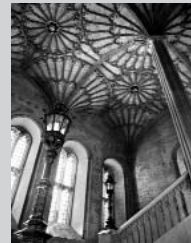


University of Oxford

2012/13



Christ Church

O X F O R D

U N D E R G R A D U A T E D E G R E E C O U R S E S

SUBJECT INFORMATION

The most important choice you will have to make is that of the degree course you wish to study for the next three or four years. Choosing the course which best suits your academic strengths, interests, and learning style is key to ensuring your time spent at university is a successful and fulfilling experience.

A wide range of courses is available at Oxford, the vast majority of which are offered at Christ Church. All our courses are theoretical and challenging, initially providing a broad foundation in the subject area before allowing scope for specialization in the later years of study. The course content and structure do not vary from college to college, nor do the exams.

In the following pages our tutors provide you with an insight into their subjects, together with a guide to the number of places available each year. The standard offer for all subjects is the same across all colleges: between AAA and A*A*A at A-level (depending on the subject applied for), 38-40 in the International Baccalaureate, or the equivalent high level of achievement in other suitable qualifications. You may be expected to have studied particular subjects at school or college to be eligible to apply for certain subjects, or may be required to submit written work or sit a written test as part of the process. Details of all such requirements are available on the University's admissions pages: www.admissions.ox.ac.uk

In addition to the subjects detailed in these pages, Christ Church encourages applications for, and regularly takes students in, a considerable number of 'Joint School' courses, the teaching of which is coordinated by the tutors and lecturers in the appropriate subjects:

ANCIENT AND MODERN HISTORY
CLASSICS AND ORIENTAL STUDIES
ENGINEERING, ECONOMICS AND MANAGEMENT
EUROPEAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN LANGUAGES
HISTORY AND POLITICS
JOINT SCHOOLS WITH MODERN LANGUAGES
MATHEMATICS AND PHILOSOPHY
MATHEMATICS AND STATISTICS
PHILOSOPHY AND THEOLOGY
PHYSICS AND PHILOSOPHY
PSYCHOLOGY AND PHILOSOPHY
THEOLOGY AND ORIENTAL STUDIES

Please note that the names of those involved in teaching are correct at the time of going to print, though some changes may occur. Please go to our website for the most current information: www.chch.ox.ac.uk.



INDIVIDUAL SUBJECT INFORMATION

Biochemistry

Tutor: To be appointed

Lecturers: Dr Syma Khalid, Dr Nicole Zitzmann

Places: 3

Biochemistry is the key to much modern biology. If you want to understand the implications of the human genome project, or would like to understand how proteins can work as molecular machines, then this is the subject for you. Our understanding of events within cells at the molecular level is central to many areas of biomedical research. The Oxford course provides you with a broad general training in all aspects of biochemistry, plus direct exposure to cutting edge research in the final year.

Why Christ Church? We have an excellent team of teachers covering various aspects of biochemistry, ranging from chemical and physical aspects to the more biological. The library facilities in Christ Church are excellent. You will have the chance to meet people from a wide range of backgrounds and studying a variety of subjects.

Biological Sciences

Tutor: Prof. Sarah Randolph

Lecturers: Dr Stephen Harris, Dr David Shotton

Places: 5-6

Biology students at Oxford are encouraged to ask questions about the living world at all levels of organization from the molecular and cellular, through the whole organism, to populations. How do animals and plants work, how do they develop and how did they evolve? Many such questions are of immediate relevance to infectious and inherited diseases, environmental issues, food production and the organization of animal and human societies. In addition to lectures, practical classes and field work, individual teaching and research projects are arranged with specialists in each field to complement the expertise of Christ Church's biologists. Sarah Randolph teaches vertebrate zoology, population ecology and evolution as well as her own research topic, the biology of infectious disease. David Shotton is a cell biologist with special interests in computer imaging, and

Stephen Harris is an expert in the genetics of plant conservation. In addition, Stuart West, newly associated with Christ Church, is able to contribute cutting-edge ideas in evolutionary biology. A new course structure started in 2009, designed to give even greater flexibility than previously, allowing all combinations of topics according to personal interests and choices. Courses taken by everyone include the broad first-year course (cells & genes, whole organisms from microbes to vertebrates, and population ecology) and two second-year courses, one in evolution and the other in quantitative methods. In the second and third years there is increasing opportunity to specialize in topics of particular interest, with teaching and new ideas provided by active research scientists across the myriad divisions of biology.

