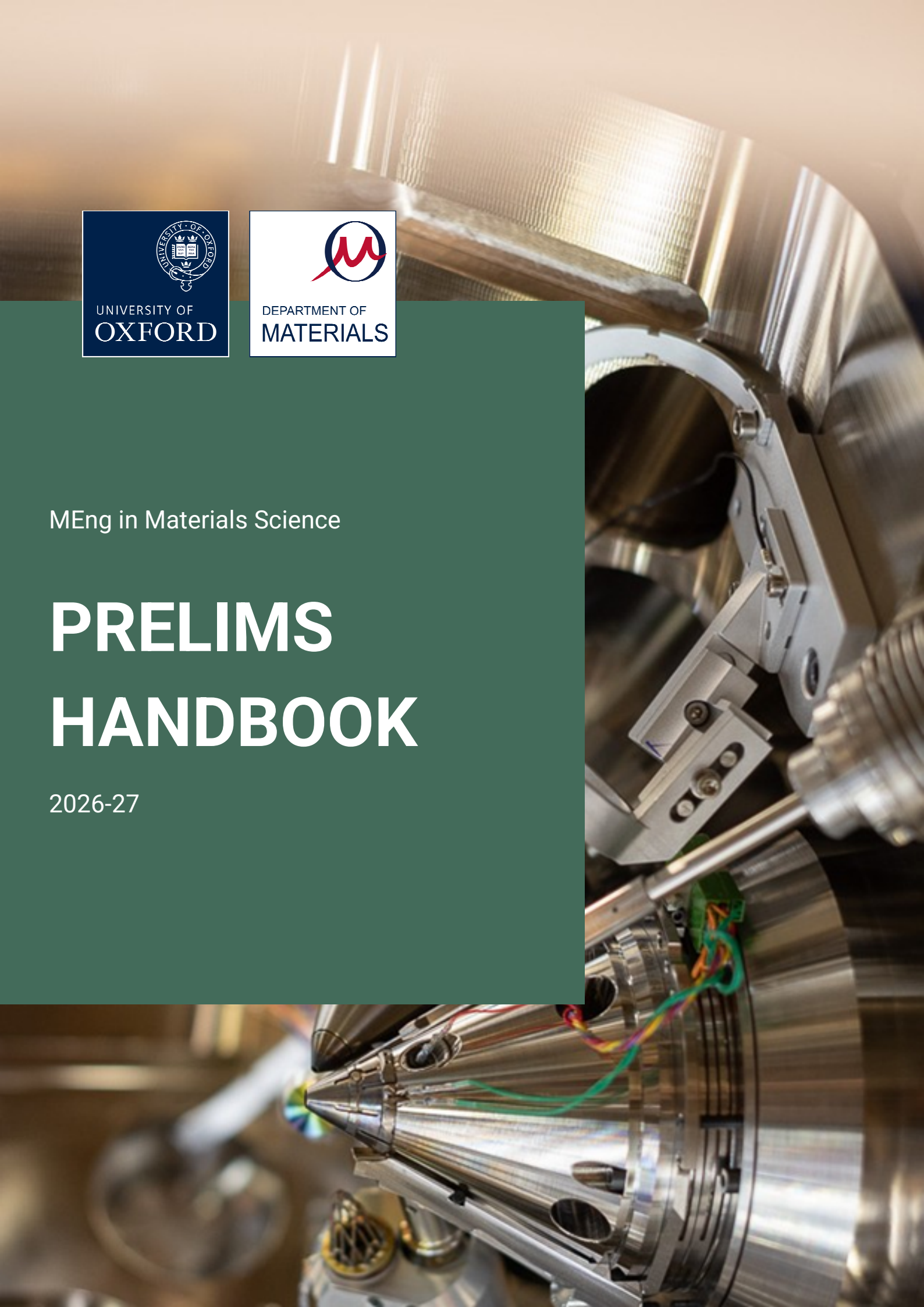


UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

DEPARTMENT OF MATERIALS

MEng in Materials Science

PRELIMS HANDBOOK

2026-27

1. Foreword

1.1 Statement of coverage

This handbook applies to students starting the first year of the MEng in Materials Science in Michaelmas term 2026. The information in this handbook may be different for students starting in other years.

The Examination Regulations relating to this course are available at Preliminary Examination in Materials Science (ox.ac.uk). If there is a conflict between information in this handbook and the Examination Regulations then you should follow the Examination Regulations. If you have any concerns, please contact the Education Support Team (undergraduate.studies@materials.ox.ac.uk).

1.2 Version

Version	Details	Date
Version 1.0	Handbook published	October 2026

1.3 Disclaimer

The information in this handbook is accurate as of October 2026. However, it may be necessary for changes to be made in certain circumstances, as explained at Potential course changes. If such changes are made the department will publish a new version of this handbook together with a list of the changes and students will be informed.

Front cover image credit John Cairns

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1.5 Welcome

A very warm welcome to the Oxford University Department of Materials. We aspire to be one of the best Departments of Materials Science and Engineering in the world, and the undergraduate students are an important component of our past and future success.

Our aim is to provide you with education and training that will enable you to develop the knowledge, skills and understanding that will help you to obtain employment at a professional level in industry or government, to pursue subsequent graduate studies, or to start your own high-tech business! The four-year programme offers graduates an accredited MEng honours degree, covering the science and engineering of materials within the context of a well-rounded general education. The programme is designed to balance the coverage of different elements of materials science. The coverage of materials includes metals, ceramics, polymers and their composites. The coverage of disciplines includes physics, chemistry, engineering and mathematics and the coverage of properties includes mechanical, thermal, electronic and optical. We also encourage you to investigate the relationship between Materials Science and Society; wealth creation, employment generation and new scientific and technological developments.

Everyone in the Department is committed to achieving our aims, and all believe that the Department should be a friendly and exciting place for study and work. We look forward to your contribution and we hope that you will find your time here both stimulating and enjoyable.



Professor James Marrow

Director of Undergraduate Studies

1.5.1 Purpose of the Handbook

This handbook provides an overview of the first year of the MEng in Materials Science and serves as a reference for the key requirements of the course. It covers the course structure, teaching and assessment arrangements, and other information relevant to your first year.

The handbook should be used alongside the current course information and materials provided on Canvas and the other sources listed below.

A handbook covering the second and third years will be provided at the beginning of your second year, with further guidance for Part II provided at the beginning of your fourth year.

1.5.2 Other key sources of information

Canvas is the main source of information about your teaching and coursework, including lecture lists, course materials, practical information and submission details. Reading lists are provided through Oxford Reading Lists Online (ORLO) and can be accessed via the relevant course on Canvas.

The Department website provides information about the Department, including contact details for academic and professional services staff.

The Examination Regulations contain the formal rules governing your course and examinations. The Examination Conventions explain how assessed work is marked and how marks are used to determine examination outcomes. You will be notified when the Conventions that apply to you are available; previous years' Conventions are available on Canvas.

The Oxford Students website provides information about the services and resources available to you across the University. For general information and guidance and formal notification and explanation of the University's codes, regulations, policies and procedures, refer to the University Student Handbook. For college regulations, refer to your college Handbook.

1.6 Useful Department contacts

The Education Support Team is the first point of contact for any questions about your course: undergraduate.studies@materials.ox.ac.uk.

