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Philosophy and Theology Course Information Sheet for entry in 2025

Philosophy and Theology brings together some of the most important approaches to understanding and assessing the intellectual claims of religion.

The study of Philosophy develops analytical rigour and the ability to criticise and reason logically. It allows you to apply these skills to many contemporary and historical schools of thought and individual thinkers. You will also apply these skills to questions ranging from how we acquire knowledge and form moral judgements to central questions in the philosophy of religion, including the existence and nature of God and the relevance of religion to human life.

The study of Theology provides an understanding of the intellectual underpinning of religious traditions and of the social and cultural contexts for religious belief and practice. It brings together a wide range of skills and disciplines, historical, textual, linguistic, sociological, literary-critical and philosophical.

Central to this degree is a recognition that parallel study of these related disciplines leads to a deeper understanding of each.

The Philosophy Faculty is the largest in the UK and one of the largest in the world. Many faculty members have a worldwide reputation, and its library and other facilities are acknowledged as among the best in the country.

The Faculty of Theology and Religion includes more than 100 academics, including experts in the ancient languages and literature of the world's religions, historians and systematic theologians. The Faculty's reputation and excellent library facilities attract scholars from all over the world.

A typical week

Your weekly timetable will be divided between one or two tutorials, which may take place at your college or at the college of a specialist tutor. A large part of your week will be spent in independent study to prepare for tutorials. Each week you will also attend up to six lectures, or small classes for some course options.

Tutorials usually involve two students and a tutor. Class sizes may vary depending on the options you choose, but there would usually be no more than around 10 students.

Most tutorials, classes, and lectures are delivered by academics 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 advanced postgraduate students.

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

Course structure

YEAR 1

COURSES

Four papers are taken:

- General philosophy
- Logic and moral philosophy
- The figure of Jesus through the centuries
- And one of the following:
 - Introduction to the study of the Bible
 - Religion and religions
 - Biblical Hebrew
 - Church Latin
 - New Testament Greek
 - Qur'anic Arabic
 - Pali
 - Sanskrit

ASSESSMENT

First University examinations:
four papers each assessed by
written examination.

YEARS 2 AND 3

Students take eight papers, either five in Philosophy and three in Theology, or five in Theology and three in Philosophy, or four in each subject. A thesis in either subject may be offered as one of these. All students study:

- Early modern philosophy *or* Knowledge and reality
- Ethics *or* Plato's *Republic* *or* Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics*
- Philosophy of religion

Remaining papers are chosen from a wide range of options in Philosophy and Theology.

Students may choose Theology papers from about 40 options. Options cover a wide range of subject areas including:

- Biblical Studies
- Systematic theology and ethics
- History of religions (Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam and Judaism)
- Religion and religions (Contemporary Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam and Judaism)

ASSESSMENT

Final University examinations:
eight papers (assessed either
by written examination or by
submitted coursework,
depending upon the
option), *or* seven papers plus a
thesis.

YEARS 2 AND 3

The options listed on this page are illustrative and may change.

More information about current options is available on the [Philosophy website](#) and [Theology and Religion 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 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

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	Per month		Total for 9 months	
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).

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 and Theology](#)

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