

## **Oxford Overseas Fee Increases** **Motion (May 2025)**

### **We note that:**

After signing a Financial Declaration which stated that annual fee increases “will not exceed 6%<sup>1</sup> each year, or Consumer Price Index (CPI) if higher”, second-year overseas students were surprised to find their 2024-2025 fees raised by 9.9%. *(This meant, for instance, that lab science students were charged an annual fee of £48,620 instead of £46,894.)* A check revealed that CPI rates over the same period ranged from 4.7% to 1.7%.

Concerned with the unexpected rise in fees, second-year lab science students from University College contacted the university fees and funding team asking them to explain the discrepancy. The university responded that it used the annual CPI rate from August 2022, i.e. two years prior to the payment date, covering the period from September 2021 to August 2022. This was particularly suspect given that the increase was not factored into the estimated fees in the Financial Declaration forms, which were sent to students in March 2023.

After sustained correspondence with the Oxford administration, including with support from the Student Union, overseas students were pleased to receive a letter on February 27th, 2025 from the Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Education. It stated that they had been overcharged for the 2024-2025 fees and would receive a reimbursement (as part of the 2025 TT battels).<sup>2</sup> We believe that this reimbursement has been given to all continuing overseas students (i.e. 2nd to 4th year students).

Though this specific issue has now been addressed, the case has led us to assess the policies and practices around overseas tuition fees (including by comparing with those at Cambridge University). We are particularly concerned with the question of fee increases for continuing students, i.e. increases in fees during the course of study.

### **We believe that:**

- 1. When speaking about increases in student fees, it is important to differentiate increases in entry fees for incoming students from year to year from annual fee increases on already enrolled students.**

The fact that Oxford has granted itself not only the possibility to raise fees on incoming students but also a wide latitude to raise fees for students who are mid-stream in their

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<sup>1</sup> In earlier years, increases never went beyond 3% until 2019 and 4% from 2020 through 2023.

<sup>2</sup> On February 27th, 2025, the university committed to reimbursing students the fees paid in 2024 over and above a 6.7% increase for that year. *(6.7% was the CPI from September 2023, when the 2024 fees were published online.)* Though this is not in line with percentages established in students' financial declaration forms (as hoped), it is consistent with fee setting procedures stated on the university's "Changes to Fees and Charges" webpage, which was linked from students' Financial Declaration forms. For this reason, it is an acceptable response to the concerns about overpayment for the 2024-2025 school year. It is important to ensure that the new lower amount is also used as the basis for the 2025 fee increase. For reference:

<https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/fees-and-funding/changes-fees-and-charges> ;  
<https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/inflationandpriceindices/timeseries/d7g7/mm23>

studies is extremely problematic. It should be a priority to end the variable annual fee increases for continuing students so that students entering the programme will already know the financial commitment they are making for their entire tenure. It is also essential information when choosing a university. (NOTE: Cambridge fixes fees at the moment of entry.)

- 2. The current overseas fee system is only loosely linked to the actual cost of educating these students. Unlike home-fees students, overseas students are no longer beneficiaries of government largesse but are now consumers in a profit-driven system.**

Not only is it clear that overseas students are now subsidising home students (by tens of thousands of GBP per student per year), but it has also become evident that fee increases and differences in fees between courses are no longer linked to course costs. These are instead driven by perceptions of what the market will bear. As such, overseas students deserve the full protections granted to other consumers in the UK, including: a clear contractual basis for the relationship; sound and transparent administrative practice in carrying out the contract; and clear communication of important information through appropriate channels.

- 3. In the longer term, the status of overseas undergraduate students in the UK should be reevaluated.**

This is particularly true as overseas undergraduates are now substantial contributors to UK higher education, subsidising the system far beyond the cost of their own education. As such, overseas students paying into the UK undergraduate system should be given a real path to further study and work in the UK, more in line with British students (e.g. the possibility of funding for graduate studies and expanded opportunities for work visas).