Roya Stuart-Rees – Education Support Manager
Tom Heath – Senior Education Officer
Sharmaine Ijada – Education Support Officer
Nevi Muka – Education Support Officer
Freha O'Reilly – Education Support Officer

The **Director of Undergraduate Studies**, Professor James Marrow, can also be contacted:

james.marrow@materials.ox.ac.uk.

The JCCU student representatives are listed on Canvas.

The disability and welfare contacts can be found on the Department website.

1.7 Buildings, locations, maps and access

Most Materials teaching takes place in the Hume-Rothery Building, Holder Building and 21 Banbury Road. The Hume-Rothery Building contains the main lecture theatre, Departmental Library and Education Support Team office, while practical classes take place in the Holder Building. You may also have teaching in nearby Engineering Science buildings.

Maps and accessibility information for University buildings are available through the University Map and Access Guide.

You will need your University card to access Materials buildings. If you have any problems with access, contact Reception in the Hume-Rothery Building.

1.8 Important dates and deadlines

The Oxford year is divided into three terms and three vacations. Within each term, a 'Full Term' of eight weeks is the main teaching period. The dates of Full Term for this year are below. Future dates of term are published on the University website.

Dates of Term 2026/27

Term	From	To
Michaelmas 2026	Sunday 11 October	Saturday 5 December
Hilary 2027	Sunday 17 January	Saturday 13 March
Trinity 2027	Sunday 25 April	Saturday 19 June

Key Assessment Dates

Term	Week	Day & Time	What
Hilary 2027	Week 5	Tuesday 16 February, 12 noon	Computing for Materials Science submission deadline
Trinity 2027	Week 7 *provisional*		Written exams
September 2027	First two weeks		Resit exams

Practical coursework

Report deadlines vary according to your practical schedule and are provided on Canvas.

2. The course content and structure

2.1 Overview

The MEng in Materials Science is a four-year undergraduate programme leading to a Level 7 qualification on the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ). The programme is aligned with the QAA Materials Subject Benchmark Statement.

The MEng is accredited by the Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining (IOM3), on behalf of the UK Engineering Council, towards the achievement of Chartered Engineer status.

Students may transfer at the beginning of their third year to the three-year BA (Hons) in Materials Science, a Level 6 qualification on the FHEQ. The BA is not accredited by IOM3 or the UK Engineering Council.

2.2 Course aims

The programme aims to:

- provide a course of high academic quality in Materials Science in a challenging and supportive learning environment that attracts some of the best students from the UK and elsewhere;
- provide students with a broad, balanced knowledge of Materials Science, supported by the necessary background science;
- develop transferable skills related to problem solving, communication, practical experimentation, and computing;
- bring students to a position on graduation that allows them to choose confidently from many careers, whether within Materials Science or not, and enables them to contribute rapidly to their chosen employment. This includes bringing them to a position to start graduate study for a research degree at a leading university either in the UK or overseas.

2.3 Intended learning outcomes

You will develop knowledge of:

- The general theoretical and experimental principles and techniques of physics, chemistry and engineering in a Materials Science context;
- A broad range of Materials Science topics;
- How the subject is applied in an industrial context, and the different problems associated with the business world;
- The application of relevant mathematical techniques;

- Sound experimental protocol, including laboratory safety, data handling and analysis, and communication of scientific results and conclusions;
- Independent research skills, integrity in research, and project management;
- Sustainability, environmental impact and ethics;
- Basic IT skills, including information searching, and numerical methods as applied to Materials Science;
- How to work as part of a team.

You will also acquire and develop a particular set of intellectual and practical skills:

Intellectual skills

- Appreciation of the underlying principles of Materials Science, supported by an understanding of the necessary basic science required in studying this interdisciplinary subject.
- An understanding of the processes, and principles involved, that lead to the appropriate application of materials, the importance of materials to industry and society as well as an awareness of sustainability, environmental issues and safety.
- An understanding of engineering principles in order to understand the manufacturing methods and service performance of materials.
- Ability to apply appropriate mathematical or numerical techniques to materials-based phenomena.
- Ability to conduct a logical discussion and argue a coherent point of view.
- Ability to solve a range of known problems and tackle unseen and more open-ended ones.
- Ability to collate, analyse and interpret complex experimental data and infer conclusions where appropriate.
- Ability to summarise scientific arguments and facts and to give succinct oral and written presentations, using IT-based methods where appropriate.
- Ability to search for, summarise and critique information in the scientific & engineering literature.

Practical skills

- Awareness of the need for safety in practical laboratories, and the importance of good laboratory practice including the use of a laboratory notebook.
- Ability to use a wide range of experimental techniques to make quantitative measurements, and to be able to draw scientifically rigorous conclusions from these observations.
- Ability to plan, execute and write up both short projects, and long open-ended projects.
- Awareness of the applications of practical Materials Science.
- Basic knowledge of safe workshop practice and development of basic workshop skills.

2.4 Course structure

The MEng in Materials Science is a four-year programme. The first year provides a foundation in the scientific and mathematical principles of Materials Science. You study four compulsory papers:

- Materials Science 1: Physical Foundations of Materials
- Materials Science 2: Structure and Mechanical Properties of Materials
- Materials Science 3: Transforming Materials
- Mathematics for Materials Science

Alongside the four papers, you undertake assessed coursework in practical work, Crystallography and Computing for Materials Science (CMS). The first year also includes Engineering Drawing and CAD and other introductory activities.

In the second year, you study the core areas of Materials Science, including the lifecycle, processing and engineering of materials; electronic properties; mechanical properties; and structure and thermodynamics. In the third year, you select from a range of Materials options and undertake project and coursework activities. Further information about Years 2 and 3, including the options available to your cohort, will be provided in the course handbook issued at the beginning of your second year and on Canvas.

The fourth year centres on an extended individual research project, which is assessed by thesis and oral examination.

Teaching throughout the programme is informed by the Department's research. Current research and developments in Materials Science are incorporated into lectures, tutorials and reading, and you will develop research skills through practical and project work. As you progress through the course, you will have increasing opportunities to engage with the Department's research environment, including through specialist options, research equipment and seminars. This culminates in the extended individual research project in the fourth year.

Outline course structure

Year	Course Structure	Stage
Year 1	Four compulsory papers Practical work Crystallography work Computing for Materials Science	Prelims
	EXAMINATION **Prelims**	
Year 2	Four core papers Practical Work Industrial Visits & Talks Entrepreneurship Coursework Foreign Language (optional) Supplementary Subject (optional)	FHS Part I
Year 3	Materials Options Papers Team Design Project Introduction to Modelling in Materials Industrial Visits & Talks *either* Advanced Characterisation of Materials *or* Atomistic Modelling	FHS Part I
	EXAMINATION **Final Honour School Part I**	
Year 4	Subject of Investigation – Research Project (Thesis)	FHS Part II
	EXAMINATION **Final Honour School Part II**	

The programme is designed as a four-year MEng, but students who decide not to continue to the fourth year may transfer at the start of Year 3 to the three-year BA in Materials Science (Route 1). Students taking Route 1 study a smaller set of Materials option courses and complete a literature-based research module. It is also possible to transfer to the BA in Materials Science at the end of Year 3 (Route 2). Students taking Route 2 follow the same Materials option course structure as MEng students and take the same full-length written option papers. They also complete a literature-based research module. The BA is not accredited by IOM3 or the UK Engineering Council.

