

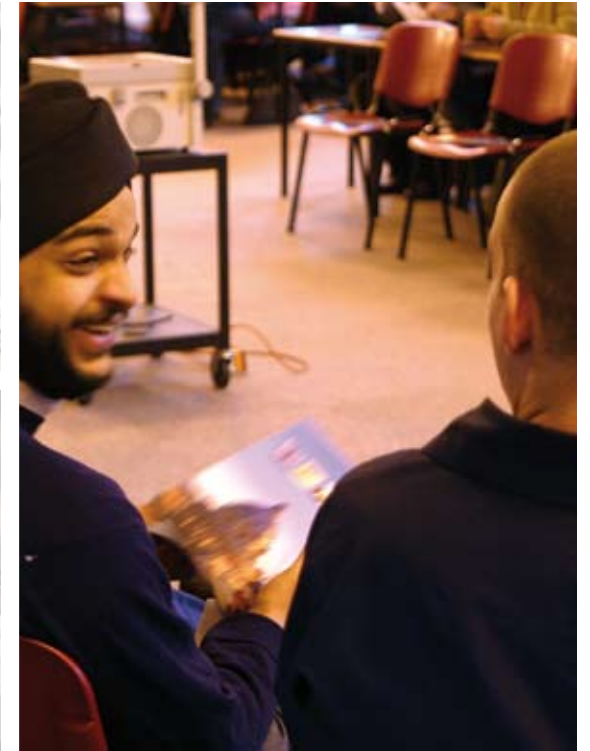


Graduate Studies in Theology

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You will probably be considering Oxford for your graduate study because of its history, and you are right to do so. It has library facilities which are the envy of the world built up over centuries and a world-class Faculty, whose own research and writing will be the context in which you do your own work.

The heart of the graduate experience in Oxford is the one-to-one relationship of graduate student and supervisor. Alongside this there are classes and seminars in which your peers and your teachers can inform your individual work. It is a stimulating place for theological research, therefore.

In the last few years Oxford has moved towards a programme where a nine-month Master’s course is the normal entry for all graduates, including those who wish to proceed to doctoral work. At doctoral level, the one-to-one work continues, but more intensively and more focused on the doctoral topic which you will have worked out with your supervisor during your Master’s year.

The Faculty of Theology runs graduate seminars in different subjects which offer a space for all those doing graduate work to meet regularly, to share aspects of their work with their peers, and to be informed by that interaction and also the specialist sessions which will be arranged. Graduate research in particular can be quite isolating. The seminars are an important way by means of which you can stay in touch with peers and present some of your research at various stages of progress/development.

Additionally, many graduates have found support in small groups of peers who are sharing similar experiences. One of the most exciting things in Oxford, for both Faculty and graduate students alike, is the regular meeting with a group of young people with a variety of gifts and insights. There are many wonderful opportunities to hear amazing lectures and seminars by prominent scholars.

The Faculty of Theology



The Faculty of Theology has two professorships in Biblical Studies, two Divinity professorships (concerned with historical and systematic theology), professorships in Ecclesiastical History, Philosophy of the Christian Religion, Moral and Pastoral Theology, Science and Religion, and the Study of the Abrahamic Religions. In addition, the Oriental Studies Faculty has professorships in Eastern Religion and Ethics and in Hebrew and a readership in Jewish Studies. In addition to a number of University lecturers in Theology, several of whom carry the personal title of Professor, there are many other scholars who are members of other theological institutions in Oxford and who share in the work of the Faculty such as the Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies, the Oxford Centre for Buddhist Studies, the Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies, and the Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies.

In any year there are just under 200 students undertaking graduate work in Theology. They have access to a wide range of lectures, classes, and seminars and to the resources of the Bodleian and a number of other libraries in Oxford containing specialist collections of interest to research students in Theology. The Theology Faculty Centre and Theology Faculty Annexe and Library in St Giles provide library, seminar room, and office facilities for the Faculty. The library is a specialist lending library open to graduate and undergraduate students and members of the Faculty, as well as others with related interests from elsewhere in the University.

How to apply

Applications should be made through the Graduate Admissions Office. Full details of how to apply, plus links to apply online, can be found on the main University of Oxford website.

Candidates for all degrees must be accepted by the Board of the Faculty of Theology and by a college or Permanent Private Hall. Candidates may indicate a preference in their application for a particular college or Permanent Private Hall, but this does not guarantee acceptance by that college or Hall; however, should they be accepted by the Theology Faculty Board, the Faculty will undertake to find them a place at one of the institutions that offers postgraduate studies in Theology.

