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Philosophy, Politics and Economics Course Information Sheet for entry in 2025

Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE) arose from the belief that the advanced study of all three subjects would transform students' intellectual lives, to great social benefit. This conviction remains as firm today as it was then. As the world has evolved, so has PPE. The course brings together some of the most important approaches to understanding the world around us, developing skills useful for a wide range of careers and activities.

PPE is a highly flexible degree which allows you to shape your own path through it. You may choose to specialise in two branches at the end of the first year, or continue with all three. You can also explore a wide variety of disciplines under the overarching headings of Philosophy, Politics and Economics. For example, you can specialise in Sociology or International Relations by choosing the relevant Politics options.

The three subjects each make a distinctively valuable contribution to the degree. Studying philosophy develops analytical, critical, and logical rigour – a highly transferable skill – through discussion of deep, puzzling questions such as 'what can we (really) know?' and 'why be moral?' that are fascinating in their own right.

In turn, the study of politics provides a thorough understanding of the impact of political institutions on modern societies. It helps you to evaluate the choices that political systems must regularly make, to explain the processes that maintain or change those systems, and to examine the concepts and values used in political analysis.

Economics is the study of how consumers, firms and government make decisions that collectively determine how resources are allocated. An appreciation of economics has become increasingly necessary to make sense of governmental policy-making, the conduct of businesses and the enormous economic transformations throughout the world.

All three branches of PPE at Oxford have an international reputation, supported by more than 200 renowned scholars.

A typical week

Your weekly timetable will usually include six to eight lectures and two to three tutorials and classes, supplemented by private study, which will be mainly spent preparing essays or problem sets for tutorials and classes.

Tutorials typically involve two to four students and a tutor. Class sizes may vary depending on the options you choose.

Teaching in all three PPE subjects is normally done in tutorials rather than classes. Where a class does form part of the teaching for a paper, it will typically include around six to ten students, although one computer-based training course in Politics may have up to 24 students in it.

Most tutorials, classes, and lectures are delivered by staff who are specialists in their subject. Many are world-leading experts with years of experience in teaching and research. Some teaching may also be delivered by postgraduate students, typically doctoral students who are also expert in the relevant field.

To find out more about how our teaching year is structured, visit our [Academic Year](#) page.

Course structure

YEAR 1	
INDICATIVE COURSES All three branches of PPE are studied: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Philosophy<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ General philosophy○ Moral philosophy○ Elementary logic• Politics<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ The theory of politics (introductory political theory)○ The practice of politics (introductory comparative government and politics)○ Political analysis (introductory empirical and quantitative methods)• Economics<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Microeconomics: the functioning of the market economy○ Macroeconomics: dealing with national output and employment, exchange rates and policy issues○ Mathematical and statistical techniques used in economics	ASSESSMENT First University examinations: three written papers.
YEARS 2 AND 3	
INDICATIVE COURSES Students choose to continue with all three branches (tripartite) or concentrate on any two (bipartite), taking compulsory courses in the chosen branches along with optional courses: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Philosophy<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Ethics	ASSESSMENT Final University examinations: eight papers, typically assessed by written examination, but in some cases by coursework. One of these eight papers may

YEARS 2 AND 3

- Either Early modern philosophy *or* Knowledge and reality *or* Plato's *Republic* *or* Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics*
 - **Politics (any two of these)**
 - Comparative government
 - British politics and government since 1900
 - Theory of politics
 - International relations
 - Political sociology
 - **Economics**
 - If bipartite, at least one of Microeconomics, Macroeconomics and Quantitative economics
 - If tripartite, at least one of Microeconomics, Macroeconomics, Quantitative economics and History of the World Economy
 - Option choices in Economics depend on having completed pre-requisite courses which are one of the courses listed above.
 - **Optional courses**
 - The optional courses available may change from year to year. The courses currently available are as follows.
 - **Philosophy:** Early modern philosophy; Knowledge and reality; Ethics; Philosophy of mind; Philosophy of science and social science; Philosophy of religion; The philosophy of logic and language; Aesthetics and the philosophy of criticism; Medieval philosophy: Aquinas; Medieval philosophy: Duns Scotus, Ockham; The philosophy of Kant; Post-Kantian philosophy; Theory of politics; Plato's *Republic*; Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics*; Intermediate philosophy of physics; Philosophy of mathematics; Philosophy of science; Philosophy of cognitive science; Philosophical logic; Practical ethics; The philosophy of Wittgenstein; Plato on knowledge, language, & reality in the *Theaetetus* & *Sophist* (in translation); Aristotle on nature, life and mind (in translation); Knowledge and scepticism in Hellenistic philosophy (in
- be a thesis/supervised dissertation.

