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## Philosophy, Politics and Economics Course Information Sheet for entry in 2022

PPE was born of the conviction that study of the great modern works of economic, social, political and philosophical thought would have a transformative effect on students' intellectual lives, and thereby on society at large. This conviction remains as firm today as it was then. As the world has evolved, so has PPE. The course brings together some of the most important approaches to understanding the world around us, developing skills useful for a wide range of careers and activities.

PPE is a highly flexible degree which allows you to shape your own path through it: you may choose to specialise in two branches at the end of the first year, or continue with all three. You can also explore a wide variety of disciplines under the overarching headings of Philosophy, Politics, and Economics – for example, you can specialise in Sociology or International Relations by choosing the relevant Politics options.

Studying philosophy develops analytical, critical, and logical rigour, enabling you to apply these skills to deep, puzzling questions such as “what can we (really) know?” and “why be moral?”

In turn, the study of politics provides a thorough understanding of the impact of political institutions on modern societies. It helps you to evaluate the choices that political systems must regularly make, to explain the processes that maintain or change those systems, and to examine the concepts and values used in political analysis.

Economics is the study of how consumers, firms and government make decisions that collectively determine how resources are allocated. An appreciation of economics has become increasingly necessary to make sense of governmental policy-making, the conduct of businesses and the enormous economic transformations throughout the world. All three branches of PPE at Oxford have an international reputation, supported by more than 200 renowned scholars.

### A typical week

Your weekly timetable will usually be divided between six to eight lectures and two meetings, which may be either tutorials or classes, supplemented by private study which will be mainly spent preparing essays or problem sets for tutorials and classes.

Tutorials are usually two-four students and a tutor. Class sizes may vary depending on the options you choose. Teaching in all three PPE subjects is normally done in tutorials rather than classes. Where classes do form part of the teaching for a paper, there would usually be no more than around 20 students though classes for some of the more popular papers may be up to 30 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

All three branches of PPE are studied equally:

- **Philosophy**
  - General philosophy
  - Moral philosophy
  - Elementary logic
- **Politics**
  - The theory of politics (introductory political theory)
  - The practice of politics (introductory comparative government and politics)
  - Political analysis (introductory empirical and quantitative methods)
- **Economics**
  - Microeconomics: the functioning of the market economy
  - Macroeconomics: dealing with national output and employment, exchange rates and policy issues
  - Mathematical techniques used in economics

#### ASSESSMENT

First University examinations: three written papers

### YEARS 2 AND 3

#### COURSES

#### ASSESSMENT

Final University examinations: eight papers,

## YEARS 2 AND 3

Students choose to continue with all three branches (*tripartite*) or concentrate on any two (*bipartite*), taking compulsory courses in the chosen branches along with optional courses:

- **Philosophy**
  - Ethics
  - *Either* Early modern philosophy *or* Knowledge and reality *or* Plato's *Republic* *or* Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics*
- **Politics (any two of these)**
  - Comparative government
  - British politics and government since 1900
  - Theory of politics
  - International relations
  - Political sociology
- **Economics**
  - If bipartite at least one of Microeconomics, Macroeconomics and Quantitative economics
  - If tripartite, at least one of Microeconomics, Macroeconomics, Quantitative economics and Development of the world economy since 1800
  - Option choices in Economics depend on having completed pre-requisite courses which are one of the courses listed above.
- **Optional courses**
  - The optional courses available may change from year to year. The courses currently available are as follows.
  - **Philosophy:** Early Modern Philosophy; Knowledge and Reality; Ethics; Philosophy of Mind; Philosophy of Science and Social Science; Philosophy of Religion; The Philosophy of Logic and Language; Aesthetics and the Philosophy of

typically assessed by written examination, but in some cases by coursework. One of these eight papers may be a thesis/supervised dissertation.

## YEARS 2 AND 3

Criticism; Medieval Philosophy: Aquinas; Medieval Philosophy: Duns Scotus, Ockham; The Philosophy of Kant; Post-Kantian Philosophy; Theory of Politics; Plato Republic; Aristotle Nicomachean Ethics; Intermediate Philosophy of Physics; Philosophy of Mathematics; Philosophy of Science; Philosophy of Cognitive Science; Philosophical Logic; Practical Ethics; The Philosophy of Wittgenstein; Plato on Knowledge, Language, & Reality in the Theaetetus & Sophist (in translation); Aristotle on Nature, Life and Mind (in translation); Knowledge and Scepticism in Hellenistic Philosophy (in translation); Jurisprudence; Thesis.

- **Politics:** Comparative Government; British Politics and Government since 1900; Theory of Politics; Modern British Government and Politics; Government and Politics of the United States; Politics in Europe; Politics in Russia and the Former Soviet Union; Politics in Sub-Saharan Africa; Politics in Latin America; Politics in South Asia; Politics in the Middle East; International Relations in the Era of Two World Wars; International Relations in the Era of the Cold War; International Relations; Political Thought: Plato to Rousseau; Political Thought: Bentham to Weber; Marx and Marxism; Sociological Theory; Political Sociology; Labour Economics and Inequality; The Government and Politics of Japan; Social Policy; Comparative Demographic Systems; Quantitative Methods in Politics and Sociology; Politics in China; The Politics of the European Union; Advanced Paper in Theories of Justice; Comparative Political Economy; Thesis.
- **Economics:** Quantitative Economics; Macroeconomics; Microeconomics; Behavioural and Experimental Economics; Development of the World Economy since 1800; Econometrics; Economics of Developing Countries; Economics of Industry; Environmental Economics and Climate Change; Finance; Game Theory; International

## YEARS 2 AND 3

Economics; Labour Economics and Inequality;  
Microeconomic Analysis; Money and Banking;  
Public Economics; Thesis.

*More information about each course is in the handbook [on the course 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](#).

<a href="#">Fee status</a>	Annual Course fees
Home (UK, Republic of Ireland, Channel Islands & Isle of Man)	£9,250
Overseas (including most EU students– see Note below)	£29,500

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
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1,215</b>	<b>£1,755</b>	<b>£10,935</b>	<b>£15,795</b>

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.

### Additional Fees and Charges Information for Philosophy, Politics and Economics

There are no compulsory costs for this course beyond the fees shown above and your living costs.