The Degrees



Taught degrees

MSt Theology
MSt Philosophical Theology
MSt Study of Religion
MPhil Theology
MPhil Philosophical Theology
MPhil Eastern Christian Studies
MPhil Judaism and Christianity in the Graeco-Roman World
MTh (Master of Theology) in Applied Theology

Other courses

Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Theology
Postgraduate Diploma in Theology

Degrees by research

MLitt
DPhil

Further information

Graduate Studies Administrator
Theology Faculty Centre
34 St Giles
Oxford OX1 3LD
Tel: +44 (0)1865 270714
Fax: +44 (0)1865 270795
Email: graduate.enquiries@theology.ox.ac.uk
Web: www.theology.ox.ac.uk

Entry requirements

The normal minimum qualification to be eligible for admission as a student for a postgraduate degree, diploma etc., is the completion of a bachelor's degree with a first or top upper second-class honours or equivalent (GPA of 3.7 or above). A prior degree in theology, religious studies or a related field is required for degrees other than the Postgraduate Diploma in Theology and Master of Studies in Study of Religion.

For prospective students whose first language is not English, the entry requirements in the IELTS and TOEFL tests are at the higher level.

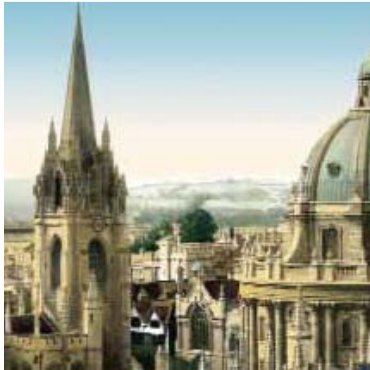
Competence will be expected in any ancient languages required for a project of research. Likewise a working knowledge of modern scholarly languages may be necessary depending on the subject chosen.

Average number of applications per year: 270

Closing date

All degrees except MTh: January / March application deadlines.
MTh: January / March / July application deadlines.

6 Master's courses



MSt (Master of Studies) in Theology

The MSt is a nine-month course. This will include an element of scholarly research and writing, which can constitute part of the training for a future research degree. The purpose of the Master of Studies (MSt) degree is to offer specialist postgraduate education in Theology for able students, and to provide training in research methods, general education in a chosen field of research, and experience in a controlled piece of research. It is now the standard mode of entry into the doctoral programme. The degree is awarded on the basis of several short essays and a dissertation of up to 15,000 words, which is submitted in Trinity term. In some subjects there is also a written examination, which may require a demonstration of linguistic competence.

MPhil (Master of Philosophy) in Theology

The MPhil degree is a twenty-one month course designed to offer extensive postgraduate education in a specialist field of Theology for very able students. It includes a short thesis of up to 30,000 words based on independent scholarly research, which may contribute to a future research degree, and at least three (in some cases four or five) formal examination papers or groups of assessed essays. Candidates who are successful in the MPhil may be allowed to expand the MPhil thesis for a DPhil. The total time needed for the DPhil by this route

need not be longer and the route via the taught course may be an especially good foundation for a teaching career.

Candidates for the MSt in Theology and the MPhil in Theology work in one of the following areas: Biblical Studies (Old or New Testament), Christian Doctrine, Ecclesiastical History, Christian Ethics. The MSt has two additional options which are Biblical Interpretation and Science and Religion. Candidates in Christian Doctrine and in Ecclesiastical History specialise in a historical period: patristic, medieval, Reformation or modern. Candidates in Christian Ethics may specialise in Sexuality and Marriage or in Christian Political Thought. A knowledge of Hebrew and Greek is required for Old and New Testament respectively and most courses in the History of Doctrine will require study of texts in languages other than English.

MSt in the Study of Religion

The MSt is a nine-month course. It may include an element of research and writing, which can constitute part of the training for a further research degree. It consists of three units, one on the Nature of Religion and two on two major religious traditions selected from Judaism, Islam, Christianity, Hinduism or Buddhism. One unit will be a dissertation of up to 15,000 words. The course is intended to provide a research introduction to the study of religions.

MSt in Philosophical Theology

This course, which covers part of the ground covered by the MPhil in Philosophical Theology (see below), provides an opportunity for advanced work in Philosophical Theology within the limits of what can be done in nine months.

MPhil in Philosophical Theology

This course is designed for those who have graduated in either Philosophy or Theology and wish to do more advanced work in Philosophical Theology. It is a valuable preparation for the teaching of the subject at an advanced level. All candidates study the Philosophy of Religion and the History of Philosophical Theology; those whose background is primarily philosophical also study a historical period of Christian Doctrine, while those whose background is primarily theological study a further area of philosophy. Teaching is provided jointly by members of the Theology and Philosophy Faculties and takes the form both of individual supervision and of attendance at lectures and classes. The degree is awarded on an examination and a short thesis. The length of the course is twenty-one months.

MPhil in Eastern Christian Studies

This course provides graduates in Theology, Classics or a suitable branch of History or Oriental Studies with opportunity to study the main creative

period of the Eastern Christian tradition with a more detailed study of texts in Greek, Armenian, or Syriac. A knowledge of Greek is required. Teaching is provided jointly by members of the Faculties of Oriental Studies and Theology. Teaching in all three options may not be available every year, and applicants for admission will be advised whether teaching will be available in the option of their choice. The length of the course is twenty-one months.

