

Course Information Sheet for entry in 2024-25: MSc in Educational Assessment



Course facts

Mode of study	Part Time Only
Expected length	2 years

About the course

High quality educational assessment is recognised as a core element of a strong education system. This two-year part-time MSc is a professional development course aimed at researchers and professionals working in the field of educational assessment including in awarding bodies, test agencies, schools and universities.

In the compulsory elements of the MSc, you will study the history of educational assessment, the different paradigms that underpin approaches to assessment (including the in-depth study of psychometrics), debates regarding key concepts such as validity and fairness, and approaches to assessment design and evaluation.

The three core modules are:

- Assessment Issues and Practices
- Assessment Design and Evaluation
- Research Synthesis for development of policy and practice

In the optional element, you will study a specialist topic such as advanced statistical methods or classroom-based assessment. Throughout the MSc, you will be supported to develop your technical and statistical skills.

The course combines a number of residential teaching sessions within the department and online support through the University's Virtual Learning Environment (Canvas).

Each of the four papers will comprise eight teaching sessions that include lectures, seminars and practicals, and a small-group tutorial. The student cohort come from a range of professional backgrounds, from around the world, making group discussions rich and diverse.

For each paper, you will be expected to spend approximately 64 hours during non-residential times for the preparation of the papers and the formative pre-paper assignments.

In the second year of the course you will receive supervision of dissertation projects from a University supervisor with expertise in a particular subject. The topic of the dissertation is selected in consultation with a supervisor, on a topic relevant to the course. In consultation with your supervisors and employers, dissertation work may be informed by activity in employment.

Supervision

Specialist supervision will be arranged for students writing their dissertation. Each student will have a supervisor who provides academic guidance, oversees the progress and supervises work for the dissertation. The allocation of graduate supervision for this course is the responsibility of the Department of Education 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 Education.

Students should have regular contact with their supervisor throughout the academic year. Some of this contact is likely to be by email. However, as a minimum, students are also encouraged to organise at least one face-to-face meeting with their supervisor within the last two terms. In addition to that, students should have at least two virtual meetings with their supervisor in each of the last two terms.

Assessment

In the first year students will complete four modules each assessed by coursework, in the form of submitted essays or reports. In the final term of the second year, the dissertation will be assessed via a submitted report.

Changes to this course

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 you commence your course. These might include significant changes made necessary by any pandemic, 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>).

Costs

Annual fees for entry in 2024-25

Fee status	Annual Course fees
Home	£8,390
Overseas	£15,990

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

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 will need to choose a dissertation 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.

If you are studying part-time your living costs may vary depending on your personal circumstances but you must still ensure that you will have sufficient funding to meet these costs for the duration of your course.

The likely living costs for 2024-25 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	£315	£495
Accommodation	£745	£925
Personal items	£190	£320
Social activities	£40	£95
Study costs	£35	£85
Other	£20	£35
Total	£1,345	£1,955

Likely living costs for nine months

	Lower range	Upper range
Food	£2,835	£4,445
Accommodation	£6,705	£8,325
Personal items	£1,710	£2,880
Social activities	£360	£855
Study costs	£315	£765
Other	£180	£315
Total	£12,105	£17,595

Likely living costs for twelve months

	Lower range	Upper range
Food	£3,780	£5,940
Accommodation	£8,940	£11,100
Personal items	£2,280	£3,840
Social activities	£480	£1,140
Study costs	£420	£1,020
Other	£240	£420
Total	£16,140	£23,460

When planning your finances for any future years of study at Oxford beyond 2024-25, it is suggested that you allow for potential increases in living expenses of 5% or more each year – although this rate may vary depending on the national economic situation.

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 this 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>).