

## Course Information Sheet for entry in 2025-26: MPhil in Latin American Studies



### Course facts

Mode of study	Full Time Only
Expected length	21 months

### About the course

This course offers an interdisciplinary approach towards the understanding of modern Latin America, allowing you to develop an in-depth research project that may involve a period of fieldwork in the region.

This is a 21-month course spanning six academic terms, including a fieldwork project in Latin America for up to three months. The course will be informed by a range of disciplines: history, political science, sociology, economics and international relations. Major trends in the development of Latin America will be analysed with reference to the main categories of explanation advanced to interpret that development.

In the first year, you will choose two disciplinary papers from the following:

- Latin America since Independence
- Introduction to the Latin American Economies
- Environmental Geography of Latin America
- The International Relations of Latin America
- The Politics of Democracy in Latin America.

In addition, you will choose three option papers, or you may substitute these with further disciplinary papers. One paper will be taken in the first year, and two papers in the second year. As a guide, the following option papers are available in the current academic year, however they may vary from year to year:

- Andean Politics
- The Politics of Brazil
- Roman Catholicism in Latin America

The course will provide you with a critical understanding of the major elements in the development of Latin America over the past two hundred years. You will be taught to relate economic and political trends, and to assess the importance of international influences. The course will demonstrate the way in which different disciplines contribute to an overall understanding of the historical development of the continent. You will also be taught the importance and the limitations of the comparative method of analysis.

A typical week during term time will involve around 40 hours of study, including two to six hours of scheduled contact hours, two hours for the weekly seminar and at least thirty hours of independent work. During peak times around deadlines, the amount of work could be higher depending on your own study habits.

A lively programme of Latin American Centre (LAC) seminars, workshops and conferences with visiting speakers complements the MPhil course, and you are encouraged to make the most of these opportunities to meet with and learn from fellow Latin Americanists.

The centre's main seminar room serves to host the regular Latin American seminar, a weekly event where Oxford-based and visiting academics present and discuss the results of their most recent research activities on a wide range of topics. In addition, the seminar room serves to host the Latin American History seminar.

### 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 Latin American Centre houses an important collection of books, academic journals, periodicals and some other significant documents relevant for the study of the region. It is a specialist loan collection, whose primary role is to support graduate students taking the master's courses in Latin American Studies, although the library welcomes all current resident members of the University who are interested in the subject area.

The library has three reading rooms, all with Wi-Fi, including a seminar room and workspace. It subscribes to a number of journals, including popular titles like the Latin American Research Review, the Journal of Latin American Studies and the Hispanic American Historical Review.

Events in the LAC are often accompanied by social receptions, which will offer you opportunities to mix socially with your fellow students, staff and visitors.

### **Spanish and Portuguese classes at the Language Centre**

If you are a non-native speaker of Spanish or Portuguese and feel that you could benefit from additional classes, you may wish to register for one of the courses offered by the University Language Centre. As a LAC student you are eligible to make a 'priority application' to attend a Spanish or Portuguese course.

### **Supervision**

The allocation of graduate supervision for this course is the responsibility of the Oxford School of Global and Area Studies 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 Oxford School of Global and Area Studies.

### **Assessment**

#### **Year One**

In your first year, assessments for the disciplinary and option papers will be by a combination of written exam papers and/or submitted essays. Additionally, you will be required to attend and participate in the research methods course organised in collaboration with other units from the Oxford School of Global and Area Studies, and to satisfy the assessment criteria for that course.

During the first year, you will also work with your supervisor on your thesis proposal and preparation for field work, and will write a number of essays to be arranged with the various tutors of each of the courses. The timetable and subject of the essays should be arranged with the tutors of the respective courses. Assessments at the end of the first year will serve to qualify for entry to the second year of the course.

#### **Year Two**

In the second year, you will be expected to write a thesis.

Assessments for the option papers or further disciplinary papers will be by a combination of written exam papers and/or submitted essays, or with the permission of your supervisor, the LAC Administrator and the relevant department, you may take methodologies or other assessment papers from another MPhil of the University of Oxford as appropriate. In the second year, you may be required to attend a viva voce as part of the examinations process.

### **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	£18,430
Overseas	£29,350

### 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

You will need to cover all costs related to the compulsory fieldwork element of this course, eg travel and living expenses. Travel to Chile from the UK is estimated to cost between £900 and £1600. Monthly living expenses (accommodation and food) are expected to range from £300 to £600. Other costs, including visas, photocopying, researcher fees for some institutions are expected to be in the region of £200. You may be eligible to apply for grants from the Latin American Centre and/or external sources, to assist with these costs. You may also be eligible to apply for small grants from your college. Standard travel insurance can be provided by the University, however students may be required to pay any additional insurance premiums associated with travel to areas with an increased level of risk and/or for travel of more than 12 months' duration, and should factor this into their planning for fieldwork.

## 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

If you require a more accessible version of this document please contact Graduate Admissions and Recruitment by email ([graduate.admissions@admin.ox.ac.uk](mailto:graduate.admissions@admin.ox.ac.uk)) or via the online form (<http://www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/ask/form>).