The College has a long and strong research history in the biological sciences going back to Joseph Banks (the botanist explorer who accompanied Cook to New Zealand).

Chemistry

Tutors: Dr Dirk Aarts, Dr Jason Davis, Dr Martin Grossel

Places: 6-7

Chemistry is probably the science with the greatest impact on mankind. From the functioning of living organisms to the behaviour of our environment, chemistry and chemical change lie at the very heart. Plastics, fibres, ceramics and dyes, as well as pharmaceutical products, are all made by chemists. Chemists study topics ranging from renewable energy sources to molecular biology. In a nutshell, life and its quality depend on chemistry and chemists.

The course may be tough, but the intellectual stimulus is enormous, and the rewards are great (in recent years typically 50% or more of any given year have finished with First Class Honours). Many of our graduates go on to do research leading to a doctorate, but others find careers in many diverse areas, such as industry, commerce, or teaching, where the value of the academic discipline of the course has long been recognised.

Oxford's Department of Chemistry is the largest in the world, and one of the most distinguished. It received the highest possible 5* rating in the recent Research Assessment Exercise, and an 'excellent' following a

2012/13

Teaching Quality Audit. Christ Church itself has a particularly long and distinguished record in science in general, and chemistry in particular, and it is a wonderful place to study the subject.

The tutors are brilliant (and friendly), and the undergraduates are friendly (and sometimes brilliant). Unlike some colleges, Christ Church has permanent tutors in all three disciplines of the subject. The present tutors have interests ranging from Nanotechnology, Bio and Chemical Sensors, Self-Assembly and Interfacial Chemistry, and from Molecular Machines to Tumour Targeting. Christ Church chemists, undergraduates, graduates, and tutors, are unusually supportive of each other, and they have an active social as well as intellectual life.

Classical Archaeology and Ancient History (CAAH)

Tutors: Dr Anna Clark, Dr Dirk Obbink, Dr Richard Rutherford

Lecturers: Prof. Martin Goodman, Dr John Ma

Places: 1-2

CAAH offers you the opportunity to study the history, archaeology and art of societies and cultures of the ancient Mediterranean. The course lasts three years and involves work both in university classes led by an archaeologist and historian, and in tutorials. An integrated approach is encouraged from the start.

You can read papers in a very wide range of subjects from 'Homeric Archaeology' to 'The Formation of the Islamic World', and including 'Thucydides and the West', 'Tacitus and Tiberius', and 'Egyptian Art and Architecture' to name only a few. In the first year two core papers focusing on key periods from Greek and Roman history and archaeology are read alongside two special subjects; in the last two years of the degree there is even more scope to choose papers reflecting your interests. Fieldwork is required in the first long vacation, and one Finals paper is a report on a site or object(s) in a museum. There are also opportunities to learn Latin and/or Greek, although this is not a requirement.

Christ Church has excellent library resources, a large number of tutors and undergraduates in both Classics and history, and offers a friendly and supportive environment in which to pursue your

interest in texts and monuments from the Classical world. Graduates in this relatively new degree have already gone on to postgraduate research, and to work in libraries and in the law.

Classics

Tutors: Dr Anna Clark, Dr Lindsay Judson, Dr Dirk Obbink, Dr Richard Rutherford, Dr Joseph Schear

Lecturers: Dr Robert Frazier, Dr James Burbidge, Prof. Martin Goodman, Dr John Ma, Dr Severin Schroeder

Places: 6-7

Classics is the study of the literature, languages, history, philosophy, and art of ancient Greece and Rome. The Oxford course (also known as Literae Humaniores) lasts four years, and spans authors and periods from the Greek 'dark ages' to the period when the Roman empire dominated the Mediterranean – almost a millennium. The course has not only great scope but immense diversity: you can read plays by Sophocles or private letters of Cicero, study Alexander's conquests or the historical and social context of Christianity, learn what Plato thought and why Aristotle disagreed with him – and much else. The first part of the four-year course focuses on languages and literature, but in the second half you choose eight options from a large and varied menu, and you can emphasize the side of the subject that interests you most.

