



Photo: Oliver Bakerwell

OXFORD DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT &
SCHOOL OF ANTHROPOLOGY AND MUSEUM ETHNOGRAPHY

MSc in Migration Studies



UNIVERSITY OF
OXFORD

The Departments

The Oxford Department of International Development (ODID) is the focus for postgraduate teaching and applied research on international development issues at the University of Oxford. It offers a DPhil in International Development, an MPhil in Development Studies and four one-year MSc taught courses to some 200 students.

The Department is known for its frontier research on economic growth and instability, trade and investment, poverty and inequality, insecurity and conflict, the history of social and political change, migration and refugees, global governance and the environment, and children and human development. Its 60 academic and research staff, and six externally funded groups, represent most social science disciplines and world regions. As part of a global epistemic community, it aims to generate ideas that set agendas for scholars, governments, international agencies and civil society.

The School of Anthropology and Museum Ethnography (SAME) is renowned for its contributions to anthropological theory, its commitment to long-term ethnographic fieldwork, and its association with the Pitt Rivers Museum and the anthropology of visual and material culture. Home to over 40 academic staff, 100 doctoral students, 12 masters programmes, and two undergraduate degrees (Human Sciences; Archaeology & Anthropology), Oxford anthropology is one of the world's largest and most vibrant centres for teaching and research in the discipline.

As part of the University of Oxford, the Departments provide an exceptional academic environment. Students are taught by world-class scholars, often in small groups, and have access to the rich resources of the University's historic libraries. They also benefit academically and socially from Oxford's unique, multidisciplinary college communities.

Overview

The interdisciplinary MSc in Migration Studies is jointly offered by the Oxford Department of International Development and the School of Anthropology and Museum Ethnography.

The course draws on the intellectual resources of its two parent departments and the three world-leading migration research centres at Oxford: the Centre on Migration, Policy and Society (COMPAS), the International Migration Institute (IMI) and the Refugee Studies Centre (RSC).

The programme allows students to explore human mobility in a global perspective, and to address the causes and consequences of migration and how these are shaped by governments, societies, and migrants themselves. The course lasts for ten months and normally admits around 26 students a year.

Staff teaching on the MSc in Migration Studies include:

Professor Bridget Anderson (COMPAS)
Dr Oliver Bakewell (IMI)
Dr Mette Louise Berg (COMPAS/Anthropology)
Professor Robin Cohen (IMI)
Dr Cathryn Costello (Law)
Dr Hein de Haas (IMI)
Dr Franck Düvell (COMPAS)
Dr Evelyn Ersanilli (IMI)
Dr Hiranthi Jayaweera (COMPAS)
Professor Michael Keith (COMPAS)
Dr Agnieszka Kubal (IMI)
Dr Martin Ruhs (COMPAS)
Dr Nando Sigona (RSC)
Dr Sarah Spencer, CBE (COMPAS)
Dr Nicholas Van Hear (COMPAS)
Dr Carlos Vargas-Silva (COMPAS)
Dr Xiang Biao (COMPAS)

Course Structure & Teaching

The degree consists of four components, plus a dissertation:

- International Migration in the Social Sciences
- Migration, Globalisation and Social Transformation
- Thematic and Regional Options
- Methods in Social Research

Teaching on the degree is provided by leading scholars in the field and combines lectures, small tutorial groups and discussion seminars. Students have individual dissertation supervision. Teaching is problem-focused and aims to give students critical analytical skills.

The course is assessed on the basis of one essay of 5,000 words; two written exams; a portfolio of three pieces of coursework; and a dissertation of no more than 15,000 words.

We run a short, optional field trip to Istanbul each year – a focal point for many key issues in migration studies. This is an opportunity to meet representatives from international and local NGOs, as well as Turkish scholars and their students.

“The topic of migration is an infinitely complex one and the MSc in Migration Studies has strived to cover this phenomenon from a variety of theoretical perspectives. I particularly enjoyed critical engagement with key concepts utilized in migration studies, such as illegality, the nation, the state, mobility and development. My experience on the MSc in Migration Studies has been on the whole a very positive one. The course helped me develop both a holistic as well as a nuanced understanding of the many processes embedded in migration.”

— Suzana Carp, Graduated 2011

Entry Requirements

Applicants to the MSc in Migration Studies need at least a good upper second-class degree in a social science. However, entrance is very competitive and most successful applicants have a first-class degree or its equivalent (such as a 3.8 GPA in the USA).

It is also possible for students who have not specialized in a social science to read for the degree. Special consideration may be given to those with professional backgrounds in the migration field, such as those who have worked in relevant government departments, international agencies or civil society organizations.

Careers

The course introduces students to key concepts, research and analysis in the economics, politics, sociology and anthropology of migration. It enables students to understand the nature of both internal and international migration and its role in global social and economic change.

The MSc in Migration Studies prepares students to work in an expanding area of international and policy concern. It also prepares students in an area of social science training that will facilitate progression to doctoral studies in the University of Oxford and elsewhere.

Contact

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For information on how to apply, please visit:

<http://www.qeh.ox.ac.uk/study/how-to-apply>

For information on scholarships, please visit:

<http://www.qeh.ox.ac.uk/study/funding>

