

Geography Information Sheet for entry in 2020

Geography is a diverse discipline that bridges the arts and social and natural sciences, providing a broad education that addresses pressing issues including environmental change, regional and global inequalities and the transformation of global economy and culture. Students obtain a coherent view of the rapidly-changing world and the ways in which society influences and is influenced by it.

The Oxford Geography degree focuses on the interrelationships between society and the physical and human environment. Students are introduced to the full range of geographical topics in the foundational courses, which they can then follow up in more detail in the optional papers. There is considerable emphasis placed on interdisciplinary approaches in the course, with opportunities to explore the cross-fertilisation between geography and other disciplines such as anthropology, sociology, history, political science, economics, earth sciences and biology.

The facilities available at Oxford are among the best in the country, notably the [Radcliffe Science Library](#) (RSL), which holds a geography collection of over 28,000 volumes on its open shelves with many more held in closed stack storage. There are over 100 print journals on the open shelves of the RSL as well as electronic access to over 600 core journals. The department also has well-equipped Geolabs for practical physical courses and individual research projects including the Geography Research and Teaching Labs, the [Oxford Luminescence Dating Lab](#) and the Oxford Rock Breakdown Lab.

Fieldwork/work placements/international opportunities

The School of Geography and the Environment emphasises the importance of fieldwork since we believe there is no substitute for teaching subjects first hand. In the first year, all students take part in a four-day physical geography field trip at the start of term, as well as local skills-related field days. Second-year students will undertake a week-long overseas residential field course (currently to Berlin and Tenerife). Independent research in the field or in archives is also a key element of the dissertation with around 30% of our undergraduates choosing to do their dissertation overseas each year.

A typical week

- Lectures in the morning
- Seminars/practical classes in the afternoon
- Tutorials: at least one college tutorial a week, and some college-based classes.

Tutorials are usually 2-4 students and a tutor. Class sizes may vary depending on the options you choose. There would usually be no more than around 20 students though classes for some of the more popular papers may be up to 40 students. Most tutorials, classes, and lectures are delivered by staff who are tutors 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 who are usually studying at doctorate level. To find out more about how our teaching year is structured, visit our [Academic Year](#) page.

Course structure

YEAR 1	
<p>COURSES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four compulsory courses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Earth systems processes ◦ Human geography ◦ Geographical controversies ◦ Geographical techniques • Induction physical geography field trip to Dorset (four days) • One-day human geography field trip exercise in Oxford 	<p>ASSESSMENT</p> <p>Four written papers: two fieldwork reports; submitted essay on Geographical controversies</p>
YEARS 2 AND 3	
<p>COURSES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geographical thought: histories, philosophies and practices (core) • Foundational courses (two chosen) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Space, place and society ◦ Earth system dynamics ◦ Environmental geography • Options (three chosen) currently include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ African societies ◦ Biogeography, biodiversity and conservation ◦ Climate change impacts and adaptation ◦ Childhood and youth in the global south ◦ Climate change and variability ◦ Complexity ◦ Cultural spaces ◦ Desert landscapes and dynamics ◦ Geographies of dissent and resistance ◦ Geographies of finance ◦ Geographies of nature ◦ Geography at war ◦ Geopolitics in the margins ◦ Island life ◦ New approaches to urban geography ◦ The Quaternary period ◦ Transport and mobilities • Dissertation • Overseas field trip 	<p>ASSESSMENT</p> <p>Six written papers: three extended essays; fieldwork report; dissertation</p>

The options listed above are illustrative and may change. The University may cap the number of students who are able to take a particular one. A full list of current options is available on the [Geography website](#).

The University will seek to deliver each course in accordance with the descriptions 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 2020.

Fee status	Annual Course fees
Home/EU	£9,250
Islands (Channel Islands & Isle of Man)	£9,250
Overseas	£27,285

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

Please note that the course fees you pay include your fees for both University and college services and are divided between the University (including your department or faculty) and your college on a formula basis. More information is provided in your Terms and Conditions.

Additional Fees and Charges Information for Geography

First year students attend a four day residential field course in the UK during their first term. The cost of the field trip is borne by the School of Geography and the Environment and there is no charge to students.

Students are also required to undertake a one week fieldtrip in their second year and have a choice between trips to Copenhagen or Tenerife. These field trips provide students with the opportunity to learn and practice the field research skills that they will employ in their own dissertation research. Some of the projects students have had the opportunity to undertake on previous trips include pilot balloon tracking of trade winds and monitoring of microclimates using i-button data in Tenerife and studying everyday youth politics and issues of ethnic assimilation in Copenhagen. Students have to write a report of their research which is assessed as part of the final examinations. The cost of the field trip is borne by the School of Geography and the Environment and there is no charge to students.

Living costs

Your living costs will vary significantly dependent on your lifestyle. These are estimated to be between £1,135 and £1,650 per month in 2020-2021. Each year of an undergraduate course usually consists of three terms of eight weeks each but you may need to be in Oxford for longer. As a guide you may wish to budget over a nine-month period to ensure you also have sufficient funds during the holidays to meet essential costs.

Living costs breakdown

	Per month		Total for 9 months	
	Lower range	Upper range	Lower range	Upper range
Food	£270	£385	£2,430	£3,465
Accommodation (including utilities)	£630	£760	£5,670	£6,840
Personal items	£130	£245	£1,170	£2,205
Social activities	£45	£110	£405	£990
Study costs	£40	£95	£360	£855
Other	£20	£55	£180	£495
Total	£1,135	£1,650	£10,215	£14,850

In order to provide these likely living costs, the University and the Oxford University Students' Union 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 likely lower and upper ranges above are based on a single student with no dependants living in college accommodation (including utility bills) and are provided for information only.

When planning your finances for future years of study at Oxford beyond 2020-21, you should allow for an estimated increase in living expenses of 3% each year.