

## Course Information Sheet for entry in 2025-26: MSc in Environmental Change and Management



### Course facts

|                 |                |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Mode of study   | Full Time Only |
| Expected length | 12 months      |

### About the course

The MSc aims to give you a broad appreciation of the major processes of environmental change and of the people and institutions involved in environmental management. The course seeks to produce environmental leaders who are interdisciplinary and analytical in their approach to environmental issues, and competent and aware decision makers.

### Course objectives

The overarching aims of the course are to:

- examine the nature, causes and impacts of major types of environmental change. How do these changes operate and interact on global, regional and local scales? How do they relate to critical social and ecological systems?
- examine the economic, legal, cultural, and ethical underpinnings of environmental responsibility and systemic solutions, including mitigation, adaptation, remediation, enhanced resource stewardship and other sustainable responses to environmental change at different scales and within different organisational contexts
- empower environmental leaders to address the world's most pressing environmental problems through an understanding of and training in the key analytical and practical skills, and in a broad appreciation of earth systems and societies in relation to environmental change.

### Course structure

The course is structured and assessed through three themes:

- Methods and Techniques for Environmental Management
- Understanding Environmental Change
- Responding to Environmental Change

It is organised and delivered through eight core modules:

- The Earth System
- Global Change and the Biosphere
- Human Dimensions of Environmental Change
- New Environmental Economic Thinking
- Energy Systems and Mitigating Climate Change
- Sustainable Responses to Environmental Change
- Governing the Anthropocene
- Research Skills.

Teaching takes place through lectures, seminars, workshops and field courses which provide in-depth exploration of key issues. The elective modules offer a tutorial-style teaching and discussion environment within smaller groups, based on a suite of contemporary research themes that reflect the specific interests of core faculty, research staff, and visiting scholars. The teaching aim is to foster knowledge, critical thinking, discussion and debate in an integrated setting, and to identify and explore theory, methods and practice in an academic space that encourages collaboration and critical dialogue.

During term time, each week will comprise of core module and elective teaching, with additional supported learning on occasional field trips. Additionally, you will be expected to undertake considerable self-directed learning to further and deepen your knowledge of the material introduced during class. You will also work on a research dissertation project with the support of a specialist supervisor. You will develop ideas for your dissertation during the first two terms and undertake the majority of the work in the third term and over the summer months.

Fieldwork and external visits are an important part of the teaching programme and, indicatively, these currently include Slapton Ley National Nature Reserve, the Centre for Alternative Technology, and the Lake District National Park. All field trips are subject to change.

### Dissertation

An independent and original dissertation is an integral component of the course. In order to equip you with the necessary skills to undertake high quality research, a suite of training activities is offered to develop key transferable skills in order for you to be able to execute high quality independent and original research, and expose you to applied research methods used widely in academic and professional research.

The Environmental Change Institute, which delivers this course, has several research clusters, in climate; ecosystems; energy; environment and health; food systems; infrastructure systems; land, society and governance; and resilience and development, which hold seminars throughout term-time. Graduate students are encouraged to attend these seminars.

Research skills' training is provided in preparation for your dissertation. As well as developing an understanding of the research process, these sessions will cover such things as social surveys, statistical data analysis, R programming, GIS, and remote sensing. Throughout the course, fieldtrips and visits to external organisations support the lectures and seminars and deliver valuable skills training.

### **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 University of Oxford has an extensive library system and the Radcliffe Science Library is the main lending service within the University for the material required for the course. The Social Sciences Library also holds collections which are valuable for you if you are pursuing a geography programme.

There is a dedicated social space for MSc students where you can meet and discuss your studies. Where appropriate, you will be able to use the departmental laboratories for your dissertation research.

### **Supervision**

The course has an Academic Director and a Course Director who looks after the day to day running of the course. During the first two terms, the MSc Course Director acts as study supervisor for students. In the third term, during which students commence their dissertation research, supervisors will usually be found within the Environmental Change Institute and the wider School of Geography and the Environment.

The allocation of graduate supervision for this course is the responsibility of the School of Geography and the Environment 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 School of Geography and the Environment. Students should expect to meet with their supervisors for about eight hours.

### **Assessment**

The core modules are assessed by written examination and a piece of submitted coursework. You will also study two electives, which are each assessed through an essay. You will also write an individual dissertation of up to 15,000 words, which will be independently produced and contain your original work.

### **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       | £25,300            |
| Overseas   | £34,120            |

### 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.

If you choose to attend an optional field trip to Brussels, you will need to fund your own travel and accommodation costs, which the department estimates will total around £200. You may be eligible to apply to the Environmental Change Institute for financial assistance for the Brussels field trip in the event of no other funding (eg college funding) being available.

## 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

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