2.5 Syllabus

Detailed syllabus information, including teaching staff, learning aims, lecture and class schedules, course synopses, reading lists and other learning materials, is available on Canvas.

3. Teaching and learning

3.1 Organisation of teaching and learning

Teaching on the Materials Science course is shared between the Department and your college. The Department provides lectures, classes, practicals and other course-specific teaching. Your college organises your tutorials and has primary responsibility for your pastoral care.

Lectures are the principal means by which the core content of the course is delivered, and you are strongly encouraged to attend them. Reading lists and other course materials supplement the lectures, and lecturers may also provide notes, problem sheets and other resources through Canvas. The nature and extent of these materials will vary between courses.

Lectures are normally recorded and made available through Canvas within 24 hours, although availability cannot be guaranteed in the event of technical problems. In some cases, access may be restricted to students with a Student Support Plan. Recordings are provided to support your learning and are not a substitute for attending lectures. You must not make your own audio, video or photographic recordings of teaching sessions without permission. Further information is provided in the University's Educational Recordings Policy.

Practicals, usually undertaken in pairs or threes, supplement and extend the material covered in lectures and tutorials. They allow you to develop experimental skills and apply scientific principles in a laboratory setting.

Classes are used in some subjects to work through and discuss problems related to material covered in lectures.

Current information about lectures, classes and practicals, including teaching schedules, is available on Canvas.

Tutorials are a key part of the programme and are compulsory. They are organised by your college and usually involve two or three students. You will normally complete written work in advance, based on question sheets provided by course lecturers, and should typically expect to spend 6–8 hours preparing for a one-hour tutorial.

Tutorials give you the opportunity to explore material introduced in lectures in greater depth, discuss your approach to problems and raise questions with your tutor. The feedback you receive will help you assess your progress, identify strengths and gaps in your understanding, and develop your ability to apply the material you are studying.

The amount and pattern of teaching varies between terms and is summarised in the Recommended Pattern of Teaching below.

If you have any issues with teaching or supervision please raise these as soon as possible so that they can be addressed promptly. Details of who to contact are provided in section *7.2 Complaints and appeals*.

3.1.1 Recommended pattern of teaching

Figures in the following table are in hours unless otherwise stated.

YEAR 1 'PRELIMS' Paper	Term	Department		College	
		Lectures	Classes	Tutorials	Classes
Materials Science 1 – Physical Foundations of Materials (40)	MT	8		10	
	HT	28			
	TT	4			
Materials Science 2 – Structure and Mechanical Properties of Materials (40)	MT	16		10	
	HT	12			
	TT	12			
Materials Science 3 – Transforming Materials (40)	MT	24		10	
	HT	8			
	TT	8			
Mathematics for Materials Science (37)	MT	19			8
	HT	18			8
Crystallography	MT		9		
	HT		9		
Computing for Materials Science	MT		6		
	HT		6		
Practical Classes	MT		22		
	HT		25		
	TT		13		
Non-examined elements Introduction to Errors in Measurement	MT	2			
Engineering Drawing and CAD Classes	HT		6		

3.2 Practical classes

Practical work is an important part of the Materials Science course and forms part of your examinable coursework. There are ten practicals in the first year, normally undertaken in groups of two or three. Your practical schedule, group allocation, instructions and detailed guidance are available on Canvas.

3.2.1 Attendance

Attendance at all practicals is compulsory. You must attend the Senior Demonstrator's briefing, attend for the full scheduled session and sign in and out each day. You must not start a practical until you have attended the briefing and been given permission to begin.

If you are unable to attend all or part of a scheduled practical, discuss this with your college Tutor and submit the Request for Absence, Rescheduling or Other Changes form on Canvas as soon as possible. You must provide appropriate supporting evidence, such as medical evidence or confirmation from your college, within 14 days of the missed session. Unapproved absence may result in a mark penalty and could ultimately result in failure of Prelims. See the Examination Conventions for details of the penalties that apply.

3.2.2 Assessment

The first two practicals (1P1 and 1P2) are not assessed. Assessment of the remaining practicals includes laboratory notebooks and long reports, together with formative assessment designed to help you develop these skills.

Although experiments are carried out in groups, all assessed work is individual. Laboratory notebooks must be completed as you carry out the experiment and handed back to the Practical Class Technician at the end of each practical; they must not normally leave the laboratory. Long reports are submitted through Canvas, normally three weeks after the practical.

The practical schedule on Canvas shows the assessment associated with each practical and the relevant submission deadlines. Further information about the contribution of practical coursework to Prelims is provided in section 4.1 *Assessment structure*.

3.2.3 Satisfactory completion

To complete the practical component satisfactorily, you must achieve an overall practical mark of at least 40%, complete all required assessed work and meet the attendance requirements for the practical course.

Failure to complete the practical component satisfactorily means that you will not have satisfied the requirements of the coursework paper. Failure of the coursework paper will normally result in failure of Prelims, and Materials coursework cannot normally be retaken.

3.2.4 Safety

The Teaching Laboratory is a professional working environment. You must attend the compulsory safety briefings, follow the laboratory rules and practical instructions, and follow the instructions of laboratory staff and demonstrators. Experiment-specific hazards and precautions will be explained before each practical.

When working in the laboratory:

- pay attention to laboratory staff and demonstrators and follow all safety instructions;
- familiarise yourself with fire escape routes and keep fire doors closed and escape routes clear;
- wear appropriate eye and hand protection, clothing and footwear, and keep long hair tied back;
- use a fume cupboard when working with etchants and solvents, and use only the minimum quantities of flammable liquids;
- wash your hands before leaving the laboratory, particularly after working with chemicals;
- keep the laboratory clean and report equipment failures, breakages, leaks or injuries;
- be punctual and sign in and out each day; and
- do not eat, drink or apply make-up, use your mobile phone, behave in a way that could endanger yourself or others, or begin a practical without permission and appropriate supervision.

