

Oxford Centre for Religion and Public Life (OCRPL)

September 2026.

PhD FEE POLICY

Policy status	Approved
Policy owner	OCRPL
Approval authority	Academic Council and OCRPL Board
Proposed effective date	With Immediate Effect from 21 September 2026
Review cycle	Periodic review as determined by OCRPL every 3 Years. Next scheduled in 2029

1. Purpose

This policy establishes a clear and sustainable fee structure for PhD researchers admitted to OCRPL and clarifies the financial, academic and engagement responsibilities associated with participation in the OCRPL PhD programme.

The policy intends to:

- Provide prospective and current PhD researchers with clear information about their financial obligations.
- Distinguish between fees payable before and after university registration.
- Provide a consistent basis for calculation and collection of fees.
- Establish arrangements for deferral and additional years of study.
- Establish the basis on which scholarships may be considered.
- Strengthen accountability for fee payment and academic engagement.
- Ensure that students formally acknowledge their obligations to OCRPL.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all PhD researchers admitted to OCRPL who receive OCRPL academic support before and after university registration, resources and/or co-supervision in connection with their doctoral studies.

3. Definitions

OCRPL: Oxford Centre for Religion and Public Life.

PhD researcher/student: An individual formally admitted to OCRPL as a PhD researcher.

University fee: The annual tuition or related academic fee actually charged by the university at which the student is registered for the PhD.

OCRPL fee: The fee charged by OCRPL for academic, supervisory, administrative and resource-related support.

Global South: The student category designated by OCRPL as Global South for fee purposes.

Western/Rest of the World: The student category designated by OCRPL as Western/Rest of the World for fee purposes.

Co-supervisor: The OCRPL faculty member providing academic supervision and support alongside the student's university supervision arrangements from the beginning to thesis submission

4. Admission and Initial Registration Fee

4.1 Registration fee

A registration fee becomes payable as soon as OCRPL grants admission to a prospective PhD researcher. The researcher must settle this fee before OCRPL can recommend their admission to the university.

Student category	Registration fee (USD)
Global South	\$500
Western/Rest of the World	\$1,500

4.2 Purpose of registration fee

This registration fee covers part of administrative expenses, provides access to OCRPL resources, and supports the supervision and development of a research proposal until it is ready for university registration.

5. Fees Following University Registration

5.1 Annual fee calculation

Following university registration, the annual amount payable to OCRPL shall be calculated as the actual university fee plus the applicable OCRPL fee:

$$\text{Annual fee} = \text{Actual University Fee} + \text{Applicable OCRPL Fee}$$

Student category	OCRPL fee added to university fee (USD)
Global South	\$500
Western/Rest of the World	\$1,500

The OCRPL component includes continued access to OCRPL resources and continued academic engagement and co-supervision by OCRPL faculty.

5.2 Additional Research Cost

The fees above (5.1) and below (6) are the minimum for the PhD programme. Any further research expenses, such as travel, visas, and boarding and lodging in the UK, South Africa, or any other location for research and graduation purposes, are not included. The student is responsible for covering or raising the cost from their respective sponsor, and OCRPL is not responsible for those additional research costs.

6. Corrected Indicative Fee Schedule

The following schedule corrects the proposed fee table so that each annual total is calculated consistently as University Fee + \$500 for Global South students or University Fee + \$1,500 for Western/Rest of the World students.¹

Year	University Fee (USD)	Global South: University Fee + \$500 (USD) *	Rest of World: University + \$1,500 (USD) *	Actual Cost of International Students for US South Africa*
New Students	Nil	\$500.00	\$1,500.00	Nil

¹ Most commentators typically include in the Global North the [United States](#), [Canada](#), the countries of [Europe](#), [Japan](#), [South Korea](#), [Taiwan](#), [Australia](#), [New Zealand](#), and [Israel](#). The Global South usually includes the countries of [Latin America](#), [Africa](#), the Caribbean, the [Middle East](#) excluding Israel and the GCC countries, and [Asia](#) and [Oceania](#) excluding the aforementioned countries. (Britannica, <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Global-North-and-Global-South>; Accessed 14 September 2026,

Year	University Fee (USD)	Global South: University Fee + \$500 (USD) *	Rest of World: University + \$1,500 (USD) *	Actual Cost of International Students for US South Africa*
2026	\$1,750.00	\$2,275.00	\$3,250.00	\$4,080
2027	\$1,875.00	\$2,425.00	\$3,400.00	\$4,366
2028	\$2,000.00	\$2,575.00	\$3,550.00	\$4,671
2029	\$2,150.00	\$2,750.00	\$4,425.00	\$4,998
2030	\$2,300.00	\$2,925.00	\$4,525.00	\$5,348
Total Fee for five years		\$10,525.00	\$16,125.00	\$18,115

*These five-year totals are illustrative, with a 7 % increase and will change if the university revises its fees, if the period of study changes, or if an approved scholarship or other fee adjustment applies.

7. Duration of Study and Additional Years

Where a student requires more than four years to complete the PhD, any additional year(s) shall be charged at the same OCRPL rate as the fourth year, with the applicable university fee added in accordance with Section 5.

8. Deferral

8.1 Inactive deferral

Where a student defers for a year and is not active during that period, no OCRPL fee shall be incurred for that period.

8.2 Active deferral

Where the university defers a student but continues to work on the thesis and remains engaged with the OCRPL co-supervisor, an OCRPL fee of \$500 shall be charged for the year. This reflects continued co-supervision and access to OCRPL resources.

