

Course Information Sheet for entry in 2025-26: MSc by Research in Physiology, Anatomy and Genetics



Course facts

Mode of study	Full Time Only
Expected length	1 to 3 years

About the course

The MSc by Research in Physiology, Anatomy and Genetics offers a wide range of research topics within a large multi-disciplinary and world-renowned department, spanning a diverse spectrum of research areas.

Research in the department is organised around six major themes:

- cardiac science
- development and reproduction
- functional genomics
- ion channels, transporters and signalling
- metabolism and endocrinology
- neuroscience

Within each of these themes there are several research groups and centres.

You will conduct research at Oxford under the supervision of academic staff who are generally at the forefront of developments in your chosen research project area. You will explore your research subject area to new depths and may have the opportunity to present your findings to members of the international scientific community with whom, one day, you may collaborate. MSc by Research students may complete the degree between one and three years.

After attending the new graduate students' induction day, you will then meet your supervisor and fellow group members. You will complete an Analysis of your Training Needs (TNA) with your supervisor. You will attend any training courses from the divisional flexible skills training programme, which includes a range of workshops and seminars in transferable skills, generic research skills and specific research techniques, if pertinent to your MSc research area.

You will have access to regular departmental seminars, peer presentation groups for fine tuning presentation deliverance, and graduate student social events that incorporate informal talks aimed at students. Examples are Public Speaking and Securing Your First Postdoc Job, Careers, Poster Presentation and from seminars talks in various themes from eminent worldwide scientists to talks. Special lectures are given to recognise previous famous scientists of the department and will vary in subject. In addition, the department sponsors regular seminars and public lectures which attract distinguished national and international speakers.

Students will also be encouraged to support and attend social events ranging from informal talks to social DPAG graduate student events.

You will be encouraged to submit termly reports on your progress and report courses undertaken. The supervisor will also contribute to the termly reports.

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.

DPAG IT Services provides various services to the department. These include e-mail, network file storage and computer and printer management services, and maintenance of the network both wired and wireless across the departmental estate.

The Radcliffe Science Library provides a print collection of books, journals and statistics. In addition, it provides access to a wide range of electronic resources.

Students will be allocated study space upon their arrival with their group.

The lecture theatre and seminar rooms provide perfect settings to attend talks given by local and internationally acclaimed speakers.

Supervision

Applicants are encouraged to communicate with their potential supervisors prior to submitting an application.

The allocation of graduate supervision for this course is the responsibility of the Department of Physiology, Anatomy and Genetics 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 Physiology, Anatomy and Genetics.

All students in the Medical Sciences Division are required to have a co-supervisor in place once the programme of study is underway.

Assessment

At the end of your first year or start of the second year, you will prepare and undertake the first milestone, Transfer of Status from Probationary Research Student (PRS) status to MSc by Research status, for which you will submit a written report describing your research to date and plans for the future. This will be assessed by two independent experts, who interview you as part of the process. The Transfer of Status milestone is generally undertaken towards the end of the third term and no later than the fourth term of the programme. At this point of the programme, you are expected to have established methodology and collected sufficient data to demonstrate that you are able to complete within the timeframe.

The final assessment is the final examination, the Viva Voce. This may occur at the end of the third term at the earliest, having already transferred status, or no later than the ninth term. Once you have passed, you will be awarded Leave to Supplicate. You may then book your graduation ceremony through your college.

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

There are no compulsory elements of this course that entail additional costs beyond fees (or, after fee liability ends, continuation charges) and living costs. However, please note that, depending on your choice of research 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 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
Food	£330	£515
Accommodation	£790	£955
Personal items	£200	£335
Social activities	£45	£100
Study costs	£40	£90
Other	£20	£40
Total	£1,425	£2,035

Likely living costs for nine months

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

Likely living costs for twelve months

	Lower range	Upper range
Food	£3,960	£6,180
Accommodation	£9,480	£11,460
Personal items	£2,400	£4,020
Social activities	£540	£1,200
Study costs	£480	£1,080
Other	£240	£480
Total	£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.

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