



12 tips for new DPhil students in the Department of Statistics

Look for accommodation early if you can. The OxGradHousing Facebook group is a good place to start, or try your college, local estate agents, or the Graduate Accommodation Office.

Try to find out the supervision style of your supervisor and ask their existing students how to get the best out of them. If you wish, ask them for background materials or suggested reading before you arrive to get off to a flying start!

Talk to people who do different things! The department is diverse in areas of study which is great for collaborations.

Get to know people at the department social events: we have Tuesday morning coffee at 10:45am, and during term time we have drinks at 4:30pm on Fridays.

Enjoy the excellent facilities of the recently refurbished building; there are showers in the basement and a secure, covered bike shelter at the back of the building.

Guidelines produced by the Mathematical, Physical and Life Sciences division state that the average number of hours worked by a DPhil student should not exceed 48 hours per week. It is ok to work more than this occasionally, but not all the time!

The Daily Info website (www.dailyinfo.co.uk) is a good place to find out what's going on in Oxford. It's also another place to find accommodation!

There are plenty of nearby locations to buy lunch, for example the Maths Institute, Physics cafe, Biochemistry cafe, and Taylors.

Transfer of status happens at the end of your first year of research. You have to prepare a piece of written work (guidelines are on the department website) and be assessed on it during a viva - this is an opportunity to get independent and constructive feedback from your examiners.

You'll have to present a poster during your DPhil - the Department holds poster sessions during Trinity term (for first years) and Hilary term (for second years). You may also get to present posters externally (e.g. at conferences). Posters can be printed through the Physics department, or Reprographics.

Most people in the department use Linux. We have a generous home directory of 8 GB which is the same when you log into any compute server in the department - however, don't use this area for write intensive jobs as they will run faster if you write to local storage. Your home directory is backed up every day; local storage is backed up every week.

Opportunities for paid teaching in the department are coordinated centrally and you will get a chance to sign up at the end of your first year to teach in your second year. The department can expect each student to contribute a minimum of 12 hours per year if demand exceeds the number of hours offered by students.