



Supporting postgraduate students in the Social Sciences

Department of Politics and International Relations at the University of Oxford

The Department of Politics and International Relations (DPIR) at Oxford is an internationally renowned centre of excellence for teaching and research in politics, government, international relations, and political theory. The study of these disciplines at Oxford has a long and distinguished history, and the department is now one of the largest and most accomplished in world. A commitment to plural yet rigorous use of research methods, with emphasis on new and developing techniques, underpins its culture of active original research and scholarship.

DPIR has a strong interdisciplinary ethos across the three areas of international relations, comparative politics and political theory, and its academic expertise spans every major region in the world. Its teaching and research are consistently recognised as world-leading.

Its students graduate to become successful academics and leaders in government, diplomacy and international organisations. DPIR hosts a range of research centres, networks and programmes which set agendas and attract interest from researchers across the world.

These include the Centre for International Studies, Oxford Political Theory Network, Research Network in Politics and Government, Reuters Institute for the Study of Journalism, Centre for Technology and Global Affairs

and the Centre for the Study of Social Justice.

Degrees

- MSc in Political Theory Research (1 year)
- MSc in Politics Research (1 year)
- MPhil in Politics: Political Theory (2 years)
- MPhil in Politics: Comparative Government (2 years)
- MPhil in Politics: European Politics and Society (2 years)
- MPhil in International Relations (2 Years)
- DPhil in Politics (3 years)
- DPhil in International Relations (3 years)

Departmental Highlight

- For the third year in a row, DPIR has been ranked first in the UK and second in the world for politics and international studies in the 2018 QS World University Rankings
- In the 2014 Research Excellence Framework (REF) DPIR made the second largest submission overall in Politics and International Studies and in the leading Unit of Assessment, and achieved a 100% 4* research environment score.

Student application and admissions

Data year	Degree course	Subject/Dept	Applications	Offers	Admitted
2017-2018	MSc & MPhil	Politics and International Relations	530	132	82
2017-2018	DPhil	Politics and International Relations	258	83	40

Investing in tomorrow's leaders

We are looking for supporters who share Oxford University's mission, and wish to play their part in addressing the problems of the 21st century through investing in the next generation of thinkers and doers. Single and multi-year scholarships would profoundly change the opportunities and futures of many talented people. Endowed scholarships will secure that impact in perpetuity.

Degree	2020-2021 per degree cost	Example multi-year scholarship	Endowment per student
MPhil	£70,791 (Home) / £90,536 (Overseas)	£181,072 (2 MPhil students) 	£2,263,401
DPhil	£92,275 (Home) / £129,953 (Overseas)	£259,906 (2 DPhil students) 	£3,248,827

Alumni and Student Profiles

Cailin Crockett, MPhil in Political Theory

After completing her MPhil, Cailin returned to the US and entered the civil service. Her work requires routine research, analysis, and writing for both academic and lay audiences, she has found she regularly relies on the skills developed at Oxford.

"From the moment I began the MPhil, I knew that I wanted to utilize the Oxford training in research, critical thinking, writing and argumentation to develop a foundation for a career in public policy, with a focus on social development and gender. Between the MPhil coursework in ethics, contemporary political philosophy, and the ability to take a course in social statistics through the department, I



developed a skillset in qualitative and quantitative research while debating concepts such as human rights, democracy, and social welfare—the themes and tools I draw from every day in my career in government.

Since completing the MPhil, I entered civil service through the United States' Presidential Management Fellowship. I joined the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as a fellow examining public health and social services for survivors of domestic and sexual violence and their children, and was fortunate to work for the Vice President and the White House Advisor on Violence against Women for a special assignment."

Bassam Gergi, MPhil in Politics

After Bassam completed his undergraduate degree he realised he wanted to engage in a greater depth with the study of government at Oxford. He now works in New York City at a Law firm.

"The MPhil in Politics is a rigorous two-year course that delves into many of the most pressing questions facing political actors and institutions. I studied the successes and failures of social movements, the effectiveness of legislatures, and the ways political leaders can better serve the needs of their constituents. My study of politics fostered, in spite of wide-spread cynicism, a firm belief that civic engagement remains the most effective means to achieve meaningful and positive change in democratic society."



Student profiles

Dr Tahrat Shahid, DPhil in Politics

Tahrat Shahid received her DPhil in 2016. She focused on the politics of religion and its impact on women's rights in Bangladesh, and her doctoral dissertation is titled, "Imaginary Lines? 'Islam,' 'Secularism,' and the Politics of Family Laws in Bangladesh." A portion of this dissertation, comparing the evolution of legislation on violence against women to changes in family laws in Bangladesh,



won the British Association for South Asian Studies' Prize for Best Paper at its annual conference in 2014. Among a range of experiences during the past decade, she co-founded a trust providing free medical services

in Bangladesh, worked on macroeconomic projections in the Research Department of the Central Bank of Turkey in Ankara, and analysed telecommunications, media, and technology companies in financial research for Morgan Stanley in New York City.

Mira Wolf-Bauwens, MPhil Politics (Political Theory)

Mira studied Politics, Philosophy and Economics as an undergraduate. She chose to focus her MPhil on political theory and has enjoyed the combination of having her views challenged as well as receiving positive and supportive feedback.



"It is particularly inspiring to be taught by the academics who lead these debates and to discuss with them in person. Moreover, the community of political theorists is outstanding. The people who come to study political theory here have diverse academic and professional backgrounds but are all passionate about political theory. As a result the discussions about social justice or the nature of the political are enthusiastic and very intellectually stimulating."

Richard Johnson, MPhil Politics (Comparative Government)

Richard came to Oxford with the ambition to pursue a career in academia. He selected Oxford as his top choice for postgraduate study due to its distinguished reputation in political science research and teaching.



"Postgraduate study at Oxford offers numerous opportunities. The workload is fairly substantial, but manageable and rewarding. The Department is extremely well-resourced. It consists of a large community of the world's leading academics and scholars with a palpable feel of being on the 'cutting edge' of research. I have been bowled over by the number of open seminars and talks which postgraduates can attend or even deliver a paper, gaining valuable experience for future work in academia or elsewhere.

One of the Department's strengths is its awareness of the importance of ensuring that candidates are exposed to the main methodological debates and methods in the discipline. Students are provided with excellent methods training. Students may choose from a number of quantitative and qualitative courses, and it is heartening to see that the Department treats both approaches with the seriousness they deserve."

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