Why Christ Church? It's traditionally a major Classics college, taking around seven students a year; the library resources are outstanding in the subject; there is an unusually large number of tutors specializing in different areas of Classics; the academic standards are high, and so are levels of support. The classicists in College are a friendly, lively community who often discuss their work outside tutorials.

And afterwards? Some suppose that Classics only equips you to become a Classics teacher, but this is nonsense. Some recent graduates have become teachers, or have done post-graduate research in Classics, but others have gone on to distinguished careers in the City, publishing, advertising, computing, media, the law (both barristers and solicitors), journalism, the Civil Service, and the Foreign Office. This reflects the diversity of the subject and the skills we try to cultivate through the study of the civilizations, languages, and culture of the ancient Mediterranean world.

Economics and Management

Tutors: Dr Beata Javorcik, Dr John Thanassoulis

Lecturers: Dr Jacinta Pires, Ms Allison Stewart

Places: 3

If you want to learn both to think about the world and to operate effectively in it, Economics and Management is the degree for you – with a cocktail of conceptual and analytical rigour (economics) and ‘real world’ practical content allied to theory (management). If you are interested in how the economy and business works, and how people behave within businesses, then this is the degree for you. Come to Christ Church on an open day and find out.

Economics and Management graduates find placement on the one side as industrial managers, management consultants, chartered accountants, investment bankers or entrepreneurs, and on the other side as professional and academic economists, journalists, lawyers, and civil servants. No wonder, then, that, while this degree is much younger than you are, it is a very successful one. And as one of three students tutored by one expert in management and three economics specialists you can’t fail to have a rich educational experience.

Engineering

Tutors: Dr Malcolm McCulloch, Prof. David Nowell, Dr Richard Willden

Places: 6

Engineering is an interesting, challenging, and creative discipline which is important in a modern technological society and is key to a sustainable future in the 21st century. If you enjoy mathematics and physics and have some interest in technology or how things work, then engineering may well be the course for you. The Department of Engineering Science at Oxford has an established reputation as one of the top engineering departments in the UK, and provides a challenging and stimulating undergraduate education. The Oxford engineering courses do not require immediate specialization, so you can explore the range of subjects available before deciding where your interests lie. Christ Church is a short walk from the department and admits six engineers each year (about average for an Oxford college). We also take students for the joint course of Engineering, Economics and Management (EEM) as well as for the main

Engineering Science course. Whilst EEM has a high applications to places ratio, the admissions standards are broadly similar to those for Engineering Science and we will always consider making an offer for Engineering Science should an EEM candidate not appear suitable for the economics and management parts of the joint degree.

Both courses are four years long and lead to the M.Eng. degree, which is accredited by the appropriate engineering institutions. If you are accepted to read engineering, much of your time will be spent in the engineering department attending lectures and taking part in practical and project work. However Christ Church will also play an important role during your time at Oxford, both academically and socially. The College provides small group tutorials for the first two and a half years of the course, after which all colleges use larger departmentally-organised classes. Christ Church has three engineering tutors: Prof. David Nowell and Dr Malcolm McCulloch are both professional engineers with practical industrial experience, and who hold University Lectureships in the department. David teaches civil and mechanical engineering, and Malcolm covers electrical engineering. Dr Richard Willden also holds a departmental appointment and teaches thermodynamics and fluid mechanics for Christ Church. The tutors’ research interests include structural integrity, electrical power, fluid mechanics, and sustainability.

English

Tutors: Dr Mishtooni Bose, Dr Peter McDonald, Dr Sophie Ratcliffe

Places: 10

Studying English at Oxford involves both broad and intensive reading of authors from the medieval period to the present day, and at Christ Church we approach the literature of the past in the light of committed and expanding critical engagement and enjoyment. This means that your experience of getting to grips with all the major periods of literature will be both historically informed and critically reflective.

Christ Church’s three English tutors are all known for their range of expertise: Peter McDonald is a poet and critic who has published on twentieth- and nineteenth-century poetry, and who has a particular interest in Anglo-Irish literature; Mishtooni Bose is a specialist in the Medieval period, with particular interests in poetry, controversial

writing, and theological debate; Sophie Ratcliffe, the Career Development Fellow in English, is an expert in English literature from the nineteenth century to the present day, with a particular interest in the relationship between philosophy and literature.

