

## Information about the *part-time* DPhil in Socio-Legal Studies

Each year we receive a high number of applications for the part-time doctorate (DPhil) in Socio-Legal Studies. We can offer up to 2 places each year. Before submitting an application please bear the following points in mind:

- We are looking in applications for very strong first degree performance, i.e. at least a 2,1 (65%) degree classification or equivalent, or at least a 3.7 out of 4 GPA.
- In composing your max. 1000 words research proposal you may want to give attention to formulating a specific research question, indicate a conceptual framework that will enable you to frame your research in a distinct way, and situate your research in relevant bodies of academic literature. If you are considering to carry out an empirical project you may also want to specify briefly what sources of qualitative and/or quantitative data you wish to rely upon, whether you can gain access to these data and how you might analyse them.

The part-time degree offers the opportunity, including for senior practitioners, to study part-time for a doctorate in the field of Socio-Legal Studies, under the supervision of a member of staff of the Centre for Socio-Legal Studies, an internationally leading Centre in the field of law and society research.

A part-time DPhil can be completed in up to 8 years. Students are expected to spend at least 30 days per academic year physically in Oxford to pursue their research, meet with their supervisor and take research training and other relevant seminars, as well as attend academic events. Part-time students are expected to commit approximately 20 hours per week to their studies.

As part of the Oxford DPhil students submit written materials for a so-called 'Qualifying Test'. For part-time students this milestone is usually completed during the 6<sup>th</sup> term of their study. Students then complete at a later stage another milestone that assesses progress in the research degree. This 'confirmation of status' usually occurs during the 12<sup>th</sup> term of part-time students' study.

Students pursue – in discussion with their supervisor – their own research projects. Part-time students are also required to take the 'Theory and Methods in Socio-Legal Research' course which runs on Mondays, 2-4 pm during Michaelmas and Hilary Terms, and on Mondays, 2-4 pm during the first two weeks of Trinity Term. This is the only compulsory course that both full-time and part-time students need to take in order to pursue a DPhil. Part-time students, however, can complete the 'Theory and Methods in Socio-Legal Research' course over a two year period. They therefore do not have to attend each consecutive Monday during their first and second year the 'Theory and Methods in Socio-Legal Research' course.

Hence, the research methods training we provide is well suited to part-time study as our core training provision is organised in one block on Mondays. The methodology seminars are regularly followed by a seminar and discussion at 4.30 to 6 pm, followed by an informal 'drinks and nibbles' session in the Centre.

Part-time students (as well as full-time students) may wish to complement research training obtained through the 'Theory and Methods in Socio-Legal Research course' with training courses offered by the Social Science Division. Information about these courses, including when they are offered, can be found here: <http://researchtraining.socsci.ox.ac.uk/>

Students who have accepted offers are advised to discuss with their prospective supervisor which training sessions would be most suitable also in connection with their specific research project.

International students considering pursuit of the part-time DPhil in Socio-Legal Studies may want to consider visa requirements. Further information can also be obtained from the Oxford University Student Immigration Service here: <https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/visa?wssl=1>

Dr. Bettina Lange, Director of Graduate Studies, Centre for Socio-Legal Studies, 30.05.2019.