

## Course Information Sheet for entry in 2025-26: DPhil in Atmospheric, Oceanic and Planetary Physics



### Course facts

Mode of study	Full Time Only
Expected length	3 to 4 years

### About the course

The DPhil in Atmospheric, Oceanic and Planetary Physics (AOPP) is a research-based course of three to four years in duration. Research focuses on the study of physical processes in the atmospheres, surfaces and oceans of the Earth and other planets, using experimental, computational and theoretical techniques.

The course is hosted by the Atmospheric, Oceanic and Planetary Physics (AOPP) sub-department, one of six sub-departments of the Department of Physics, with most facilities and offices located in the Clarendon laboratory.

Members of the sub-department are engaged in research to answer questions like:

- How does the Earth's climate evolve?
- How do we connect measurements made from space and the ground to the future direction of the Earth's climate?
- What can we learn from observations of other planets to tell us more about the Earth and the evolution of the Solar System?

Your research work begins on day one and will be underpinned by a taught graduate course in the first year that runs in parallel. You will also have the opportunity to follow courses taught at other departments across the Maths, Physics and Life Sciences division.

The structure of the taught course components and the initial (first year) assessment will be determined by the method of entry onto the course.

If you applying directly to AOPP, typically for projects in the area of planetary physics or a specifically-funded research project, courses will be provided via lectures given as part of fourth year major option in the University's undergraduate degree in physics, Physics of atmospheres and oceans.

If you apply to enter via the Intelligent Earth (UKRI CDT in AI for the Environment) and are successful, you will spend the first year with the CDT. The transition to AOPP typically happens at the end of the first year.

Whilst working on your research project you will engage in a thorough skills training programme which includes a range of workshops and seminars in transferable skills, generic research skills and specific research techniques. There are also numerous seminars and lectures held in the department by local and visiting physicists, and you will be provided with opportunities to meet experts in various fields. There will also be opportunity for you to present your work at both formal and informal conferences, seminars and colloquia.

### Attendance

The course is full-time and requires attendance in Oxford. Full-time students are subject to the University's Residence requirements.

Provision exists for students on some courses to undertake their research in a 'well-founded laboratory' outside of the University. This may require travel to and attendance at a site that is not located in Oxford. Where known, existing collaborations will be outlined on this page. Please read the course information carefully, including the additional information about course fees and costs.

### Resources to support your study

As a graduate student, you will have access to the University's wide range of world-class 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.

Atmospheric, Oceanic and Planetary Physics has access to world-class laboratory and computational facilities. IT support is provided by the Department of Physics and includes provision of computers running MS Windows, Linux and Apple Mac OS.

You will usually be allocated a desk within an office with other research students from similar research areas and have access to the department's meeting and lecture facilities.

Academics within AOPP are members of numerous international teams, giving early access to new datasets and opportunities to interact within larger communities of scientists and engineers.

Experimental facilities include a full suite of clean rooms and test equipment for the design, construction and qualification of space flight instrumentation and access to laboratory UV/Visible/infrared spectroscopy facilities and planetary environment simulation chambers.

In addition to research group meetings and a weekly topical seminar series, members of the sub-department meet when able for coffee/tea in AOPP's Common Room. This provides a useful opportunity to talk informally to people in other research groups as well as your own. A canteen is available in the Clarendon Laboratory for breakfast/lunch, or you may use AOPP's kitchen facilities.

Research groups often organise social activities. You are encouraged to engage with invited seminar speakers over lunch. A dedicated email list is maintained to advise all of upcoming social events.

### **Supervision**

For this course, the allocation of graduate supervision is the responsibility of the Department of Physics 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 Physics.

You are allocated at least one supervisor who should be your primary contact for guidance throughout your research degree. Research students join an existing research group that typically comprises at least one lead academic plus postdoctoral research assistants or fellows and other research students. Research projects in AOPP can be highly interdisciplinary and students often have additional co-supervisors either within AOPP or another University department.

The frequency of student supervisor meetings varies depending on the nature of the project. You are welcome to contact potential supervisors for further information.

### **Assessment**

If you are admitted directly to AOPP, you will be assessed via the successful completion of classes and a first year transfer report, submitted during the summer of your first year. Please refer to the Intelligent Earth (UKRI CDT in AI for the Environment) webpage for details of assessment for applicants admitted via the CDT.

You are admitted as a probationary DPhil student, and transfer from a probationary status is dependent on successful completion of the taught component of the course and assessment of your first year report by at least two academics that are not directly connected to your project. A further second year report, also assessed, is required before status as a DPhil candidate is confirmed and your thesis can be submitted. The written DPhil thesis is assessed by appointed examiners that are not directly connected to the project, with the process including a DPhil viva exam.

### **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 2025-26

Fee status	Annual Course fees
Home	£10,070
Overseas	£33,370

### 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.

Graduate students who have reached the end of their standard period of fee liability may be required to pay a termly University and/or a college continuation charge.

The University continuation charge, per term for entry in 2025-26 is £672, please be aware that this will increase annually. For part-time students, the termly charge will be half of the termly rate payable by full-time students.

If a college continuation charge applies (not applicable for non-matriculated courses) it is likely to be in the region of £100 to £600. Please contact your college for more details, including information about whether your college's continuation charge is applied at a different rate for part-time study.

### Additional cost information

All DPhil projects are provided with a research training support grant to cover travel, equipment and consumables. Expenditure is dependent on the project and always requires the supervisor's agreement.

## 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.

The likely living costs for the 2025-26 academic year 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
<b>Food</b>	£330	£515
<b>Accommodation</b>	£790	£955
<b>Personal items</b>	£200	£335
<b>Social activities</b>	£45	£100
<b>Study costs</b>	£40	£90
<b>Other</b>	£20	£40
<b>Total</b>	£1,425	£2,035

### Likely living costs for nine months

	Lower range	Upper range
<b>Food</b>	£2,970	£4,635
<b>Accommodation</b>	£7,110	£8,595
<b>Personal items</b>	£1,800	£3,015
<b>Social activities</b>	£405	£900
<b>Study costs</b>	£360	£810
<b>Other</b>	£180	£360
<b>Total</b>	£12,825	£18,315

### Likely living costs for twelve months

	Lower range	Upper range
<b>Food</b>	£3,960	£6,180
<b>Accommodation</b>	£9,480	£11,460
<b>Personal items</b>	£2,400	£4,020
<b>Social activities</b>	£540	£1,200
<b>Study costs</b>	£480	£1,080
<b>Other</b>	£240	£480
<b>Total</b>	£17,100	£24,420

When planning your finances for any future years of study at Oxford beyond the 2025-26 academic year, it is suggested that you allow for potential increases in living expenses of 4% 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](http://www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/livingcosts).

## 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)) or via the online form (<http://www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/ask/form>).