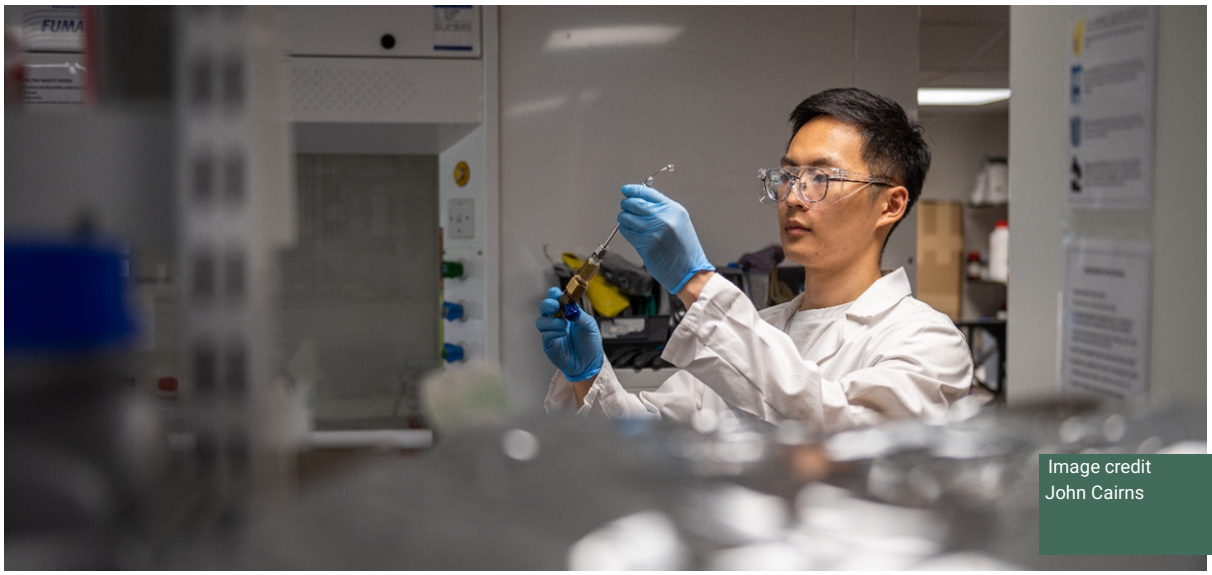


Image credit
John Cairns

For safety reasons, English must be spoken at all times in the Teaching Laboratory, so that instructions and discussions concerning laboratory work can be understood by those around you.

Detailed guidance on laboratory conduct, keeping a laboratory notebook and writing scientific reports is provided in the Introduction to the Teaching Laboratory on Canvas.

3.3 Crystallography classes

Crystallography is taught through six compulsory classes in Michaelmas and Hilary terms. In each class you will complete a piece of work specified by the Senior Demonstrators. The first piece of work is formative and provides feedback to help you with the remaining five pieces, which contribute to your Prelims assessment.

Attendance at all Crystallography classes is compulsory and recorded. If you are unable to attend a class, you must submit the Excusal Form via Canvas as soon as possible and provide appropriate supporting evidence within 14 days of the missed class. Unapproved absence could ultimately result in failure of Prelims.

To complete the Crystallography component satisfactorily, you must achieve an overall mark of at least 40% and submit the required work for every class. Failure to complete the Crystallography component satisfactorily means that you will not have satisfied the requirements of the coursework paper. Failure of the coursework paper will normally result in failure of Prelims.

The class schedule, submission requirements and other detailed guidance are provided on Canvas. See the Examination Conventions for details of the penalties that apply.

3.4 Computing for Materials Science

Computing for Materials Science (CMS) develops the computational skills you will need to address Materials Science problems. Teaching uses MATLAB, but many of the principles and skills you develop are applicable to other programming languages and computational approaches. CMS introduces applications including modelling, data analysis and visualisation.

CMS classes combine taught material with guided, hands-on exercises. The exercises are not assessed, but you are expected to work through them and discuss your findings with the Senior Demonstrator or Teaching Assistants. This work prepares you for the assessed individual CMS project. Support is also available during designated surgery sessions for technical queries.

Attendance at all CMS classes is compulsory and recorded. If you are unable to attend a class, you must submit the Excusal Form via Canvas as soon as possible and provide appropriate supporting evidence within 14 days of the missed class. Unapproved absence could ultimately result in failure of Prelims.

CMS is assessed through an individual 1,500-word report and working MATLAB script, submitted through Inspera. You should expect to spend approximately eight hours of independent study on the project. The submission deadline is **12 noon on Tuesday of Week 5 of Hilary Term (16 February 2027)**.

To complete the CMS component satisfactorily, you must achieve a mark of at least 40%.

3.5 Placements and exchange

Students are encouraged to gain experience in industry or a research environment during the course. The Department supports students in finding summer vacation projects and placements in industry and university research laboratories, and a number of opportunities are co-ordinated by the Department. Overseas exchange and research opportunities, including opportunities in China and Japan, may also be available.

Different opportunities are available at different stages of the course. Financial assistance towards travel and accommodation may be available for eligible projects and exchanges. Further information about opportunities, eligibility, applications, funding and deadlines is provided through briefings during the course.

In the fourth year, the Part II research project may be undertaken externally, including in industry or at another university – the Department has an exchange agreement for Part II projects with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). Further information about Part II projects is provided in the Part I and Part II handbooks.

The University Careers Service also provides information about internships and work experience in the UK and internationally, including opportunities advertised through CareerConnect.

3.6 Projects/dissertations

Project work becomes an increasingly important part of the Materials Science programme as you progress through the course. The fourth year of the MEng centres on an extended individual research project, which is assessed by thesis and oral examination.

Detailed information about projects, including project selection, supervision, assessment and requirements for the thesis, is provided on Canvas.

3.7 Expectations of Study and Student Workload

The University's expectation is that undergraduate students treat academic study as a full-time commitment during Full Term, with approximately 40 hours per week typically being spent on academic work; this includes both scheduled contact time (tutorials, lectures, classes, practicals etc.) and time spent in private study. This is based on the expectation that these hours are spent on focussed, concentrated academic work.

It is recognised that workloads will vary week to week, and you will sometimes need or wish to work for longer. If you find it impossible to meet your academic obligations without spending significantly longer than 48 hours per week on academic study on a regular basis (rather than occasionally, or for a limited time period), you should seek advice from your tutor.

Managing deadlines is an important part of managing your workload. You should make sure that you know when work is set and when it is due, and plan ahead across the term rather than considering each deadline in isolation. It may be helpful to record your assessment deadlines in your calendar, break larger pieces of work into smaller stages and build in some contingency time. You should also take account of your academic workload before taking on significant additional commitments.

You are also expected to engage in private study and/or revision during part of each vacation. You will need to do this in preparation for college collections (mock exams) that are held at the end of 0th week in most terms – your tutors will provide you with the specific details. During the vacations, you should go over the tutorial problems and your notes, revising the material and supplementing it with information gained from tutorials and from your own reading. In addition to consolidating the previous term's work, there may be preparatory reading for the next term's courses. Your tutors may also set you some specific vacation work.

Your college tutor will advise you more specifically on matters such as the amount of time you devote to private study and revision.

Academic work should take priority over paid employment during term. University guidance on paid work is available on the Oxford Students website.



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4. Assessment

4.1 Assessment structure

There are three stages of University examination for the MEng in Materials Science: the Preliminary Examination ('Prelims') at the end of your first year; Part I of the Final Honour School at the end of your third year; and Part II of the Final Honour School in your fourth year. You must pass Prelims to progress to the second year, but your Prelims result does not contribute to your final degree classification.

Prelims comprises four written examination papers and assessed coursework. The contribution of each component to your overall Prelims result is shown below.

Assessment Unit	Format	Contribution to Prelims
Materials Science 1: Physical Foundations of Materials	Handwritten Exam	20%
Materials Science 2: Structure and Mechanical Properties of Materials	Handwritten Exam	20%
Materials Science 3: Transforming Materials	Handwritten Exam	20%
Mathematics for Materials Science	Handwritten Exam	20%
Practical work	Coursework	10%
Crystallography work	Coursework	5%
Computing for Materials Science	Coursework	5%

The detailed assessment requirements, including progression, compensation and resits, are set out in the Examination Regulations and Examination Conventions.

