

Course Information Sheet for entry in 2017-18

PGCert in Diplomatic Studies

About the course

The University of Oxford offers a graduate course in diplomatic studies lasting one academic year, from early October to the end of June, at the Department for Continuing Education. The Foreign Service Programme (FSP) will enter its 49th year in October 2017 and its graduates now occupy a large number of senior posts in the international field.

The FSP is specifically designed for early to mid career diplomats. It aims to equip you with the knowledge and skills required for diplomacy in the 21st century, and the confidence on which to base a successful diplomatic career within a foreign ministry, international organisation or elsewhere. Those admitted to the FSP become members of a community of professional diplomats.

The majority of those who join the FSP are established diplomats proposed for the course by their governments, and return to their diplomatic careers after the course is over. A few non-diplomats with relevant background, personal qualities and working experience are included. Geographical representation on the course is extremely broad and you will have the opportunity to benefit significantly from exchange of experience between each other and with alumni.

You will enjoy full membership of both the University and one of the colleges of the University.

You will initially be admitted on to the Postgraduate Certificate (PGCert) in Diplomatic Studies, which comprises four taught courses and is assessed by four year-end examinations. During the first term you may apply to transfer to the PGDip in Diplomatic Studies, which will require you to also complete a substantial research project. If you successfully complete the PGDip then you may apply for the MSt in Diplomatic Studies, a research degree completed on a part-time, at-distance basis in the following academic year.

Content of the year and methods of study

The core curriculum comprises an intensive course on aspects of current diplomatic practice, and the study of international politics, public international law and international trade and finance. Emphasis is placed on national and regional issues relevant to countries and regions from which the participants come.

The course centres on lectures, seminars and tutorials in which you will meet your tutors in small groups and discuss your work. There are practical exercises, for example in negotiation, crisis management, public speaking and handling media interviews. There are guest speakers, both professional and academic, and occasional guest dinners throughout the year. Contact hours would typically amount to 64 lectures/seminars, 14 classes and 35 tutorials. Preparation for these is self-directed work.

You will be encouraged to take advantage of the broad range of opportunities available to you as a member of the University, for example by attending lectures held elsewhere in the University and/or by improving your knowledge of other languages.

Study tours



As part of the course in diplomatic practice, the FSP includes study visits to government departments, international organisations and business and media institutions in the United Kingdom and elsewhere in Europe. A study tour to Northern Ireland may also take place..

More information on the ground covered by the curriculum included in a normal year's programme is given in the FSP course outline.

Languages

The working language of the course is English. You will be accepted only if you can demonstrate that you possess the necessary English language skills.

For non-native speakers, advanced English language classes are an integral part of the Foreign Service Programme. One advantage of the course is the opportunity it offers to build up and polish to a very high and sustained standard of effectiveness and fluency your command of the English language, the major international and diplomatic language in today's world.

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

9 months

Annual fees for entry in 2017-2018

Fee Status	Tuition fee	College fee	Total annual fees
Home/EU (including islands)	£18,080	£3,021	£21,101
Overseas	£18,080	£3,021	£21,101

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

There are no compulsory elements of this course that entail additional costs beyond fees and living costs. However, as part of your course requirements, you may need to choose a dissertation, a project or a thesis topic. Please note that, depending on your choice of 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 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