Tutorials at Christ Church give students the opportunity to push themselves into adventurous and rewarding lines of critical thought, and cover all the most important authors in the different periods. Our students combine a love of reading and learning with the willingness to think hard about the ways and means of particular works and the whys and wherefores of literary history and argument. Graduates from Christ Church go into many different careers, including business, journalism, law, the media, and teaching and further academic study.

Experimental Psychology

Tutor: Dr Brian Parkinson

Places: 4

Why study psychology? Because it provides scientific answers to basic questions about how people act, react, and interact. If you have ever wondered about the causes of people's thoughts, feelings, perceptions, and behaviour, psychology can help to clarify these issues. For example, developmental psychology addresses questions concerning how children's psychological capacities develop as they grow; social psychology considers how people are influenced by each other; cognitive psychology investigates how people process and remember information; neuropsychology analyses relations between the operation of the nervous system and human behaviour; and clinical psychology studies mental disorders of various kinds. Psychological research can also help to solve real world practical problems, and has provided answers to such questions as:

- What work-shifts for air traffic controllers minimize the risk of air accidents?
- What kinds of people are perceived as most attractive?

The main psychology tutor at Christ Church is a social psychologist interested in emotions and moods. The College also has a junior research fellow investigating the psychology of perception, tutors in

related areas of neuroscience and philosophy, and a rich mix of research fellows, graduates and undergraduates working on topics relevant to psychology.

Fine Art

Tutor: Mr Peter Rhoades

Places: 2

Although the course of the Bachelor in Fine Art is taught at the Ruskin School of Drawing and Fine Art, Christ Church is a particularly good college for Fine Art students. It is the only college in the University with both an Art Room and a specialist Art Tutor. The room is a valuable additional studio space in which students can work, and the tutor is qualified to participate in fine art critical practice as well as having a pastoral role. The College also possesses the major resource of the Picture Gallery, an important display of paintings coupled with the internationally renowned collection of drawings. Christ Church is close to the headquarters of the Ruskin School in the High Street. The admission process is initially conducted by the Ruskin with a secondary selective process at colleges including Christ Church.

Geography

Tutors: Dr Mark New, Prof. Judith Pallot

Places: 6

Geography is a subject that engages with the 'big' issues confronting humanity. The impact of carbon emissions on climate, global and local inequalities in welfare and employment, and the globalization of culture are all high on the geographer's agenda. Oxford geography is distinctive in its rejection of the path followed by most other UK geography departments of splitting the subject into two by making students choose between taking an 'arts' or a 'science' geography course. All students take the same geography degree in Oxford which, while allowing specialization in particular branches, focuses on the central core of the subject where the human and physical geographical worlds meet.

The geography tutors provide tutorials for Christ Church undergraduates in the core courses of the geography degree and

they advise and arrange teaching for the optional papers in the second and third years. Geography students are prominent in the intellectual and social life of the college. Contacts across the years is encouraged through the in-college Halford Mackinder Society. Christ Church is generous with its grants for field work and for book purchases. It has an excellent collection of books in the college library, including the main texts needed for the course. In recent years Christ Church geographers have entered a variety of post-graduate courses (including further geographical research and Masters courses in environmental science, law development studies, and education), or have found work in central and local government, financial institutions and management consultancies, the media, and various environment-related NGOs.

History

Tutors: Dr Catherine Andreyev, Dr Sarah Mortimer, Dr Brian Young

Lecturer: Dr Rowena E. Archer

Places: 12

History is about people and societies in the past - what made them tick, and why they did what they did. It helps us understand ourselves and others. Studying the past challenges our prejudices, broadens our outlook, and enables us to think for ourselves; writing about the past develops our analytical skills, and teaches us to organize clear and persuasive arguments. So it is a popular subject for both students and employers: our history graduates go into business, finance, consultancy, journalism, advertising, law, government service, teaching and research – any career which needs adaptability, clear thinking, and problem-solving. Christ Church has one of the largest history groups in Oxford, and it is exciting to be part of it. We admit twelve new students each year - producing a lively, varied, interactive set. We have three specialist college tutors and so, together with the college lecturer, we can teach a large part of the syllabus in college, and offer close personal attention. We have an outstanding history collection in the college library, and funds to help with research projects and discovery trips. And, of course, historians share in all the other benefits of a large, attractive, and well endowed college.