MPhil in Judaism and Christianity in the Graeco-Roman World

This twenty-one month course, for which teaching is provided in the main by members of the Oriental Studies and Theology Faculties, pays equal attention to the two religious traditions. The subjects available in that part of the course concerned with Judaism are: Jewish literature, history, and institutions from 200 BCE to 200 CE, Jewish historiography, Bible interpretation, eschatology, and wisdom literature; and in that concerning Christianity: Christian literature, history, and institutions to 180 CE, the Gospels and the historical Jesus, the Acts and the Pauline corpus, the Apostolic Fathers, and the Apologists. A knowledge of Greek and Hebrew is required, and a wide range of primary literature must be covered. Two papers and a short thesis are required in one of the two traditions, three papers in the other.

MTh (Master of Theology) in Applied Theology

This course may be taken either full-time (residential) in two years, or part-time in three or four years. It is designed to enable theological reflection upon experience in pastoral practice, mainly but not only in the context of ministry in the Church. It may be taken by those who hold a pastoral appointment at present, or by students who can include a period of approved pastoral experience in their course of study for the MTh. Candidates must have a degree in theology, or hold an equivalent theological qualification. The degree is awarded on the successful completion of five extended essays relating to taught courses, an extended 'essay on an experiential project', and a thesis of up to 25,000 words.

Other courses



The Postgraduate Diploma in Applied Theology
 This is awarded on the successful completion of Part I of the MTh in Applied Theology, which excludes the thesis. The course may be taken either full-time in one year, or part-time in two years.

The Postgraduate Diploma in Theology
 This is awarded by examination after a one-year course which is primarily biblical in content, but with optional papers in Christian Doctrine, Church History, Christian Ethics, Hinduism, Buddhism or Islam, and Philosophy of Religion. The course is primarily intended for those with a first degree in a subject other than Theology and is normally restricted to those who have obtained a first or upper second class (or its equivalent) in that first degree. No knowledge of ancient language is required. Work is done under a supervisor appointed by the Faculty.

Degrees by research



MLitt (Master of Letters) and DPhil (Doctor of Philosophy)
 The purpose of the MLitt degree is to assist someone to complete a shorter piece of research in Theology, and to demonstrate suitable academic attainments for appointment to positions which may include responsibilities for teaching and research. The purpose of the DPhil degree is to complete a first major piece of research in Theology and to demonstrate suitable academic attainments for appointment to a University-level teaching or research post. Students would normally be expected to apply for the DPhil rather than the MLitt in the first instance. These degrees are awarded for research theses, and there is no further written examination, but students admitted to them will normally be expected either to have already acquired the Faculty's Master of Studies or Master of Philosophy degree within their area of research. This requirement is waived in exceptional circumstances if applicants already possess an equivalent Master's degree from another institution in the appropriate subject area; but the possession of such a qualification will not automatically entitle an applicant to be accepted as a DPhil or MLitt student immediately, and the normal route to a research degree is via the MSt degree or MPhil degree. Applicants intending to proceed to a research degree are therefore normally expected to apply for the MSt or MPhil degree in their initial application to the University.

Part-time study for the DPhil is sometimes possible for those whose circumstances do not permit full-time study and whose projects can be studied part-time. A part-time student for the Degree of DPhil may hold that status for a maximum of nine years.

Recognised Students and Visiting Students



Those who wish to do research in Oxford for only one year or less may apply for the student status either of Recognised Student or of Visiting Student. Such students are not registered for an Oxford University qualification, but are able to attend lectures in the Faculty. Academic advisers are appointed for Recognised Students by the Faculty Board, whereas supervision is arranged for Visiting Students by their college. The number of those who can be admitted in this way is limited and the status will normally only be granted to those who are engaged in theological research for a degree of some other university and would gain special benefit from a short period of work in Oxford.

Those wishing to be considered as Recognised Students need to apply for admission only to the Faculty Board on a form obtainable from:

Graduate Studies Administrator
Theology Faculty Centre
34 St Giles
Oxford
OX1 3LD
Tel: +44 (0)1865 270714
Fax: +44 (0)1865 270795
Email: graduate.enquiries@theology.ox.ac.uk

Application forms for persons wishing to come as Visiting Students can be obtained from the main University of Oxford website, and all applications (graduate and undergraduate) are dealt with by colleges and by the Undergraduate Admissions Office. For more information, contact:

Undergraduate Admissions Office
University Offices
Wellington Square
Oxford
OX1 2JD
Tel: +44 (0)1865 288000
Fax: +44 (0)1865 280125
Email: undergraduate.admissions@admin.ox.ac.uk



Enquiries about graduate admissions should be addressed to the Graduate Studies Administrator,
Theology Faculty Centre, 34 St Giles, Oxford, OX1 3LD
graduate.enquiries@theology.ox.ac.uk