9. Scholarships

Scholarships of up to 50% of the applicable fee may be considered only after a satisfactory progress review. No scholarship is automatically available upon joining the programme.

The progress review will consider:

- Academic progress
- Outstanding fee status
- Attendance at required seminars and lectures
- Engagement and communication with the OCRPL co-supervisor

The award and level of any scholarship remain subject to the availability of funds and approval under OCRPL's governance arrangements.

10. Fee Collection and Outstanding Fees

10.1 Statements

Statements shall be sent to account holders, setting out fees and outstanding balances.

10.2 Reminders

Reminder emails shall be sent to account holders in the relevant year of study to encourage timely payment and avoid ineligibility for re-registration.

10.3 Payment arrangements

Where a debt remains unsettled, the Registrar may arrange a meeting between the account holder and the Registrar to consider an appropriate payment arrangement.

10.4 Donated funds

When the Academic Committee designates certain donated funds as scholarships, they may be allocated to deserving students who have demonstrated satisfactory progress, based on academic merit and regular, active participation in OCRPL activities. These funds may also be used to match contributions made by the student. All allocations shall require the approval of the Academic Committee.

11. Student Financial Responsibilities

11.1 Personal and financial information

Students must ensure that all information supplied to OCRPL is current and correct, including personal information, contact details and banking details.

11.2 Responsibility for student debt

The student is solely responsible for any outstanding fee debt, regardless of whether a donor, scholarship provider, or other third party initially paid the fees. In the event of unpaid fees, the student will be contacted directly and held accountable for settling the debt.

11.3 Communication with fee payer

Students must communicate with any fee payer regarding payments due and charges incurred, adjusted or cancelled on the Student Fee account.

11. Student Responsibility for Fee Statements

Students are required to review their fee statements, verify that all charges are accurate, and ensure that payments made are correctly reflected.

12. PhD Researcher Agreement

Upon admission, each PhD researcher must review, sign, and return a formal PhD Researcher Agreement. The agreement shall record the student's financial, academic and engagement obligations.

The agreement shall include, at minimum:

- All financial and fee information and an undertaking regarding accountability for fees;
- Attendance requirements for OCRPL PhD seminars and Public Lectures;

- Communication and engagement requirements with the OCRPL co-supervisor; and
- Annual review and progress-reporting requirements.

13. Academic Engagement Requirements

13.1 Seminars and Public Lectures

Attendance at OCRPL PhD seminars and Public Lectures is a compulsory requirement for PhD researchers, subject to reasonable exceptions approved by OCRPL. Attendance shall form part of the annual progress review and may affect scholarship eligibility.

13.2 Co-supervision and communication

Students shall maintain regular communication and substantive engagement with their OCRPL co-supervisor, including participation in required supervisory meetings and completion of annual review reports or other progress documentation required by OCRPL. The approving Co-supervisor will receive \$300 annually for supervisory meetings with the student (a minimum of 6), paid in May each year, and after submitting a year progress report.

14. Annual Progress Review

The annual progress review shall consider, as appropriate:

- academic progress and progress against the research plan
- engagement with the OCRPL co-supervisor
- attendance at required academic activities
- compliance with OCRPL requirements
- fee status

15. Re-registration and Financial Compliance

Students are expected to remain financially compliant with OCRPL to continue participating in the programme. Outstanding fees may affect eligibility for re-registration, subject to any approved payment arrangement or other decision by the appropriate OCRPL authority.

16. Publication of Fee Information

OCRPL shall publish clear fee information for prospective and current PhD researchers, including the initial registration fee, annual fee calculation, arrangements for deferral and additional years, scholarship eligibility and principal student responsibilities.

Published fee schedules shall be identified as indicative where university fees are subject to annual revision.

17. Policy Review

This policy shall be reviewed periodically by the appropriate OCRPL academic and governance bodies to ensure that it remains financially sustainable, academically appropriate and aligned with university fee arrangements.

18. Approval Requested

The Academic Council and OCRPL Board are invited to:

1. Approve in principle the OCRPL PhD fee structure set out in this policy;
2. Approve the initial registration fee of \$500 for Global South students and \$1,500 for Western/Rest of the World students;
3. Approve the annual fee formula of the actual university fee plus the applicable OCRPL fee;
4. Approve the arrangements for additional years and deferral;
5. Approve the scholarship framework of up to 50%, subject to satisfactory progress review;
6. Approve the introduction of a formal PhD Researcher Agreement;
7. Approve the academic engagement requirements concerning seminars, Public Lectures and co-supervision; and
8. Authorise the relevant OCRPL officers to finalise the detailed student agreement and administrative procedures.

19. Governance and Implementation

Following approval, OCRPL shall:

- Communicate the approved fee policy to current and prospective PhD researchers;
- Incorporate the approved financial obligations into the PhD Researcher Agreement;
- Update relevant admission and website materials;
- Establish administrative procedures for invoicing, collection, deferral and scholarship processing; and
- Review the fee schedule annually against the university's published fees.

Approval Record

Body	Decision	Date	Signature / Authorised By
Academic Council	Informed and Updated	24 September 2026	Dr Daniel Jeyaraj
OCRPL Board	Approved	21 September 2026	Dr Chris Sugden
Dr Prasad Phillips/ Dr Daniel Jeyaraj/ Mr Andre Lombard/ Mr Mark McNaughton	Approved	23 September 2026	Dr Prasad Phillips