History combines well with other subjects and Christ Church welcomes applications for Ancient and Modern History, History and Modern Languages, and History and Politics.

History of Art

Tutor: Dr Geraldine Johnson

Places: 3

We are surrounded by images, objects, and buildings that have been designed to have a particular effect on us, whether the work is a painting by a famous artist or the prospectus you are looking at right now. Studying History of Art allows us to gain a better appreciation of why particular art works look the way they do and how their meanings and functions change over time. In the History of Art course at Oxford, we explore artefacts produced in many different times and places, from ancient Rome to contemporary London, and from Ming Dynasty China to Renaissance Italy. Indeed, the degree is designed to provide an introduction to a wider range of art (including from cultures beyond Europe and North America) than is available in any other single course in Britain. Students will not only become experts in the historical interpretation of images, but they will also learn to analyse critically visual and material culture in general. The 'visual literacy' skills learned in the degree have broad applicability in a variety of professional settings, as well as being lifelong sources of personal enlightenment.

Oxford has unsurpassed resources for studying art from cultures throughout the world. In addition to the Ashmolean Museum, Christ Church's own Picture Gallery and other university collections, the city and its environs offer excellent examples of British architecture – including several in Christ Church itself! There is a dedicated History of Art tutor at Christ Church, and students will be able to interact with undergraduates in the College studying related subjects such as Fine Art or History. Students also have access to the College's Art Room. Christ Church thus offers a very welcoming and stimulating environment in which to study the History of Art. You can also visit the History of Art Department's website at www.hoa.ox.ac.uk.

Law (also Law with Law Studies in Europe)

Tutors: Prof. John Cartwright, Mr Edwin Simpson,
Dr Tarunabh Khaitan

Places: 10

You do not have to intend to be a practising lawyer to read Law: most of our students go into the legal profession, but not all. Whether your strength at school has been in mathematics, history, literature, languages or science, law is your subject if you enjoy debate and discussion; are interested in the legal issues you read in the newspapers (whether on the home or international pages); and enjoy researching and solving difficult intellectual problems. What are our particular strengths at Christ Church? We have:

- a lively group of law students, amongst the largest of any Oxford college, whose diversity is increased by our continuing commitment to the four-year course in Law with Law Studies in Europe;
- the resources to ensure that both our graduate and undergraduate students are amply provided for; one of the largest and most complete college law libraries; and the rare luxury of three law tutors, ensuring our students benefit from close personal supervision throughout their time here;
- a college Law Society which arranges functions the students want, such as moots (mock-trials), social events, and visits to solicitors' firms and the Inns of Court in London.

Mathematics

Tutors: Prof. Sam Howison, Dr Kevin McGerty, Dr Thomas Cass

Lecturers: Dr Chris Breward, Prof. John Wright

Places: 6 - 8

Far and away the best reason for choosing mathematics at university is that you have always found it fascinating, stimulating and fun to do. You should love mathematics, and think (and worry) about mathematical problems even when you have done your school or college assignments.

Mathematicians at Christ Church come from all sorts of backgrounds -- state and independent schools, UK and overseas -- all brought together by their passion for mathematics. In choosing students for admission we are looking for aptitude and potential combined with commitment to the subject.

In the first year of the course, lectures are supplemented with two to three hours of in-college teaching per week, in tutorials and small group classes. This pattern continues in the second year, while third- and fourth-year teaching is via inter-collegiate classes. Pure mathematics is taught by Kevin McGerty, who is an expert in abstract algebra, and Tom Cass, who works in stochastic analysis. Applied mathematics is the responsibility of Sam Howison and Chris Breward, who work on problem-driven applied mathematics with an interdisciplinary emphasis; Sam Howison is also an expert in mathematical finance.

Christ Church has a thriving mathematics society which brings together the whole mathematics community for lectures, presentations by senior undergraduates and an annual dinner.

Employers like people with maths degrees, so it comes in handy when you are job hunting. Mathematics opens the door to a huge range of careers, for example further study and research, investment banking, web design, and teaching; at least one of our students has recently gone to work with the intelligence analysts at GCHQ -- but that is so hush-hush that we are probably not supposed to know about it.

