

Course Information Sheet for entry in 2017-18

MPhil in Evidence-Based Social Intervention and Policy Evaluation

About the course

The MPhil in Evidence-Based Social Intervention and Policy Evaluation emphasises research methods for evaluating interventions and policies, as well as the advanced study of evidence-based practice, with, for example, children and families, peoples with mental health problems, refugees, drug users, HIV prevention, and young offenders.

The main aim of the MPhil in Evidence-based Social Intervention and Policy Evaluation is to develop critical analysis, problem solving and research skills in the field of evidence-based interventions and policies for social problems, which will allow you both to be a critical consumer of research, and to carry out evaluations and other research designs.

The core element of the programme comprises a course on evaluation methods, which trains students to be good consumers and producers of research on evaluation of social policy and interventions; and other methods courses including statistics and qualitative analysis. There is a particular emphasis on appraisal and design of randomised controlled trials, quasi-random experimentation and systematic reviews, and their application to social interventions and policy evaluation. Systematic review training is embedded throughout the methods teaching, which helps you to develop your own review as part of your degree.

You will then select one of two available pathways, the evidence-based social intervention pathway or the policy evaluation pathway.

The evidence-based social intervention pathway covers theories underlying intervention (eg cognitive behavioural, ecological), ethical issues, major applications of evidence-based approaches, challenges in applying and disseminating research into practice and policy, and methods to evaluate social interventions.

A specialist systematic reviewing course is also on offer, which will help you to develop your own review, as part of your degree.

The policy evaluation pathway will introduce you to social policy analysis and to different research methods for evaluating policies. Policy analysis examines the process of policy making, the setting of objectives, the choice and design of policy and the mechanisms of implementation, while the methods training provides you with the methodological tools to determine how effective policies are in practice or prospect.

In addition, you will take two specialist courses from a list of options focusing on a particular social policy area or the application of evidence-based intervention with specific client groups. These may include children and families, prevention of HIV and AIDS, community analysis and intervention, and options offered by the MSc and MPhil in Comparative Social Policy.

Whichever pathway you have chosen, you will write a thesis on a topic agreed with your supervisor. Assessment of the taught courses is based on project work and two three-hour written examination papers.



The MPhil course is an extended version of the MSc in Evidence-Based Social Intervention and Policy Evaluation. In the first year you will study together with the MSc group and in the second year you will primarily focus on your research project, under individually-tailored supervision.

Changes to courses

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.

Expected length of course

21 months

Annual fees for entry in 2017-2018

Fee Status	Tuition fee	College fee	Total annual fees
Home/EU (including islands)	£12,300	£3,021	£15,321
Overseas	£19,335	£3,021	£22,356

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

Fieldwork is optional, and may vary from interviews in London to an overseas visit. Students may need additional funds to cover this. The department has a fund available to which students can apply for support.

Living costs

In addition to your 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 2017-18 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	£250	£350	£2,250	£3,150	£3,000	£4,000
Accommodation	£538	£619	£4,844	£5,569	£6,459	£7,425
Personal items	£115	£255	£1,035	£2,295	£1,380	£3,060
Social activities	£40	£119	£358	£1,073	£477	£1,431
Study costs	£38	£83	£338	£743	£451	£991
Other	£22	£45	£196	£407	£261	£543
Total	£1,002	£1,471	£9,021	£13,237	£12,028	£17,649

When planning your finances for any future years of study in Oxford beyond 2017-18, you should allow for an estimated increase in living expenses of 2% each year.

More information about how these figures have been calculated is available at www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/living-costs.

20 October 2016