4.2 Feedback on learning and assessment

Throughout the year, you will receive guidance on your work and progress in a variety of ways. Your Tutor can help you reflect on your progress and make effective use of the feedback provided through tutorials, classes and assessed work.

Tutorials provide regular opportunities to discuss your work and receive feedback from your tutor, both through discussion and through comments on work completed in advance. You will receive termly reports on your academic progress.

College collections provide formative practice in answering examination-style questions. Materials Science uses centrally set Collections, so students in the same year sit the same paper. Reviewing your performance with your tutor can help you identify strengths and areas for improvement and develop your approach to examination questions.

Feedback is also provided through Departmental classes and other teaching activities. You will receive feedback on first-year coursework, including practical work and Crystallography. The first assessed activities in these areas include formative opportunities designed to help you prepare for subsequent summative assessment. Feedback on practical work is provided through Canvas, and feedback and comments are provided on Crystallography classwork.

Following Prelims, you will receive your examination results through Student Self Service. More general feedback on the performance of the cohort is provided through the Examiners' reports, which are available on Canvas.

4.3 Examination conventions

Examination conventions are the formal record of the specific assessment standards for the course or courses to which they apply. They set out how your examined work will be marked and how the resulting marks will be used to arrive at a final result and classification of your award. They include information on: marking scales, marking and classification criteria, scaling of marks, progression, resits, use of viva voce examinations, penalties for late submission, and penalties for over-length work.

The Conventions for your year will be published on Canvas, normally in Hilary term. You will be notified by email when they are available.

4.4 Good academic practice and avoiding plagiarism

The University defines plagiarism as follows:

"Presenting work or ideas from another source as your own, with or without consent of the original author, by incorporating it into your work without full acknowledgement. All published and unpublished material, whether in manuscript, printed or electronic form, is covered under this definition, as is the use of material generated wholly or in part through use of artificial intelligence (save when use of AI for assessment has received prior authorisation e.g. as a reasonable adjustment for a student's disability). Plagiarism can also include re-using your own work without citation. Under the regulations for examinations, intentional or reckless plagiarism is a disciplinary offence."

Plagiarism can take a number of forms, including:

- quoting another source without appropriate acknowledgement;
- cutting and pasting material from the internet without acknowledgement;
- paraphrasing another person's work without clear acknowledgement;
- presenting another person's ideas or opinions as your own;
- collusion;
- misleading citation;
- failing to acknowledge assistance; and
- using material written by another person, a professional agency or generated by artificial intelligence without appropriate acknowledgement.

Good academic practice requires you to make a clear distinction between your own work and ideas and those derived from other sources. You should keep an accurate record of the sources you use and acknowledge them appropriately in your work. This applies not only to written text and ideas, but also to data, figures, diagrams, images and other material derived or adapted from another source.

Please see the University website's guidance on plagiarism and on developing academic good practice. These resources include guidance on referencing, note-taking, research and library skills, information literacy and time management.

You will be required to complete the University's Online Plagiarism Course at the start of Part II, before beginning your research project.

4.4.1 Use of generative AI in assessed work

The Department encourages you to develop a confident and responsible approach to using generative artificial intelligence (AI) in your studies. However, whether and how AI may be used in assessed work depends on the assessment. Unauthorised use of AI in preparing work for summative assessment is academic misconduct, even if you subsequently amend the AI-generated output.

For Prelims, the following categories of AI use apply:

Assessment	AI Category	Description
Crystallography question sheets	Category 1 – Prohibited	No use of AI is permitted.
Computing for Materials Science report and MATLAB script	Category 2 – Minimal	Spelling and grammar checking and other non-substantive uses are permitted.
Practical laboratory notebooks and scientific reports	Category 2 – Minimal *or* Category 3 – Selective	Depending on the practical class, assessed work may be designated by the academic lead as either Category 2 (Minimal Use) or Category 3 (Selective Use). Please see Canvas for details.

You must read the Materials Science guidance on the use of generative AI on Canvas before using AI in assessed work. This explains what constitutes substantive use, the specific uses permitted for each category, and the requirements for declaring AI use, including example declarations. You remain responsible for the accuracy, integrity and content of the work you submit.

4.5 Entering for University Examinations

You will be entered for Prelims assessments automatically.

For Part I, you will be required to enter for your examinations and assessed coursework, including your choice of Entrepreneurship, Foreign Language or a Supplementary Subject in Year 2, and Atomistic Modelling or Advanced Characterisation of Materials in Year 3. Students progressing to Part II are automatically entered for the assessment in Year 4.

You will receive further information about the examination entry process and deadlines at the appropriate time.

If you need exam adjustments (for example, extra time or rest time), you must apply for exam adjustments no later than Friday of Week 4 of the term before the exam is due to take place. It is your responsibility to request exam adjustments and provide any supporting evidence required. Requests may, for urgent reasons, be considered nearer to the date of your exam. Further information is available on the examination adjustments page.

Further information about examination entry and the University examinations and assessment process is available on the Oxford Students website.

4.6 Examination dates

Your exam timetable will be published on the University's examination timetables page, normally at least six weeks before the start of the examination.

Prelims normally take place in Week 7 of Trinity term. Part I written examinations normally take place in Weeks 6 and 7 of Trinity term.

4.7 Sitting your in-person examination

Prelims examinations are handwritten exams, taken in person. Practical information and support for sitting in-person examinations, including what to bring, examination conduct and what to do on the day, is available on the Oxford Students website.

4.8 Calculators and supplementary materials

For Prelims, the only calculators permitted are from the CASIO fx-83, CASIO fx-85 and SHARP EL-531 series. Calculators are not permitted in the Mathematics for Materials Science examination.

A formulae booklet is incorporated at the back of each Prelims examination paper. In the MS1, MS2 and MS3 papers, values of constants are provided on page 2 and a periodic table is provided on the final page. The Trinity Term 2026 examination papers, available through SOLO, show the format and layout of the papers.

4.9 Submitted work

The assessed coursework for Prelims comprises Practical Classes, Crystallography and Computing for Materials Science (CMS). Submission arrangements and deadlines vary between these components.

For Practical Classes, deadlines depend on your practical group and on whether the assessment is a laboratory notebook or a scientific report. The Practical Class schedule on Canvas shows the practical groups, group membership and the relevant assessment deadlines. Laboratory notebooks are completed during the practical and must remain in the Teaching Laboratory; scientific reports are submitted via Canvas. You are responsible for checking the deadlines that apply to your group and submitting your work by the stated date and time.

For Crystallography, the required work is submitted at the end of the relevant class. The schedule of classes is provided on Canvas.

For Computing for Materials Science (CMS), the individual report and working MATLAB script must be submitted via Inspera by **12 noon on Tuesday of Week 5 of Hilary Term (16 February 2027)**.

All submitted work must comply with the University's requirements for academic integrity and authorship, and with the rules governing the use and declaration of generative AI. See sections *4.4 Good academic practice and avoiding plagiarism and 4.4.1 Use of generative AI in assessed work.*

If illness or other circumstances affect your ability to meet a submission deadline, see section *4.10 Problems completing assessment.*

4.10 Problems completing assessment

There are a number of University processes in place to help you if you find that illness or other personal circumstances are affecting your assessments or if you experience technical difficulties with an online exam or submission. Full information is available on the Oxford Students website.