For more information on all of these topics, see our subject web pages: www.chch.ox.ac.uk/maths

Medicine

Tutors: Dr Stephanie Cragg, Dr Richard Wade-Martins

Pre-clinical Lecturers: Dr Ian Roberts, Dr Louise Upton,

Dr Robert Wilkins, Dr Keith Brain, Dr Olaf Anson

Clinical Lecturers: Dr Maggie Hammersley, Dr Tim Littlewood

Places: 5-6

If you want to know how the body works, understand what can go wrong, and learn how to do something about it, then Medicine is

the course for you. Medicine is a vocation and we are looking for individuals who will make good doctors. But we also look for people who will enjoy, and respond to, the scientific challenges of medicine. The Oxford course is one of the few in the country where you gain a science degree (in Medical Sciences) and our tutorial system will allow you to explore chosen subjects in depth.

Why Christ Church? One reason would be that the biomedical sciences are strongly represented here. The college tutors run research laboratories in areas spanning genetics, physiology and neuropharmacology, the molecular mechanisms of Parkinson's disease and Alzheimer's disease, neuronal signalling, and drug addiction. Oxford's first anatomy laboratory was in Christ Church (the original dissecting room is still in use – for lunch) and the Regius Professor of Clinical Medicine is always a member of the College. Outside of work the College's Medical Society provides a lively social forum for pre-clinical and clinical students to meet and listen to outside speakers.

And although medical students may work harder than others, there is certainly life outside medicine. Our students can take full advantage of Christ Church's varied social, cultural, musical and sporting opportunities in breathtaking surroundings.

Modern Languages and Oriental Studies

Tutors: Dr Belinda Jack, Dr Dominic Moran, Dr Emanuela Tandello, Dr Ian Watson, Dr Jennifer Yee

Lecturers: Dr Michael Abécassis, Dr Jennifer Baines, Dr Cláudia Pazos-Alonso, Dr Nigel Griffin, Dr Dimitris Papanikolaou, Prof. Robert Vilain

Places: 14

Why?

Studying Modern Languages or Oriental Studies combines intellectual training – how to analyse, how to argue, how to read the meanings which lie below the surface of language – with the acquisition of practical skills: writing, comprehending and speaking other languages to a high level.

- You learn to use other languages in an intellectually satisfying way.
- You learn how languages work as systems different from your own.
- You learn about the intellectual and cultural worlds which other languages help to produce.

What?

- You can continue a language which you enjoyed at school.
- You can start a new language (European, Middle Eastern or Far Eastern).
- You can specialize in the study of language systems – how a language works and how it has developed.
- You can read widely in medieval, Renaissance and modern European literature, or in the classical and modern literatures of Middle Eastern and Far Eastern countries.
- You can study specialized aspects of a culture, such as the European novel or Japanese economics.
- You can get to understand how other societies think and how they represent themselves in literature and other arts.
- You can spend one year abroad (for European languages; sometimes a shorter period for Middle and Far Eastern languages) improving your language skills and directly experiencing how what you have learnt relates to the contemporary culture of the country or countries concerned.

Music

Tutors: Prof. Jonathan Cross, Dr Stephen Darlington

Lecturer: Dr David Maw

Places: 5

Do you find music exciting and want to discover more about its history, repertory and meaning? If so, then you are looking at the right place to study the subject. Oxford has a large and thriving department and, with its top rating in the most recent Research Assessment Exercises, the best scholars, composers and performers to teach you. No other discipline offers such a variety of opportunities for intellectual and practical exploration and self-discovery. You may

be a fine performer or your primary interest may be more academic; our course is sufficiently flexible to cater for both of these areas. While focused on the history and practices of Western European art music from medieval times to the present day, the course also embraces the study of popular and world musics, music aesthetics and psychology, and musical geographies. The majority of our graduates go on to further musical study or to work in the music professions.

Although some of those reading Music at Christ Church sing in the Cathedral Choir (Academical Clerks) or play the organ (Organ Scholars), the majority do not. Christ Church has a very strong tradition in music, taking more undergraduates to read the subject than any other college. There is an active Music Society, which promotes regular concerts and an annual music festival in the Cathedral. You have a piano provided in your room and a substantial grant to cover the cost of instrumental lessons. Also there is a College Music Room and the College Library houses one of the finest collections of manuscripts and printed music in the country. In addition to all this, the Faculty is just a couple of minutes' walk away!

