

HUMANITIES DIVISION

Provision for Postgraduate Taught Students

Course(s): M.St. in Women's Studies

1. *Who are the Course Directors with overall responsibility for students on this course?*

Dr Lynn Robson and Dr Helen Swift.

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

Students receive a handbook before arriving, and are required to attend a meeting in 0th week when they are briefed on the course, meet the Course Directors and others involved in the delivery of the course (and a former student), and receive a library orientation for the Taylor Institution. This being an interdisciplinary course with no dedicated DPhil programme, students are also strongly advised to align themselves with faculties, and to attend relevant library inductions and the inductions for graduate students in their subject areas (English, History, Modern Languages, Philosophy, and Classics).

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

The M.St. course lasts nine months. Students must be in residence during term time (three terms of eight weeks) and teaching continues for eight weeks of each full term.

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

In Michaelmas term, students attend one compulsory lecture per week and two compulsory weekly seminars for the core Theory and Approaches course. In Michaelmas and Hilary terms, students will have tutorials or small seminars with their Options tutors (one Option per term), and will also meet with their supervisor for guidance about initial groundwork for the Dissertation. In Trinity Term, supervision for the Dissertation will continue.

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

Students are taught in groups during Michaelmas term for the core course, and will be taught in small groups for their Options courses. They will receive supervision guidance in one-to-one sessions. The numbers of Women's Studies students vary from year to year, but usually there are between 12 and 15.

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?*

The Course Directors will, at the end of each term, collate reports from individual tutors and compile these into the GSS report. The Course Directors will also be available to students throughout the course to meet to discuss any concerns or questions, or to offer general guidance and information.

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

Humanities graduate students generally work in the Bodleian libraries or a faculty or college library. The Taylor Institution Library, for instance, which houses material for the Women's Studies core course, has a dedicated Graduate Studies Room. A meeting room in Radcliffe Humanities is available for a two-hour lunchtime slot each week for students on the course to meet together. Wifi access is available in most libraries. All colleges provide IT facilities and have access to an IT Officer to support students. In addition, Oxford University IT Services provide a wide range of training courses and excellent resources, and each faculty has IT support staff and facilities.

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

(i) *Research seminars:*

There are regular research seminars linked into the study programme, notably the Gender, Literature & Culture seminar series, as well as events connected to the TORCH Women and the Humanities programme. Women's Studies students have the opportunity to offer their own research presentations in Trinity Term.

(ii) *Faculty-based research skills training:*

Each of the five faculties offer training research skills, including archival research, and students are encouraged to take advantage of these.

(iii) *Faculty-based generic skills training:*

Skills training is provided by the participating faculties for writing funding applications, using Endnote, preparing to teach, and preparing for academic employment. Additional language training is provided by the Language Centre, and additional IT training by Oxford University IT Services. Other skills training is provided online by the University skills portal, or by the Division.

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

Each student completes a termly self-assessment online report (on GSS) describing progress made and raising any concerns. Students are invited to contact the Course Directors directly to discuss questions or concerns at any time during the course. Student progress is monitored in termly meetings of the Standing Committee for the M.St. in Women's Studies (which the Course Directors co-chair), to which representatives of the cohort contribute.

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:

The Course Directors arrange social events during the year, to which the students are invited.

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 interest 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

Students are welcome to approach the Course Directors in the first instance with any concerns, and the Directors will advise on how and with reference to whom these should be followed up, liaising with colleagues in the Faculty/Division and College where appropriate.

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.