### **We propose that:**

1. With regard to overseas students entering in the future...
  - Entry fees can be freely set by the administration through its regular consultation process, but fees should remain fixed after entry (as at Cambridge), i.e. the annual fee rises for continuing students should be scrapped.<sup>3</sup>
  - As a transitional measure, fee increases for continuing students may continue, but these must be capped at a maximum of 4% each year (returning to previous practice and safely above CPI).
  - Importantly, CPI should no longer be used to determine fee rises as it is variable and the university has shown itself unable to use up-to-date rates due to the constraints of its fee setting procedure.
2. Financial Declaration contracts sent to entering students should contain all relevant legal and administrative information on fees and fee increases (without recourse to external websites or documents). Financial Declaration contracts should also explicitly state the full fees for the 3 or 4 years of study.

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<sup>3</sup> Note that the university is still able to make up any shortfall in funding through increases in entry fees.

3. Information about fees and fee increases, previously communicated through Students News or buried in websites, should be communicated directly to overseas students, according to standard administrative and financial practice.

To conclude, we ask that more fair, transparent, and predictable fee setting policies and practices be put in place for future students. We think it important for the SU to represent these positions in the relevant committee meetings and bilateral discussions with the Oxford Administration. In the longer term, it is also important for the SU to set up regular channels to consult and involve overseas students in order to better represent them in the annual fee setting cycle.

**See Annexes:**

- I. Excerpt from 2023 Financial Declaration form for Lab Science Student
- II. Historical Fee Chart for Lab Science Students
- III. Correspondence with Oxford Fees and Funding Team
- IV. February 27th Letter from Oxford Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Education
- V. 2024-2025 Fee Setting Meeting Schedule for JFSSAG and PRAC

**ANNEX I**  
**Excerpt from 2023 Financial Declaration form for Lab Science Student**

Course fees beyond Year 1 (all students)	
<p><b>You will also need to pay the following estimated course fees beyond Year 1 of your course</b> (you do not need to provide supporting documentation to show that you can meet these fees). The fees below have been estimated by applying an annual increase of 6%. Actual fee increases could be higher but will not exceed 6% each year, or the Consumer Price Index (CPI) if higher. (See <a href="http://www.ox.ac.uk/ffchanges-fees">www.ox.ac.uk/ffchanges-fees</a> for full details.)</p>	
Year 2 estimated course fees	£46,894
Year 3 estimated course fees	£49,708
Year 4 estimated course fees	£52,691
<b>Total estimated course fees for the duration of your course</b>	<b>£193,533</b>

  

Estimated Living Costs	
<p>You should budget for at least the lower level of estimated living costs in the range shown below for the duration of your course. These costs are based on a period of 9 months to cover the full academic year. If you have any doubts about your ability to fund your living costs, please contact Joshua Newman at <a href="mailto:admissions@univ.ox.ac.uk">admissions@univ.ox.ac.uk</a>. You do not need to provide supporting documentation to show that you can meet these costs.            (See guidance notes A1 and A2 for details of financial support towards your living costs.)</p>	
Year 1 living costs	£11,610 - £16,560
Year 2 living costs	£12,191 - £17,338
Year 3 living costs	£12,800 - £18,257
Year 4 living costs	£13,440 - £19,170
<b>Total estimated living costs for the duration of your course</b>	<b>£50,041 - £71,325</b>

  

<b>Grand Total – Estimated fees and living costs for the duration of your course</b>	<b>£243,574 - £264,858</b>
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**6. Annual inflationary increases to fees and likely living costs**

The University caps the amount by which it can increase its fees annually and more information about the cap and how any increase will be calculated can be found at [www.ox.ac.uk/ffchanges-fees](http://www.ox.ac.uk/ffchanges-fees). Estimated course fees for future years are calculated using the most recently available fee rates and include an estimated inflationary increase of 6% year on year. Actual increases may be higher than those estimated but will not exceed 6% each year, or the Consumer Price Index (CPI) if higher. For full-time Home undergraduate students current university policy is to charge fees at the level of the cap set by the government. Estimated living costs for future years are calculated using the most recently available rates and include an estimated increase of 5% year on year, although this rate may vary significantly depending on how the national economic situation develops. Please note that for students undertaking a year abroad as part of their course, the living costs will vary from those shown, depending on the destination and the activity undertaken. The most up-to-date information on fees and living costs can be found at [www.ox.ac.uk/funding](http://www.ox.ac.uk/funding).

