

Course Information Sheet for entry in 2025-26: MSc in Statistical Science



Course facts

Mode of study	Full Time Only
Expected length	12 months

About the course

The MSc in Statistical Science is a twelve-month, full-time taught master's with a particular focus on modern computationally-intensive theory and methods.

The MSc in Statistical Science will aim to train you to solve real-world statistical problems. When completing the course, you should be able to choose an appropriate statistical method to solve a given problem of data analysis, implement the analysis on a computer and communicate your results clearly and succinctly.

The MSc offers a broad high-level training in applied and computational statistics, statistical machine learning, and the fundamental principles of statistical inference. Training is delivered through mathematically demanding lectures and problems classes, hands-on practical sessions in the computer laboratory, report writing and dissertation supervision. You will have around three months to work on your dissertation with guidance from your supervisor, offering you a substantial opportunity for self-directed study and research.

Students take a mixture of core courses and optional courses. The core courses are compulsory and involve practical components that students must complete.

Course modules

The core and option modules may vary from year to year.

The core courses available for entry in 2024-25 were:

- Applied Statistics
- Foundations of Statistical Inference
- Statistical Programming
- Computational Statistics
- Statistical Machine Learning.

The option modules available for entry in 2024-25 entry were:

- Stochastic Models in Mathematical Genetics
- Probability and Statistics for Network Analysis
- Advanced Topics in Statistical Machine Learning
- Advanced Simulation Methods
- Graphical Models
- Bayes Methods
- Algorithmic Foundations of Learning
- Climate Statistics.

Please note that the modules listed may not be the same for 2025-26 entry.

Pattern of learning and teaching

You will attend nine units worth of courses (with one unit corresponding to a 16-hour lecture course or equivalent) in addition to writing a dissertation. Depending on how the courses you take split between terms, you can expect to attend four or five (or, in exceptional cases, three or six) courses per term. Most courses have one-hour lectures per week supplemented by four classes (or the equivalent) per term, though for some courses there are associated practical sessions instead of, or in addition to, lectures or classes.

The remainder of your study time in Michaelmas, Hilary and most of Trinity term should be spent on self-study, consolidating on the material covered in lectures, working through the assignments set for each class and working on practical assignments. Students are expected to write reports on practical assignments during part of the Christmas and Easter vacations, as well as revising the material covered the previous term.

Dissertation

The MSc offers a substantial opportunity for independent study and research in the form of a dissertation. The main period for dissertation work is June to September (though you may do some preparatory work for your dissertation earlier in the year) and during this time students should expect to work hours that are equivalent to full-time working hours, although extra hours may occasionally be needed.

The dissertation is undertaken under the guidance of a supervisor and will typically involve investigating and writing in a particular area of statistical science, without the requirement (while not excluding the possibility) of obtaining original results. A dissertation gives students the opportunity to develop broader transferable skills in the processes of organising, communicating, and presenting their work, and will equip students well for further research or for a wide variety of other careers.

Attendance

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

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 principal computing resource for the MSc in Statistical Science is the IT teaching suite in the department of Statistics. You will be able to use this to run software packages such as R, MATLAB and Python, as well as to prepare documents and reports. The IT suite provides students with an excellent environment for training in computational statistics and statistical programming, as well as being a quiet place to work outside lectures. The building has other spaces for study and collaborative learning, including a library and a large interaction and social area.

Supervision

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

Assessment

You will be assessed on your performance in a number of written examinations in May/June, through practical coursework set during the year, and by the quality and depth of your dissertation (done mostly over the period June to early September).

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	£17,900
Overseas	£41,250

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

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, a project or a thesis 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, 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>).