For more information on all these topics, see our subject web pages: www.chch.ox.ac.uk/college/subjects/music

Philosophy

Tutors: Dr Lindsay Judson, Dr Joseph Shear

Lecturers: Dr Robert Frazier, Dr Severin Schroeder

Places: 15-20 across all subject combinations

What is the nature of things? What does it take to have knowledge of them? Is democracy really the best political system? Do we have free will? What is the point of art? What is the relationship between my mind and my brain? For any thinking person, at any time, these kinds of questions can arise. Philosophy is about asking such questions and trying to come up with answers to them.

Oxford is one of the world's great centres of philosophy, and an ideal place to study the subject. (Check out: www.philosophy.ox.ac.uk) Philosophy at Oxford is always studied as one part of a joint degree course, combined with one or two other subjects. Students have significant control of the extent and shape of their concentration in philosophy. The seven joint courses are (i) Philosophy, Politics, and

Economics, (ii) Classics, (iii) Philosophy and Mathematics, (iv) Philosophy and Modern Languages, (v) Philosophy and Physics, (vi) Psychology and Philosophy, and (vii) Philosophy and Theology. Christ Church accepts students for all these courses. People who have studied philosophy at Christ Church go on to a wide variety of careers, including law, business, university teaching, the artworld, and flying passenger jets.

As a student at Christ Church you will receive excellent guidance and support. There are currently two tutorial fellows and two lecturers; in addition, the college is fortunate to have a junior research fellow in philosophy who also does some teaching on occasion. In a typical year group, there are 15-20 students doing philosophy. So there is a particularly robust and open-minded philosophy community in college. A wide range of topics are taught and the philosophers in college are actively engaged in research in the history of philosophy (from Plato and Aristotle to Nietzsche and Sartre), ethics, and the philosophy of mind, among other areas. Undergraduates at Christ Church enjoy a first-rate training in the field. They also discover that philosophy, while challenging, is a whole lot of fun!

Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE)

Tutors: Dr David Hine, Dr Beata Javorcik, Dr Lindsay Judson, Dr Joseph Shear, Dr John Thanassoulis, Dr Edward Keene

Lecturers: Dr Robert Frazier, Dr Jacinta Pires

Places: 10

Why study PPE?

- because the subjects are intellectually exciting
- because they stretch your understanding of the world around you
- because they help you to analyse it dispassionately
- because you can follow a multi-disciplinary degree, but eventually specialize in one area of the degree if you wish
- because the subjects complement one another in a way that few joint degrees can match

If that's not enough for you, then add that PPEists are in high demand from employers in a wide range of jobs. PPEists go off to business, the City, the professions, government, international organisations. It's not just the content of the degree – the substantive knowledge of contemporary politics and economics – that puts its graduates in demand: it's also the analytical skills they acquire – clear thinking, data-analysis, problem solving, the ability to dissect a complex social issue, arrive at conclusions, and present them to others. If you find the political and economic world a fascinating but puzzling place, and if, more broadly, you want to understand how and why (we think) we know what we seem to know about that world, then PPE is probably for you. Come to Christ Church, meet its numerous tutors in the subject at an open day, and find out.

Physics

Tutors: Dr Guy Wilkinson, Dr Axel Kuhn

Lecturer: Dr Alan Merchant

Places: 6-8

Why is the sky blue? What is the nature of time? It is the business of physics to answer such questions. Physics is the most fundamental of the sciences, and seeks to understand all natural phenomena in terms of basic principles. Technological advance, whether fibre optics for communications or the development of a quantum computer, depends on this understanding. Oxford, with a world class reputation in research, and the largest physics department in the UK, is well-placed to promote it. Christ Church, Einstein's college in the early 1930s, has a strong tradition in physics. The Wetton Chair in Astrophysics is attached to the College, and there is a vigorous research community in addition to the teaching activities. We accept around 6-8 undergraduates each year, many of whom go on to higher degrees.

