

Course Information Sheet for entry in 2025-26: MSc in Education (Research Design and Methodology)



Course facts

Mode of study	Full Time	Part Time
Expected length	12 months	24 months

About the course

The MSc Education (Research Design and Methodology) introduces you to the range of tools and concepts in educational research. The course aims to provide you with the knowledge and skills to undertake your own research and to evaluate the research of others.

The course covers a range of quantitative and qualitative methods of data collection and data analysis, and introduces you to the challenges of carrying out social research in the field of education.

Students will normally complete six taught modules:

Five core modules:

- Foundations of Educational Research 1: Concepts and Design
- Foundations of Educational Research 2: Strategies and Methods
- Philosophy of Educational Research
- Introduction to Quantitative Research
- *Either* Intermediate Quantitative Research *or* Perspectives and Debates in Qualitative Research

One option module:

This will normally either be Intermediate Quantitative Research or Perspectives and Debates in Qualitative Research, but may include an alternative module.

The following list provides an indication of alternative option modules usually available (please note, this is not a guarantee of availability for any particular elective in a given year):

- Core Principles of Child Assessment
- Child Development and Educational Attainment
- Critical Digital Innovation
- Education, the Internet and Society
- Global Higher Education
- Education in Africa
- The Implementation of the Rights of Children

Each module meets once a week. The teaching methods include lectures, small group work, student presentations, seminars, workshops, one-to-one dissertation supervision, and individual research projects. Some modules run on a seminar model with one longer meeting per week. Others run on a model that includes a lecture of about one hour followed by a smaller-group workshop of about an hour and a half, usually later the same day.

You will participate in classes on research design, quantitative and qualitative data collection and analysis techniques used to yield research findings, and philosophical and ethical considerations in research. Supervision sessions will support you in identifying and honing research questions towards dissertation research, selecting areas for literature review, carrying out field work, and reviewing drafts of the dissertation.

Supported ICT sessions on literature access skills (including electronic searches) will be provided by the department's library staff.

Research in the department is organised around three major themes:

- Language, Cognition and Development
- Policy, Economy and Society
- Pedagogy, Learning and Knowledge.

Within each of these themes there are several research groups and centres. All staff and doctoral students belong to one or more of these research groups, each of which has its own seminar programme to which graduate students often contribute.

In addition, the department as a whole sponsors regular seminars and public lectures which attract distinguished national and international speakers. Masters students are encouraged to attend these research group events.

You may take part in an optional 'internship' in which you will work with an academic/research team on an ongoing research project for a short period. Internships usually take place in Trinity term for full-time students, and may be arranged flexibly for part-time students depending on individual circumstances and availability of ongoing projects of interest. During the internship, you will gain experience by working on the variety of activities that constitute an everyday part of doing educational research.

Attendance

The course can be studied full-time or part-time with both modes requiring attendance in Oxford. Full-time students are subject to the University's Residence requirements. Part-time students are required to attend course-related activities in Oxford for a minimum of 30 days each year.

The full-time course is studied over one year, and the part-time course is studied over two years. Prospective students must apply specifically to either the full-time course or the part-time course.

The degree and expectations for both modes of study are equally rigorous. If you study part-time, you will attend classes with full-time students, but your classes will be spread over two years to balance with work and personal circumstances. Part-time students attend classes one day per week during term time and are encouraged to spend at least one further day a week working in Oxford libraries and participating in relevant research seminars and research events or taking non-assessed courses.

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.

The Bodleian Education Library, located at the centre of the Department of Education, specialises in material on education and related fields. As well as a print collection of books, journals and statistics, the library provides access to a wide range of electronic resources. The library also houses a collection of teaching resources, primarily in support of subjects covered by the department's secondary PGCE course. The Social Sciences Library provides valuable additional resource for students pursuing programmes in the Department of Education.

Supervision

The allocation of graduate supervision for this course is the responsibility of the Department of Education. This will be done on the basis of the topic of research and the availability of individual supervisors. 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.

Most students have the opportunity to receive 10 hours of contact time with their supervisor over the course of one academic year. The specific timing and number of meetings may vary somewhat according to the nature and requirements of your dissertation project.

Assessment

You will complete six modules. Each module includes formative coursework (typically an essay) part-way through the term, and a summative submitted assignment at the end of the module, with marks for each module based entirely on the summative assignment.

You will also complete a dissertation on a topic you have selected and had approval for by your supervisor. There are no formal milestones for the dissertation except final submission in August, but your supervisor will monitor progress and advise on appropriate timelines/checkpoints based on the nature and requirements of your individual project.

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

Full-time study

Fee status	Annual Course fees
Home	£17,900
Overseas	£38,410

Part-time study

Fee status	Annual Course fees
Home	£8,950
Overseas	£19,205

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

Full-time study

Please note that this course requires that you attend in Oxford for teaching, and you may incur additional travel and accommodation expenses for this. As part of your course requirements, you will need to choose a dissertation topic. 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, research expenses, and field trips. You will need to meet these additional costs yourself, although you may be able to apply for small grants from your college to help you cover some of these expenses.

Part-time study

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 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.

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 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>).