Course Information Sheet for entry in 2018-19 MPhil in Islamic Studies and History



About the course

The MPhil in Islamic Studies and History is a two-year course intended primarily for students who desire an intensive introduction to Islamic history and thought in the pre-modern period. The course is an excellent preparation for subsequent doctoral study.

The course focuses on the political, social, and intellectual history of the central Islamic lands (Egypt, the Fertile Crescent, the Arabian Peninsula, Iran, Central Asia and Anatolia) up until c. 1500, and differs from analogous MPhil courses at other universities in the significance it places on language instruction in classical Arabic, Persian and Turkish, and the study of primary sources.

If you are already capable of carrying out research in one of these languages, you will be strongly encouraged to take up a second. Instruction and supervision are carried out by several members of the faculty's teaching staff. You will be assigned a supervisor who is responsible for offering academic guidance throughout the course.

The first year of the course is devoted to intensive language instruction, six to eight hours per week, and an introduction to Islamic history and religion taught through a combination of weekly lectures and classes. By the end of the first year you will have begun to read texts in the original language. At the end of the first year, you will sit a qualifying examination in the language you have been studying.

The second year is devoted to continuing language instruction, more focused work on two elective papers, and a thesis. The year ends with a set of examinations. You will normally spend the summer between years one and two in the Middle East for language study and/or research connected with thesis work.

Changes to courses

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.

Expected length of course

21 months

Costs

Annual fees for entry in 2018-19

Fee status	Tuition fee	College fee	Total annual fees
Home/EU (including Islands)	£8,975	£3,112	£12,087
Overseas	£19,915	£3,112	£23,027

The fees shown above are the annual tuition and college fees for this course for entry in the stated academic year; 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.

Tuition and college 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 tuition and college fees).

Additional cost information

You will normally be expected to spend the summer after your first year attending intensive language tuition. The faculty estimates the cost of attendance to be around £1,200, including tuition fees, living expenses (both housing and food) and airfare. The faculty currently provides some funding toward these costs. Colleges may also be able to provide additional funding, however amounts vary depending on the college and the demand each year.

Living costs

In addition to your tuition and college fees, 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 2018-19 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 1 month		Likely living costs for 9 months		Likely living costs for 12 months	
	Lower range	Upper range	Lower range	Upper range	Lower range	Upper range
Food	£258	£361	£2,318	£3,245	£3,090	£4,326
Accommodation	£536	£677	£4,824	£6,093	£6,432	£8,124
Personal items	£118	£263	£1,066	£2,364	£1,421	£3,152
Social activities	£41	£123	£369	£1,105	£492	£1,474
Study costs	£39	£85	£348	£765	£464	£1,020
Other	£22	£47	£202	£419	£269	£559
Total	£1,014	£1,556	£9,127	£13,991	£12,168	£18,655

When planning your finances for any future years of study at Oxford beyond 2018-19, you should allow for an estimated increase in living expenses of 3% each year.

More information about how these figures have been calculated is available at www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/livingcosts.