autonomous robotic systems, are introduced in the second term to enhance your analytical and problem-solving skills.

The Robotics Project Proposal module strengthens research proposal writing and project planning abilities, in preparation for the final dissertation project.

The MSc dissertation serves as the culmination of your studies, allowing you to apply your knowledge and skills to an in-depth research project in autonomous robotics.

## Attendance

The course is full-time and requires attendance in Oxford. Full-time students are subject to the [University's Residence requirements](https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/after-you-apply/accommodation/residence-requirements). ([//www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/after-you-apply/accommodation/residence-requirements](https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/after-you-apply/accommodation/residence-requirements))

## Resources to support your study

As a graduate student, you will have access to the University's wide range of resources including libraries, museums, galleries, digital resources and IT services.

The Bodleian Libraries is the largest library system in the UK. It includes the main Bodleian Library and libraries across Oxford, including major research libraries and faculty, department and institute libraries. Together, the Libraries hold more than 13 million printed items, provide access to e-journals, and contain outstanding special collections including rare books and manuscripts, classical papyri, maps, music, art and printed ephemera.

The University's IT Services is available to all students to support with core university IT systems and tools, as well as many other services and facilities. IT Services also offers a range of IT learning courses for students to support with learning and research, as well as [guidance on what technology to bring with you as a new student](https://www.it.ox.ac.uk/what-to-bring) (<https://www.it.ox.ac.uk/what-to-bring>), at Oxford.

The MSc will be based in a dedicated teaching space designed to support lectures, group collaboration, independent research and hands-on work with robotic platforms - all in one location.

Additional breakout spaces will be available in the Department of Engineering Science, as well as access to student study spaces. High-specification computing resources will be provided to enable you to carry out programming and simulation tasks.

You will have the opportunity to work with robotic platforms, from quadrupeds to robotic arms, for hands-on applications and testing of concepts as part of lab work, group projects and individual dissertations.

## Supervision

The allocation of graduate supervision for this course is the responsibility of the Department of Engineering Science 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 Department of Engineering Science.

Each robotics group project will be assigned an academic supervisor who will meet with the group during the project. For the individual thesis supervision, students can generally expect fortnightly meetings, either in person or virtually, as required.

## Assessment

Each core technical module will be assessed via a timed written examination in the third term. Other taught modules, including the group project and project proposal modules, will be assessed via a written assignment or report, with deadlines spread across the year.

A dissertation, completed independently under the guidance of an expert supervisor, on a topic of your choice and approved by the supervisor and MSc Course Director will be submitted by the end of the long vacation.

## Course components

### Compulsory study

The modules titles for the core courses are expected to be:

- Programming for Robotics
- Robotics Foundations
- Autonomous Robotic Systems
- Machine Learning for Robotics
- Robotics Research Review
- Robotics Project Proposal

You will also complete a hands-on robotics group project that spans two terms, and a dissertation during the third term and summer vacation.

## Changes to this course

The University will seek to deliver this course in accordance with the description set out in this course page. 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. The safety of students, staff and visitors is paramount and major changes to delivery or services may have

to be made if a pandemic, epidemic or local health emergency occurs. In addition, in certain circumstances, for example due to visa difficulties or because the health needs of students cannot be met, it may be necessary to make adjustments to course requirements for international study.

Where possible your academic supervisor will not change for the duration of your course. However, it may be necessary to assign a new academic supervisor during the course of study or before registration for reasons which might include illness, sabbatical leave, parental leave or change in employment.

For further information please see our page on [changes to courses \(//www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/courses/changes-to-courses\)](http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/courses/changes-to-courses) and the [provisions of the student contract \(//www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/after-you-apply/your-offer-and-contract\)](http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/after-you-apply/your-offer-and-contract) regarding changes to courses.

## Costs

### Annual course fees

The fees for this course are charged on an annual basis.

### Fees for the 2026-27 academic year at the University of Oxford

Fee status	Annual Course fees
Home	£21,930
Overseas	£48,350

### What do course fees cover?

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 costs information below.

### How long do I need to pay 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 fees will usually increase annually, as explained in the University's [Terms and Conditions \(//www.ox.ac.uk/students/new/contract\)](https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/new/contract).

Our [fees and other charges \(//www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/fees-and-other-charges\)](https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/fees-and-other-charges) pages provide further information, including details about:

- [course fees and fee liability \(//www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/fees-and-other-charges/courses-fees-and-liability\)](https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/fees-and-other-charges/courses-fees-and-liability);
- [how your fee status is determined \(//www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/fees-and-other-charges/fee-status\)](https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/fees-and-other-charges/fee-status); and
- [changes to fees and other charges \(//www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/fees-and-other-charges/changes-to-fees-and-charges\)](https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/fees-and-other-charges/changes-to-fees-and-charges).

Information about how much fees and other costs will usually increase each academic year is set out in the University's [Terms and Conditions \(//www.ox.ac.uk/students/new/contract\)](https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/new/contract).

### Additional costs

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. 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, and research expenses. You will need to meet these additional costs, although you may be able to apply for small grants from the department to help you cover some of these expenses.

### Living costs

In addition to your course fees and any additional course-specific costs, you will need to ensure that you have adequate funds to support your living costs for the duration of your course.

### Living costs for full-time study

For the 2026-27 academic year, the range of likely living costs for a single, full-time student is between £1,405 and £2,105 for each month spent in Oxford. We provide the cost per month so you can multiply up by the number of months you expect to live in Oxford. Depending on your circumstances, you may also need to budget for the [costs of a student visa and immigration health surcharge \(//www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/living-costs\)](https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/living-costs) and/or [living costs for family members or other dependants \(//www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/living-costs#field\\_listing\\_content\\_content-item--2\)](https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/living-costs#field_listing_content_content-item--2), that you plan to bring with you to Oxford (if [dependant visa eligibility criteria \(//www.ox.ac.uk/students/visa/before/family\)](https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/visa/before/family) are met).

### Further information about living costs

The current economic climate and periods of high national inflation in recent years make it harder to estimate potential changes to the cost of living over the next few years. For study in Oxford beyond the 2026-27 academic year, it is suggested that you budget for potential increases in living expenses of around 4% each year – although this rate may vary depending on the national economic situation.

A breakdown of likely living costs for one month during the 2026-27 academic year are shown below. These costs are based on a single, full-time graduate student, with no dependants, living in Oxford.

#### Likely living costs for one month in Oxford during the 2026-27 academic year

	Lower range	Upper range
<b>Food</b>	£315	£545
<b>Accommodation</b>	£825	£990
<b>Personal items</b>	£160	£310
<b>Social activities</b>	£50	£130
<b>Study costs</b>	£35	£90
<b>Other</b>	£20	£40
<b>Total</b>	£1,405	£2,105

For information about how these figures have been calculated as well as tables showing the likely living costs for nine and twelve months, please refer to the [living costs \(//www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/living-costs\)](http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/living-costs) page of our website.

#### Document accessibility

If you require a more accessible version of this document please [contact Graduate Admissions and Recruitment by email \(graduate.admissions@admin.ox.ac.uk\)](mailto:graduate.admissions@admin.ox.ac.uk).