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Geography Course Information Sheet for entry in 2022

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 Social Sciences Library (SSL), 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 SSL 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 and 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 the Netherlands, 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	
COURSES <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 	ASSESSMENT <p>Four written papers: two fieldwork reports; submitted essay on Geographical controversies</p>
YEARS 2 AND 3	
COURSES <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"> ○ Climate change impacts and adaptation ○ Childhood and youth in the global south ○ Climate change and variability ○ Complexity ○ Conservation ○ Critical development geographies ○ Cultural spaces ○ Desert landscapes and dynamics 	ASSESSMENT <p>Six written papers: three extended essays; fieldwork report; dissertation</p>

YEARS 2 AND 3

- Finance and sustainability
- Geographies for the Anthropocene
- Geographies of finance
- Geography and policy
- Geographic data science
- Geography at war
- Geopolitics in the margins
- Island life
- New approaches to urban geography
- Politics, society and culture of China
- The Quaternary period
- Transport and mobilities
- Dissertation
- Overseas field trip

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 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. These may include significant changes made necessary by a pandemic (including Covid-19), epidemic or local health emergency. For further information, please see the University's [Terms and Conditions](#). For the latest information on the University's Covid-19 response and how it affects students please go to the [Oxford University Covid-19 Response](#) site.

Fees

These annual fees are for full-time students who begin this undergraduate course here in 2022.

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,	£9,250

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Fee status	Annual Course fees
Channel Islands & Isle of Man)	
Overseas (including most EU students– see Note below)	£36,800

Note: Following the UK's departure from the EU, most EU students starting a course in 2022/23 will pay fees at the 'Overseas' rate. 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 will be 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](#) and the [Oxford and the EU](#) pages for more information.

Living costs

Living costs for the academic year starting in 2022 are estimated to be between £1,215 and £1,755 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.

Living costs breakdown

	Per month		Total for 9 months	
	Lower range	Upper range	Lower range	Upper range
Food	£290	£410	£2,610	£3,690
Accommodation (including utilities)	£680	£810	£6,120	£7,290
Personal items	£135	£260	£1,215	£2,340
Social activities	£45	£120	£405	£1,080
Study costs	£45	£100	£405	£900
Other	£20	£55	£180	£495
Total	£1,215	£1,755	£10,935	£15,795

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. In addition to reviewing the information above, you should fully consider and research your personal likely living costs.

When planning your finances for future years of study at Oxford beyond 2022-23, you should allow for an estimated increase in living expenses of 3% each year.

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[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 the Netherlands, Berlin 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 urban nature and diversity and conflict in Berlin. Students have to write a report of their research which is assessed as part of the final examinations.