



## GRADUATE ADMISSIONS CRITERIA FOR ENTRY IN 2014-15

### DPHIL IN INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

#### 1. Criteria

Within equal opportunities principles and legislation, applications will be assessed in the light of a candidate's ability to meet the following criteria:

#### 2. Academic ability

##### ***Proven and potential academic excellence***

Applicants are normally expected to have achieved a first-class or very high upper second class undergraduate degree (or equivalent international qualifications<sup>1</sup>) in a relevant subject; and be predicted to or have achieved a distinction or very high 2:1 (or equivalent) for their master's degree in a social science subject. The master's degree *must be completed and final transcript available* to the Department by the end of August prior to the start of the DPhil.

For applicants with a degree assessed on the GPA system, the minimum GPA we seek is 3.8 out of 4.0. Entrance is very competitive and most successful applicants have a first-class degree.

We do not seek a Graduate Record Examination (GRE) or GMAT score for this course.

Appropriate indicators will include:

##### ***Three academic references/letters of recommendation***

Three academic references which support intellectual ability, academic achievement, academic writing ability, and motivation should be submitted with the application.

##### ***Written work produced by the student***

Two separate samples of work written solely by the applicant should be submitted. They should each be a maximum of 4000 words long and should be in English only. Extracts from longer pieces are welcome but should be prefaced by a note which puts them in context. These will be assessed for comprehensive understanding of the subject area; ability to construct and defend an argument; powers of analysis; powers of expression; familiarity with the literature on the subject.

##### ***Research proposal***

The research proposal should be written in English only and should be in the region of 3000 words excluding any references/bibliography. This should be sufficient to set out your research topic succinctly. It will be assessed for coherence; originality of the project; evidence of understanding of

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<sup>1</sup> If you hold non-British qualifications, you are advised to check with the National Recognition Information Centre for the United Kingdom (UK NARIC) <http://www.naric.org.uk> how your qualifications match these requirements.

the proposed area of study; the ability to present a reasoned case; the feasibility of successfully completing the project in the time available for the course (a maximum of three to four years); preliminary knowledge of research techniques. It will be normal for your ideas subsequently to change in some ways as you investigate the evidence and develop your project. You should nevertheless make the best effort you can to demonstrate the extent of your research question, sources and method at this moment. Your statement should focus on research etc rather than personal achievements, interests and aspirations.

### ***Performance at interview***

Interviews are not normally held as part of the admissions process for this course.

### **3. Other qualifications and experience**

- Research or working experience in a relevant area may be an advantage but is not essential.
- Evidence of experience in research methods is required.
- Publications are not expected or required for admission, but any can be listed on the CV.

### **4. Availability of supervision, teaching, facilities and places**

The following factors will govern whether candidates can be offered places:

- The ability of the Oxford Department of International Development to provide the appropriate supervision, research opportunities, teaching and facilities for your chosen area of work.
- There are minimum and maximum limits to the numbers of students who may be admitted onto Oxford's research and taught programmes.
- The allocation of graduate supervision for its students is the responsibility of the Oxford Department of International Development and it is not always possible to accommodate the preferences of incoming graduate students to work with a particular member of staff.
- In some circumstances a co-supervisor may be found outside the Oxford Department of International Development.

### **5. English language requirement**

Applicants whose first language is not English are usually required to provide evidence of proficiency in English at the [higher level required by the University](#). The requirement for certification may be waived if there is suitable alternative evidence of the candidate having met the required level of English language proficiency.

### **6. Deadlines and required full set of application materials**

Please refer to the Graduate Admissions website for information on the [deadlines](#) which must be met. We accept applications in the November, January and March deadlines for this course.

For the DPhil in International Development, in addition to the application form, applicants must submit:

- a research proposal (see advice above);
- a current CV;
- three academic references (see advice above);
- two separate pieces of written work (see advice above);

- transcripts for all previous degree courses. Transcripts not originally produced in English must be translated and certified by an official translator. Both original and translation should be submitted
- for those whose first language is not English, a recent (within two years), acceptable certificate of proficiency in English (see Application Guide on the Admissions website)

## **7. Whether you have yet secured funding**

This is not taken into consideration in our decision to make an initial offer a place on the course, but please note that the initial offer of a place from the Department will not be confirmed until the college which also gives you an offer of a place is satisfied that you have sufficient funding to cover your fees and living costs for the standard period of [fee liability](#) for your course.

## **8. Disability, health conditions and specific learning difficulties**

Students are selected for admission without regard to gender, marital or civil partnership status, disability, race, nationality, ethnic origin, religion or belief, sexual orientation, age or social background. Decisions on admission are based solely on the individual academic merits of each candidate and the application of the selection criteria appropriate to the programme of study. Further information on how these matters are supported during the admissions process is available [here](#).

## **9. Other information**

- Applicants do not have to contact potential supervisors prior to submitting an application. However, as an application cannot be accepted if there is no suitable supervisor in the department, applicants are advised to check the [departmental website](#) to see if their proposed research matches with research being done in the Department. Any questions regarding the course or the application process can be sent to: dominique.attala@qeh.ox.ac.uk.
- It would be expected that graduate applicants would be familiar with the recent published work of their proposed supervisor.
- In the case of students who require specific help to adjust to an academic programme or to a new range of skills, the supervisor will work with them to ensure that they have additional support.
- It is advisable for candidates to apply as early as possible and ensure that they submit all required materials by the advertised deadlines.

## **10. Assessors**

All applications will be assessed by more than one member of the academic staff with relevant experience and expertise. In all cases the Director of Graduate Studies, Tutor for Admissions or the Admissions Committee for the course will give final approval to a decision.

Admissions panels or committees will always include at least one member of academic staff who has undertaken appropriate training.

## **11. Course webpage**

[http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/postgraduate\\_courses/course\\_guide/development\\_studies.html](http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/postgraduate_courses/course_guide/development_studies.html)