4.11 Examiners and Examiners' reports

The examiners for Prelims are known as Moderators and are appointed annually. There are no external examiners for Prelims. The names of the Moderators for your examination will be provided in the Examination Conventions, available on Canvas.

To preserve the independence of the Moderators, you must not contact them directly about matters relating to the content of examinations or the marking of your work. If you have a query or concern about your assessment, you should seek advice from your Tutor or the Education Support Team. If you are unhappy with an aspect of your assessment, you may make a complaint or academic appeal (see section *7.2 Complaints and appeals*).

Examiners' reports from previous years are available on Canvas.



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4.12 Prizes

The following prizes are awarded for performance in Prelims:

- Johnson-Matthey Prize for the best overall performance in Prelims
- Armourers' and Brasiers' Company / Rolls-Royce Prize for outstanding overall performance in Prelims, awarded to the students with the second and third highest marks
- Armourers' and Brasiers' Company / Rolls-Royce Prize for the best overall performance in Prelims practicals

The Department also awards a range of prizes in later years of the Materials Science programme. Further information is available on Canvas. A central list of University prizes and awards is available on the Oxford Students website.

5. Skills and learning development

5.1 Academic progress

Your academic progress will be monitored mostly at college level. Feedback will be given via TMS, via termly meetings with your college tutors and/or academic officers of your college, via collections, and in tutorials. Refer to your College Handbook for further information.

The Department records attendance and engagement with compulsory departmental teaching and will liaise with your college where concerns arise.

If you need academic advice, you should normally speak to your Tutor or the member of staff responsible for the relevant teaching. For general queries about the course, contact the Education Support Team.

5.2 Learning development and skills

The skills you are expected to develop through the course are summarised in section *2.3 Intended learning outcomes*.

Learning development is the gradual process by which you become increasingly competent, independent and sophisticated in your approach to your studies. The programme is designed to support this progression, from structured learning and practical work in the early years through increasingly open-ended work and, ultimately, the independent research project in Part II. You will develop skills including problem solving, critical thinking, communication, practical experimentation, computing, teamwork and independent learning.

Independent study is an important part of developing as a learner. Lecture materials provide a framework for your studies but should be used alongside the recommended reading for each course. Consulting different sources can help you clarify material covered in lectures, encounter alternative explanations and approaches, and develop your understanding beyond the core course material.

In your first year, tutorials, practical classes, Computing for Materials Science and other classes provide opportunities to develop and practise these skills. Tutorials help you develop your reasoning and your ability to explain and discuss scientific ideas, while practical classes develop experimental and collaborative working skills and scientific communication through laboratory notebooks and scientific reports. You will also learn from your peers as well as from tutors and teaching staff.

Time management is particularly important in balancing scheduled teaching with tutorial preparation, practical work and independent study. A session on Teaching, Study Skills and Learning Development is provided early in Michaelmas Term.

Your communication skills will continue to develop throughout the degree through increasingly substantial written work, teamwork, presentations and reports, culminating in the Part II research project and thesis.

5.3 Induction

A Freshers' Induction Programme is provided at the start of Michaelmas term. Full details, including the induction schedule and supporting resources, are available on the Induction page on Canvas.

You are expected to attend the scheduled induction programme and to work through the induction materials provided.

5.4 Opportunities for skills training and development

The MPLS Bridging Programme, which you were strongly encouraged to study before starting your course, remains available to you. It includes courses in Mathematics, Chemistry, Physics, Computing and Study Skills, and Laboratory Work. Not all parts of the programme are relevant to Materials Science, so you should refer to the guidance for Materials Science students when using these resources. A wide range of resources and training opportunities is available across the University to help you develop your academic and transferable skills.

The University's Academic Skills pages provide resources on areas including time management, research and library skills, referencing, revision and academic writing.

The Radcliffe Science Library (RSL) offers information skills training throughout the academic year, ranging from general induction to subject-specific tutorials. Bodleian iSkills sessions are designed to help you make effective use of library resources to support your learning and research.

Further training in digital and computational skills is available through the University's digital skills provision. The AI Competency Centre provides training, guidance and resources to help you develop your skills in using generative AI effectively and responsibly.

You can search for and book a wide range of University training courses through CoSy, the University's course booking system.

5.5 Language learning and upskilling

The University of Oxford Language Centre provides a wide range of courses in modern languages and Academic English.

You may choose to study a foreign language alongside the first year of your Materials Science degree. This additional study does not contribute to Prelims, but successful completion leads to a Certificate of Completion from the Language Centre. If you are considering taking the Foreign Language Option in Year 2, particularly in a language that is new to you, you are encouraged to begin language study in your first year.

The Department will reimburse 50% of the cost of first-year language study, subject to meeting the Language Centre's 80% attendance requirement and successfully completing the course. You will need to provide your Certificate of Completion and proof of payment to claim reimbursement. Your college may also contribute towards the cost, and you should check its arrangements before registering.

If you wish to study a language in your first year, you should discuss this with your Tutor. Information about registration, deadlines and the arrangements for Materials students is provided on Canvas.

In Year 2, you may be able to take a Foreign Language Option in place of Entrepreneurship. This is an assessed part of Part I. Further information about the option and how to apply will be provided during your first year.

5.6 Employability and careers information and advice

The academic and college environment at Oxford University is rich with opportunities for you to develop many transferable skills that are eagerly sought by employers. Undertaking an intellectually demanding academic course (often incorporating professional body requirements) will equip you for the demands of many jobs. Your course will enable you to research, summarise, present and defend an argument with some of the best scholars in their subject. Under the direction of an experienced researcher, you will extend your skills and experiences through practical or project work, placements or fieldwork, writing extended essays or dissertations. In college and university sports teams, clubs and societies you will have the chance to take the lead and play an active part within and outside the University.

Surveys of our employers report that they find Oxford students better or much better than the average UK student at key employability skills such as Problem Solving, Leadership, and Communication. Hundreds of recruiters visit the University each year, demonstrating their demand for Oxford undergraduate and postgraduate students, fewer than 5% of whom are unemployed and seeking work six months after leaving.

Comprehensive careers advice and guidance is available from the Oxford University Careers Service, and not just while you are here: our careers support is for life. We offer tailored individual advice, job fairs and workshops to inform your job search and application process, whether your next steps are within academia or beyond. You will also have access to thousands of UK-based and international internships, work experience and job vacancies available on the Careers Service website.

5.6.1 Industrial tours

A voluntary industrial tour is normally organised during the Easter Vacation, providing an opportunity to visit companies and organisations and see Materials Science applied in different industrial settings. Places are limited, normally to around 20 students.

The tour is organised with the involvement of the JCCU. Previous tours have included destinations in the UK and overseas. Information about the tour, including the programme and arrangements for applying for a place, will be provided during the year.

5.6.2 Industrial visits and talks

Industrial visits form an important part of the Materials Science programme and enable you to see how Materials Science is applied in industry. They are designed to complement the academic content of the course. Industrial visits take place during Years 2 and 3; students are required to attend and submit reports on at least four visits, which contribute to the Part I assessment.

The Department also organises industrial talks, given by people working in companies and organisations that use Materials Science. These are intended to broaden your awareness of the applications of Materials Science and of potential career opportunities. Students attend two industrial talks during Year 2, and the associated reports contribute to the Part I mark.