YEARS 2 AND 3

translation); Jurisprudence; Feminist theory; Indian philosophy; The ethics of artificial intelligence and digital technology; Philosophy of Fiction and Literature; Thesis.

- **Politics:** Comparative government; British politics and government since 1900; Theory of politics; Modern British government and politics; Government and politics of the United States; Politics in Europe; Politics in Russia and the Former Soviet Union; Politics in Sub-Saharan Africa; Politics in Latin America; Politics in South Asia; Politics in the Middle East; International relations in the era of two world wars; International Relations in the era of the Cold War; International relations; Political thought: Plato to Rousseau; Political thought: Bentham to Weber; Marx and Marxism; Sociological theory; Political sociology; Labour economics and inequality; Social policy; Comparative demographic systems; Politics in China; The politics of the European Union; Advanced paper in theories of justice; Comparative political economy; International security and conflict; Feminist theory; Thesis.
- **Economics:** Quantitative economics; Macroeconomics; Microeconomics; Behavioural and experimental economics; History of the World Economy; Econometrics; Economics of developing countries; Economics of industry; Environmental economics and climate change; Finance; Game theory; International economics; Labour economics and inequality; Microeconomic analysis; Money and banking; Public economics; Thesis.

More information about each course is in the handbook on the [course website](#).

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

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changes in course provision, either before or after registration. For further information, please see the University's [Terms and Conditions](#).

Fees

These annual fees are for full-time students who begin this undergraduate course here in 2025.

Information about how much fees and other costs may increase is set out in the University's Terms and Conditions.

Please note that while the University sets out its annual fees as a single figure, this is a combined figure for both your University and college fees. More information is provided in your [Terms and Conditions](#).

Fee status	Annual Course fees
Home (UK, Republic of Ireland, Channel Islands & Isle of Man)	£9,535
Overseas (including most EU students – see Note below)	£41,130

Note: Irish nationals living in the UK or Ireland, EU, other EEA, and Swiss nationals who have been granted settled or pre-settled status in the UK under the EU settlement scheme are eligible for 'Home fee' status and student loan support, subject to meeting residency requirements. We will contact you directly if we need further information from you to determine your fee status.

Please refer to the [Undergraduate fee status](#) pages for more information.

Living costs

Living costs for the academic year starting in 2025 are estimated to be between £1,425 and £2,035 for each month you are in Oxford. Our academic year is made up of three eight-week terms, so you would not usually need to be in Oxford for much more than six months of the year but may wish to budget over a nine-month period to ensure you also have sufficient funds during the holidays to meet essential costs. For further details please visit our [living costs webpage](#).

Living costs breakdown

	Per month		Total for 9 months	
	Lower range	Upper range	Lower range	Upper range
Food	£330	£515	£2,970	£4,635
Accommodation	£790	£955	£7,110	£8,595
Personal items	£200	£335	£1,800	£3,015
Social activities	£45	£100	£405	£900
Study costs	£40	£90	£360	£810
Other	£20	£40	£180	£360
Total	£1,425	£2,035	£12,825	£18,315

In order to provide these likely living costs (which are rounded to the nearest £5), the University and the Oxford SU conducted a living costs survey to complement existing student expenditure data from a variety of sources, including the UK government's Student Income and Expenditure Survey and the National Union of Students (NUS).

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The current economic climate and high national rate of inflation make it very hard to estimate potential changes to the cost of living over the next few years. When planning your finances for any future years of study in Oxford beyond 2025-26, it is suggested that you allow for potential increases in living expenses of around 4% each year – although this rate may vary depending on the national economic situation.

[Additional Fees and Charges Information for Philosophy, Politics and Economics](#)

There are no compulsory costs for this course beyond the fees shown above and your living costs.