

Course Information Sheet for entry in 2025-26: MSc in Health Service Improvement and Evaluation



Course facts

Mode of study	Full Time Only
Expected length	1 year

About the course

The MSc in Health Service Improvement and Evaluation (HSIE) is a one-year, full-time course that will prepare you to be a global changemaker, with the theory and practical skills to implement health service improvements and evaluations in today's complex healthcare environment.

The MSc HSIE aims to give students the conceptual tools and skills to understand complex health systems and improve quality of care in different contexts.

After completion of the course, you will be able to:

- Identify and analyse health system challenges (the context) and areas for improvement / intervention
- Apply strategies to design improvements and interventions addressing different health service challenges, drawing on literature and relevant theories and frameworks
- Conceptualise, justify and design plans for the evaluation of interventions in health services
- Apply learning to create a health service improvement and evaluation project plan
- Communicate plans and outputs clearly through oral and written communication, both individually and in teams, drawing on relevant literature, theories and frameworks.

Course structure

The course is divided into six compulsory modules:

1. Health systems and HSIE foundations.
2. The methods toolbox - gathering and assessing evidence.
3. Investigating context: safety, quality and health system performance
4. Designing interventions and planning implementation
5. Programme implementation and evaluation
6. Core skills in health systems research and practice

Modules 1 to 5 are taught sequentially over the first two terms, and build on each other to develop knowledge and skills to intervene to improve quality of healthcare and evaluate complex interventions in different contexts. Module 6 focuses on employability and builds skills alongside modules 1-5. It continues into third term, along with a dissertation in the form of a mock funding proposal.

The department's teaching style encourages active learning, with discussion and collaboration between peers, lecturers and tutors. Class time is balanced between theoretical teaching sessions, and time dedicated to investigation and application of that knowledge – either in facilitated activities during class, or through projects (individually and in teams).

Over the course, you will become more independent in your learning towards completing your dissertation project.

Students will be given the option of graduating with a Post Graduate Diploma (PGDip) as an exit award, if they are unable to submit their dissertation, fail the dissertation after a resit, or do not wish to resubmit the dissertation component, provided they have passed all other assessments in line with regulations.

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.

Supervision

The allocation of graduate supervision is the responsibility of the Nuffield Department of Clinical Medicine and it is not always possible to accommodate the preferences of incoming graduate students to work with a particular member of staff. A supervisor may be found outside the Nuffield Department of Clinical Medicine.

You will be allocated an academic advisor to support you through the course.

For the team project, a tutor is assigned to each team to provide support for the project work and for individual students to work constructively within their team.

For the dissertation, the supervisor(s) and academic advisor will provide support.

Assessment

The MSc is assessed in three parts:

Portfolio 1

The foundational content from modules 1, 2 and 6 are examined through submission of two pieces of written work, assessed at the start of the second term.

Portfolio 2

A team project runs over modules 3, 4 and 5 to explore a specific context, design a theory-based intervention to address a challenge, plan the implementation and design an evaluation. This project is assessed with an oral team presentation at the end of the second term, and three individual written submissions due at the start of the third term.

Dissertation

The dissertation requires the application of knowledge and skills from all six modules to develop a mock funding proposal, due mid-August of the same academic year

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	£22,190
Overseas	£48,640

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.

Graduate students who have reached the end of their standard period of fee liability may be required to pay a termly University and/or a college continuation charge.

The University continuation charge, per term for entry in 2025-26 is £672, please be aware that this will increase annually. For part-time students, the termly charge will be half of the termly rate payable by full-time students.

If a college continuation charge applies (not applicable for non-matriculated courses) it is likely to be in the region of £100 to £600. Please contact your college for more details, including information about whether your college's continuation charge is applied at a different rate for part-time study.

Additional cost information

There are no compulsory elements of this course that entail additional costs beyond fees and living costs. However, please note that, depending on your choice of research 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.

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
Food	£330	£515
Accommodation	£790	£955
Personal items	£200	£335
Social activities	£45	£100
Study costs	£40	£90
Other	£20	£40
Total	£1,425	£2,035

Likely living costs for nine months

	Lower range	Upper range
Food	£2,970	£4,635
Accommodation	£7,110	£8,595
Personal items	£1,800	£3,015
Social activities	£405	£900
Study costs	£360	£810
Other	£180	£360
Total	£12,825	£18,315

Likely living costs for twelve months

	Lower range	Upper range
Food	£3,960	£6,180
Accommodation	£9,480	£11,460
Personal items	£2,400	£4,020
Social activities	£540	£1,200
Study costs	£480	£1,080
Other	£240	£480
Total	£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.

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) or via the online form (<http://www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/ask/form>).