6. Student representation, evaluation and feedback

6.1 Department representation

The Joint Consultative Committee for Undergraduates (JCCU) provides a forum for undergraduate students to discuss the Materials Science programme with members of the Department. It considers matters including teaching arrangements, lectures, practical classes, syllabuses, examinations, library provision and student welfare, and provides an opportunity for students to suggest improvements to the course.

The JCCU normally includes three student representatives from each year group, together with members of academic and professional services staff, and meets once each term. The Committee is chaired by an undergraduate student, who also attends the Department of Materials Academic Committee (DMAC), providing a direct link between student representation and the Department's academic decision-making.

First-year representatives are normally elected early in Michaelmas term. You are encouraged to consider standing for election and to raise issues, suggestions or feedback about the course with your year representatives.

The JCCU also organises social activities and industrial tours; further information about industrial tours is provided in section 5.6.1.

Details of current student representatives, meeting dates and further information about the JCCU are available on Canvas.

6.2 Division and University representation

Students are also represented at Divisional and University level. The MPLS Undergraduate Student Representative represents undergraduate students within the Mathematical, Physical and Life Sciences (MPLS) Division and provides a link between students, the Division and the Oxford University Student Union (Oxford SU).

Student representatives contribute to University and Divisional decision-making by gathering and communicating students' views and feeding back the outcomes of discussions. Further information about student representation in MPLS is available on the MPLS website.

Student representatives sitting on the Divisional Board are selected through a process organised by the Oxford University Student Union (Oxford SU). Details can be found on the SU website along with information about student representation at the University level.

6.3 Opportunities to provide evaluation and feedback

You will be invited to provide feedback on lectures and coursework modules through online questionnaires, normally towards the end of each lecture course or coursework module. You are encouraged to provide both positive feedback and suggestions for improvement.

Questionnaire responses are shared with the relevant teaching staff and considered by the JCCU and Department of Materials Academic Committee (DMAC) to inform improvements to teaching and the course.

You can also raise feedback or concerns about the course at any time through your JCCU year representatives.

Students on full-time and part-time matriculated courses are surveyed once per year on all aspects of their course, including learning, living, pastoral support and college, through the Student Barometer. Previous results are available on the Oxford Students website. Final-year undergraduate students are surveyed instead through the National Student Survey (NSS), with previous results available through Discover Uni. The results of these surveys are considered by the JCCU and the Department of Materials Academic Committee (DMAC).

7. Student life and support

7.1 Who to contact for help

Your college is normally your first point of contact for academic and pastoral support. Your Tutor can advise you about your academic work and progress, while your college also provides support if personal circumstances are affecting your studies. Each college has its own systems of support for students, please refer to your college handbook or website for more information on who to contact and what support is available through your college.

If illness or other personal circumstances, such as bereavement, are seriously affecting your academic work, make sure that your Tutor knows.

The Department can provide advice and support on matters relating to the Materials Science programme and Departmental teaching. The Education Support Team is the first point of contact if you are unsure who to approach and can direct you to the appropriate member of staff.

If you are experiencing difficulties with your studies or circumstances that are affecting your academic work, you are encouraged to seek advice at an early stage.

Attendance at some Departmental teaching is compulsory. If you are unable to attend a compulsory session because of illness or other circumstances, you must follow the relevant absence procedure and, where required, apply for formal permission to be absent or provide an explanation for your absence. See section *3.2 Practical classes,* section *3.3 Crystallography classes* and section *3.4 Computing for Materials Science* for the specific arrangements that apply to these activities. If you are unsure what you need to do, contact the Education Support Team as soon as possible.

If illness or other personal circumstances affect your preparation for, or performance in, a University examination or assessment, there are University processes through which these circumstances can be taken into account. Further information is available on the University's Problems completing your assessment pages. Alternative examination arrangements, including reasonable adjustments, are covered separately in section 4.5 *Entering for University Examinations*.

The University has a range of support and advice to help you manage your finances during your studies. Please see the financial assistance and support page for further information, including on hardship funding for students who experience financial difficulties.

Details of the wide range of sources of support available more widely in the University are available from the University's welfare page, including in relation to mental and physical health and disability.

7.1.1 Student Welfare and Support Services

The University's unique and close-knit collegiate system provides a wealth of pastoral and welfare services for students to support engagement with studies and University life, promoting student wellbeing by providing opportunities for social interaction and sport and arts. Additionally, the central Student Welfare and Support Services department offers professional support that complements provision in colleges and departments. More detail can be found in the University's Common Approach to Student Mental Health.

The Disability Advisory Service (DAS) can provide information, advice and guidance on reasonable adjustments to teaching and assessment, and assist with organising disability-related study support.

The University Counselling Service is here to help you address personal or emotional problems that get in the way of having a good experience at Oxford and realising your full academic and personal potential. They offer a free and confidential service and the counselling team is committed to providing culturally sensitive and appropriate psychological services. Students can request to see a male or female therapist, a Counsellor of Colour, or to attend a specialist group such as the LGBTQ+ or Students of Colour Groups. All support is free and confidential.

The Sexual Harassment and Violence Support Service provides a safe and confidential space for any student, of any gender, sexuality or sexual orientation, who has been impacted by sexual harassment or violence, domestic or relationship abuse, coercive control or stalking, whenever or wherever this took place.

A range of services led by students are available to help provide support to other students, including Peer Support Programme, Oxford SU Student Advice Service and Oxford Nightline.

7.1.2 Equality and Diversity at Oxford

"The University of Oxford is committed to fostering an inclusive culture which promotes equality, values diversity and maintains a working, learning and social environment in which the rights and dignity of all its staff and students are respected. We recognise that the broad range of experiences that a diverse staff and student body brings strengthens our research and enhances our teaching, and that in order for Oxford to remain a world-leading institution we must continue to provide a diverse, inclusive, fair and open environment that allows everyone to grow and flourish." University of Oxford Equality Policy

As a member of the University you contribute towards making it an inclusive environment and we ask that you treat other members of the University community with respect, courtesy and consideration. The University does not tolerate any form of unlawful discrimination, bullying, harassment or victimisation and has policies such as the Harassment Policy and Statute XI which outline the appropriate conduct expected of all staff and students within the University.

The Equality and Diversity Unit (EDU) works with all parts of the collegiate University to develop and promote an understanding of equality, diversity and inclusion, and ensure that

our policies comply with the relevant legal and regulatory requirements. This aligns closely with the updated Code of Practice on Freedom of Speech published by the University. The code reflects the requirements of the Higher Education (Freedom of Speech) 2023, which came into force on 1 August 2025 and the Office for Students' regulatory advice 24 which also came into force on 1 August 2025.

The Equality and Diversity Unit also supports a broad network of Harassment Advisors who are located in all departments/faculties and colleges as part of the Harassment Advisory Service. If you have experienced bullying or harassment and would like guidance on how to report or access support, they can provide impartial advice. Further information about the University's Harassment Policy and the support available to students is available on the University website.

Oxford is home to a wide range of faith societies, belief groups, and religious centres that are open to students.

For further details or advice, visit the EDU website or contact equality@admin.ox.ac.uk.

7.1.3 Freedom of speech

Free speech is the lifeblood of a university.