For the first three years, the Oxford course concentrates on a thorough grounding in the core areas, together with the necessary mathematics. At this point, one can take a B.A. Honours degree, or stay on to take the M. Phys. This involves a further year, during which two options are chosen for advanced study – for example, elementary particle physics, astrophysics – which approach the frontiers of research, and individual project work is undertaken, frequently in a research group.

To pit one's wits against Nature is a tough intellectual challenge, but those willing to accept it acquire important skills. They learn to marshal evidence and problem-solve. Physicists have a high level of analytical ability, and can apply it to real situations. This expertise opens the door not only to scientific research, but to a wide variety of careers.

Theology

Tutor: Dr Mark Edwards

Places: 2

You don't have to be a budding priest to do Theology. The study of the Bible and the Christian tradition introduces you to one of the most important elements in world history, and will be of interest to anyone who wants to understand modern European or American thought and culture. For your first exams your options include Biblical study, the doctrine of creation in relation to modern science, the nature of religion, and the history of the early Church; in addition you will have to learn a language – usually Greek or Hebrew, though Arabic may be possible – unless you prefer to take philosophy. (Anyone intending to do Philosophy and Theology will be expected to take the philosophy option, obviously). After these exams you can concentrate your studies on the Bible, or else on Christian doctrine, or on more general topics in world religion. In this last track it would be possible for you to do two papers on Judaism, Hinduism, Islam or Buddhism as well as papers on the nature of religion, psychology of religion, sociology of religion, and philosophy of religion. After your first exams it is now possible to take the new final honours school in Theology and Oriental Studies, which will enable you to devote as many as five of your eight papers to Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, Judaism or Syriac and Armenian Christianity. It is a very varied degree, and there must be more theology teachers per square inch in Oxford than at any other university in the world.

At Christ Church about half your studies would be supervised by the resident theology tutor, and for the other half you would be sent to tutors outside who have long experience of teaching for our college. Though the four Canon professors do not teach, there will be opportunities to meet them; and though attendance at the Cathedral is not compulsory, it serves as a reminder of the intimate connection between English culture and Christianity.

Financial Support

Christ Church is sensitive to the growing financial costs associated with a university education. We are in a fortunate position to be able to offer financial assistance to students who require it.

Christ Church participates in the **Oxford Opportunity Bursary Scheme** whose purpose is to help to support UK students from low income backgrounds, meaning that no home student with the ability and potential to study at Oxford should be deterred from making an application to us based on financial grounds. Details of the University's proposed tuition charge and financial support package available to students starting their course in October 2012 are available on the Oxford website: www.ox.ac.uk/fundingupdate

Christ Church offers a number of **Christ Church Entrance Bursaries**, which give substantial extra help to those from lower income families. The additional help given by Christ Church Bursaries can be up to £2,000 per year for those who are ineligible for Oxford Opportunity Bursaries.

Currently, any student who qualifies for the Oxford Opportunity Bursary, whether in full or a partial award, receives a 10% reduction on their board and lodging costs at Christ Church.

UK residents can apply for up to **28 days' vacation residence grant** to help cover the cost of accommodation if they are required to stay in Oxford outside of term time.

Scholarships (£200 p.a.) and **Exhibitions** (£150 p.a.) are awarded on academic merit to students in their second year.

Book grants of £210 are available to all our undergraduates.

Students who find that they are in unforeseen financial difficulty can apply (through the college) for a **University Hardship Fund** and/or **Government Access to Learning Fund** grant.

Christ Church
O X F O R D

Fees and Charges

University tuition fee for 2010–2011 (Home/EU) – tbc

Lodgings (including dinner) for the 8-week term for 2010–2011 – £1,008.90

Breakfast and lunch are on a pay-as-you-go basis: breakfast is approximately £1.50; lunch is approximately £2.50.

College Officers

The Dean	The Very Revd Christopher Lewis
Censor Theologiae	Prof. John Cartwright
Senior Censor	Dr Ian Watson
Junior Censor	Prof. David Nowell
Tutor for Admissions	Dr Geraldine Johnson
College Chaplain	The Revd Ralph Williamson
Welfare Advisors	Dr Anna Clark, Dr Joseph Schear

Keep in touch

Christ Church is now on Facebook! Go to www.facebook.com/chchadmissions for recent news and admissions updates.

