

**Course(s): MPhil and MSt in General Linguistics and Comparative Philology**

**Faculty: Linguistics, Philology, and Phonetics Faculty**

1. *Who is the Course Director with overall responsibility for students on this course?*  
Prof. Mary Dalrymple (Director of Graduate Studies)

2. *What induction arrangements are made for new students?*

All students are invited to an induction afternoon covering the structure of the courses, staff and areas of research, IT provision, and other facilities in the Faculty. The Linguistics librarian provides a separate introduction to the Faculty library.

3. *What is the overall length of the course, and for how many weeks are students expected to work in Oxford?*

A course leading to the M.St. is usually expected to last one academic year. Students must be in residence during term time (3 terms of 8 weeks). Students typically work during the Christmas and Easter vacation, but this depends on whether field work is involved, and it is not an official requirement.

The MPhil lasts two academic years. Students must be in residence during term time (3 terms of 8 weeks). Students again typically work during vacation periods, especially during the long vacation between their first and second years when most of their thesis work has to be done.

4. *What is the pattern of lectures, classes, seminars, tutorials and self-directed work for this course?*

MSt: In the first term, students attend a series of introductory classes and lectures covering all major fields of general linguistics, as well as graduate seminars. In the second and third terms, students are provided with approximately 12 tutorials in two areas of specialisation, usually coupled with further lecture attendance (where appropriate and available), and they attend two graduate seminars. During the vacation they are expected to undertake self-directed work. They undertake (optional) thesis work during their second and third term.

MPhil: In the first term, students attend a series of introductory classes and lectures covering all major fields of general linguistics, as well as graduate seminars. From the second through to the sixth term, students are provided with approximately 24 tutorials in three areas of specialisation, usually coupled with further lecture attendance, and attendance at termly graduate seminars (usually including at least one presentation). A thesis-writing workshop is arranged during the fourth term. During the vacation they are expected to undertake self-directed work. During the long vacation and their fourth and fifth terms students undertake work for their compulsory thesis.

5. *What one-to-one or small group teaching will students on this course receive?*

The tutorials mentioned above are all one-to-one or in small groups (depending on the number of students choosing a particular option).

6. *Who will take overall responsibility for an individual student's progress and for completing the joint progress report form in each term of the course?*

Each student is allocated a supervisor.

7. *What workspace will be provided? What IT support/library facilities/experimental facilities will be available?*

There are IT facilities at the Centre for Linguistics and Philology, as well as a common room, although some students choose to use the workspace provided in libraries and colleges. Experimental facilities are available at the Phonetics Lab for students specialising in phonetics, and at the Laboratory for Language and the Brain for students specialising in psycholinguistics.

8. *What opportunities are provided for students to take part in research seminars or groups? What formal research and generic/transferrable skills training will be provided?*

All graduate students are expected to take part in the research seminars. In some terms these seminars are organised as Research Training or Work in Progress seminars, in which those students who are writing a thesis are expected to present their research. During their fourth term MPhil students must attend a Thesis Writing Workshop, which also involves a presentation. For bibliographical searches, the Linguistics librarian organises individual training sessions (upon request). There is also a regular Syntax reading group, and informal reading groups for students in Comparative Philology are often set up.

9. *What are the arrangements for student feedback and for responding to student concerns?*

The Faculty consults with students through a Joint Consultative Committee, which usually meets before the meetings of the Faculty board. Students are also represented on the Faculty board by two graduate student representatives.

10. *What arrangements for accommodation, meals and social facilities will be made?*

College:

Many colleges will be able to provide students with at least one year's accommodation. Generally speaking, the college will provide meals throughout the year, but provision will vary from college to college, especially during vacations, and students will need to familiarise themselves with the college's detailed arrangements. In addition there are usually self-catering facilities available in graduate accommodation. Each graduate student will be a member of the Middle Common Room, or equivalent, of the college, which is the main social centre for graduates. The MCR provides a common room and usually organises a programme of social events throughout the year. The college will also provide a bar, some computing facilities and a library, and may often have dedicated funds for research (conference and field grants). It also represents the interests of its members to the college through an elected Committee or through elected representatives to College Committees. Again, details will vary from college to college. Graduates are also welcome to participate in all other social and sporting activities of the college. Please see individual college websites for further details about all aspects of college provision.

Faculty:

A (bring-your-own) Linguistics lunch takes place every Thursday during term time. For students in Comparative Philology, a weekly sandwich lunch is organised and sponsored by the philology staff. Social events include a welcome party (beginning of Michaelmas term), Christmas party (end of Michaelmas term), Linguistics BBQ (organised by student reps at the end of the academic year), and end-of-exam party (end of Trinity term).

Central:

Graduate Students may become members of the University Club in Mansfield Road, and participate in the range of sporting, musical and other activities supported by the University.

11. *What arrangements are in place for pastoral and welfare support?*

College:

There is an extensive framework of support for graduates within each college. Every student is allocated a College Advisor from among its Senior Members, usually in a cognate subject. He or she will arrange to see each student from time to time and may be contacted for additional advice and support on academic and other matters. In college students may also approach the Tutor for Graduates and/or the Senior Tutor for advice. The Tutor for Graduates is a fellow of the college with particular responsibility for the interests and welfare of graduate students. In some colleges, the Senior Tutor will also have the role of Tutor for Graduates. Each college will also have other named individuals who can offer individual advice.

Faculty:

Where they affect the academic work of students, pastoral issues are discussed at Faculty level in the supervisors' meeting at the end of each term. Students may of course also contact their supervisors or the Director of Graduate Studies regarding pastoral and welfare matters, but more often they might speak to their College advisers first.

Central:

The University has a professionally staffed confidential Student Counselling Service which offers assistance with personal, emotional, social and academic problems. The Careers Service offers impartial, confidential and comprehensive information and guidance on careers.