It enables the pursuit of knowledge. It helps us approach truth. It allows students, teachers and researchers to become better acquainted with the variety of beliefs, theories and opinions in the world. Recognising the vital importance of free expression for the life of the mind, a university may make rules concerning the conduct of debate but should never prevent speech that is lawful.

Inevitably, this will mean that members of the University are confronted with views that some find unsettling, extreme or offensive. The University must therefore foster freedom of expression within a framework of robust civility. Not all theories deserve equal respect. A university values expertise and intellectual achievement as well as openness. But, within the bounds set by law, all voices or views which any member of our community considers relevant should be given the chance of a hearing. Wherever possible, they should also be exposed to evidence, questioning and argument. As an integral part of this commitment to freedom of expression, we will take steps to ensure that all such exchanges happen peacefully. With appropriate regulation of the time, place and manner of events, neither speakers nor listeners should have any reasonable grounds to feel intimidated or censored.

It is this understanding of the central importance and specific roles of free speech in a university that underlies the detailed procedures of the University of Oxford.

7.2 Complaints and appeals

The University, the MPLS Division and the Department of Materials all hope that provision made for students at all stages of their course of study will result in no need for complaints (about that provision) or appeals (against the outcomes of any form of assessment).

Where such a need arises, an informal discussion with the person immediately responsible for the issue that you wish to complain about (and who may not be one of the individuals identified below) is often the simplest way to achieve a satisfactory resolution.

Many sources of advice are available from colleges, faculties/departments and bodies like the Counselling Service or the Oxford SU Student Advice Service, which have extensive experience in advising students. You may wish to take advice from one of those sources before pursuing your complaint.

General areas of concern about provision affecting students as a whole should be raised through Joint Consultative Committees or via student representation on the Department's committees.

Complaints

If your concern or complaint relates to teaching or other provision made by the Department, then you should raise it with the Director of Undergraduate Studies. Complaints about departmental facilities should be made to the Head of Administration & Finance. If you feel unable to approach one of those individuals, you may contact the Head of Department. The officer concerned will attempt to resolve your concern/complaint informally.

If you are dissatisfied with the outcome, you may take your concern further by making a formal complaint to the Proctors under the University Student Complaints Procedure.

If your concern or complaint relates to teaching or other provision made by your college, you should raise it either with your tutor or with one of the college officers or Senior Tutor (as appropriate). Your college will also be able to explain how to take your complaint further if you are dissatisfied with the outcome of its consideration.

Academic appeals

An academic appeal is an appeal against the decision of an academic body (e.g. boards of examiners, transfer and confirmation decisions etc.), on grounds such as procedural error or evidence of bias. There is no right of appeal against academic judgement.

If you have any concerns about your assessment process or outcome it is advisable to discuss these first informally with your subject or college tutor, Senior Tutor, course director, director of studies, supervisor or college or departmental administrator as appropriate. They will be able to explain the assessment process that was undertaken and may be able to address your concerns. Queries must not be raised directly with the examiners.

If you still have concerns you can make a formal appeal to the Proctors who will consider appeals under the University Academic Appeals Procedure.

7.3 Student societies and professional memberships

7.3.1 MatSoc

The Oxford Materials Society (MatSoc) is a student-run society that supports students studying Materials Science at Oxford. It promotes interaction and collaboration between year groups and provides opportunities to learn more about Materials Science beyond the academic programme.

MatSoc organises industrial visits, careers-focused talks and networking events, inter-year activities and social events, providing opportunities to engage with Materials Science in industry and explore future career paths.

7.3.2 Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining (IOM3)

The Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining (IOM3) is the leading professional body for people working in the materials, minerals and mining communities. As a Materials Science student, you are eligible for student membership, paid for by the Department, and you are strongly encouraged to take up this opportunity.

Membership benefits include the IOM3 members' magazine, access to premium online content, discounts on IOM3 services, networking opportunities and professional development advice. An IOM3 representative will provide further information about membership at a briefing in Michaelmas Term.

IOM3 also sponsors prizes awarded during the degree, and IOM3 membership is an eligibility requirement for some prizes.

7.4 Policies and regulations

The University has a wide range of policies and regulations that apply to students. These are easily accessible through the A-Z of University regulations, codes of conduct and policies available on the University Policy Hub.

7.4.1 Intellectual Property

The University's intellectual property regulations may apply to intellectual property created during your studies, including project and research work. Further information is available in the University's guidance on intellectual property.

8. Facilities

8.1 Social spaces and facilities

The Common Room is located on Level 2 of the Holder Building and is shared with the Department of Engineering Science. Undergraduate students are welcome to use the space, which includes a café where you can buy drinks, lunches and snacks.

8.2 Workspace

The Departmental Library provides study space between lectures, practicals and other teaching. Further study space is available through the Radcliffe Science Library (RSL) and your college.

8.3 Libraries and museums

There are three main sources of library provision available to Materials Science undergraduates:

College libraries provide books and study space for members of the college. Most colleges admitting Materials Science students hold relevant undergraduate textbooks. If a book you need is not available in your college library, you can discuss this with your college Librarian or Tutor.

The Radcliffe Science Library (RSL) is the University's main science library and provides access to books, journals, electronic resources and study spaces. The RSL also provides information-skills training, including Bodleian iSkills sessions (see section 5.4).

The Departmental Library holds books recommended for Materials Science lecture courses, together with other textbooks, monographs and specialist Materials Science resources. A lending service is available, although some material, including reserve copies of key course textbooks, is retained for use in the library.

Your University Card provides access to University libraries and is also used to borrow library materials. If your card is lost, stolen or damaged, contact your college, which will advise you on obtaining a replacement.

Oxford also has a wide range of museums and collections that you may wish to explore during your time here; information about the University's museums is available on the Gardens, Libraries and Museums website.

8.4 IT

You will use a number of University systems during your studies, including Canvas for course materials and information and Inspera for some assessment submissions. University-wide wireless internet access is available through Eduroam.

Your University account provides access to the University's digital services and resources. Information about IT services, software, connecting to Eduroam, account security and IT support is available from IT Services. Further opportunities to develop your digital and computational skills are described in section 5*.4 Opportunities for skills training and development.*

The Department uses your University email account to communicate important information about your course. You are expected to check your University email regularly.

8.4.1 Printing

Course materials are normally provided electronically rather than in hard copy. If you prefer to print materials for study or revision, the Department provides a printing allowance of £125 for students in Years 1–3 and £75 for Part II students. This can be used on printer/copiers in the Department.

8.5 Laboratories

The Teaching Laboratory, located on Level 3 of the Holder Building, is the main laboratory used for undergraduate practical teaching in the early years of the course. You will use a range of experimental equipment and techniques there as part of your practical classes.

As you progress through the degree, you will gain experience of more specialised experimental and research facilities. In Part II (Year 4), you will undertake an extended research project and become a member of one of the Department's research groups, working within its research environment and, where relevant to your project, using specialist laboratory or computational facilities.

Access to research laboratories and specialist equipment is subject to appropriate risk assessment, safety training, local induction and supervision. You must not use laboratory facilities or equipment unless you have been authorised and appropriately trained to do so.

Further information about first-year practical teaching, laboratory safety and conduct is provided in section *3.2 Practical classes* and in the Teaching Laboratory guidance on Canvas.

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