## ANNEX II

### Historical Fee Chart for Lab Science Students

[illegible]

**ANNEX III**  
**Correspondence with Oxford Fees and Funding Team**

Dear Nicola,

We are writing again regarding the rise international student fees (see earlier message below). As mentioned, we would be interested in setting up a meeting with you sometime before the end of term - ideally in the second half of next week. We would appreciate it if you could give us some times when you would be available to meet.

We thank you in advance for your time and energy.

Sincerely,  
Julian Mathe & Sidharth Suresh

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**From:** Julian Mathe <julian.mathe@univ.ox.ac.uk>  
**Sent:** Friday, November 15, 2024 9:46 PM  
**To:** Nicola Cooper-Harvey <nicola.cooper-harvey@admin.ox.ac.uk>; Sidharth Puthiyedathu Suresh <sidharth.puthiyedathusuresh@univ.ox.ac.uk>  
**Cc:** UAS Student Fees Team <student.fees@admin.ox.ac.uk>  
**Subject:** Re: Contract breaching tuition increase

Dear Nicola,

We thank you for your response. However, it does not entirely address our concerns. Namely:

1. You stated that the Financial Declaration Form (FDF) contains a URL link to a page titled "Changes to Fees and Charges" (<https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/fees-and-funding/changes-fees-and-charges>). However, we would point out that the relevant statement in the FDF: *"Actual fee increases could be higher but will not exceed 6% each year, or the Consumer Price Index (CPI) if higher"* when read without recourse to the web page implies a direct link between the CPI used and period of study. Since the information on that webpage is essential to our understanding, it should have been included in the wording of the FDF itself. (We would underscore that a webpage can be updated without trace and is thus not a substitute for a formal written document.
2. We further note that the text on the webpage: *"The increase each year will not exceed whichever is higher from 6% or the Consumer Price Index (CPI). The fees that you will need to pay in any one academic year will usually be published before the first application deadline for the programme concerned. Normally this will be by September of the previous year: for instance, most fees for 2025/26 will have been published by September 2024"* is itself misleading. It does not explain that the CPI used in determining fees will be taken from a period well in advance, not only of the period of study, but also of the fees being published.

3. Likewise, we understand that according to you and the webpage, the university may consider other factors such as government funding in its decision. These factors remain, however, nebulous. It is therefore important that the university remain within the guardrails it set for itself and communicated to families, i.e. 6% or CPI.
4. Beyond this, you have not provided a sufficient explanation for why estimates for the 2024-2025 fees were so inaccurately low. We note again that the August 2022 CPI rate was known by March 2023, and according to you, the fees were in process of being confirmed. As it stands, the estimates provided in the FDF were deceiving.
5. More broadly, we understand that increases in fees for students are intended to reflect rises in the cost of the course in line with CPI. However, we note that students entering in 2023 already experienced a fee increase of 13% relative to entering students from the previous year (and 9% relative to 2nd year students in the same year). At the same time, these students were also given a 6% threshold, while the maximum fee rise previously had been 4% (this figure is based on our examination of Lab Science fees since 2014. See: <https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/fees-funding/fees/rates>). Thus, we would argue that the rise in costs had already been taken into account for students entering in 2023.
6. With regard to the fact that the rise in fees was communicated earlier this year in Student News mailings, we thank you for this information. We would nonetheless stress that earlier knowledge of this year's fee rises would have only affected the timing, but not the substance, of this complaint. (Such important financial information should be communicated to the students concerned directly by mail according to standard practice.)

In closing, we would point out that the sums of money for overseas tuition have reached historically high levels and are a real burden on us and our families—many of us are already struggling to meet the annual fee deadlines. At the same time, the university's processes for setting and communicating fees have remained opaque and in certain aspects *ad hoc*. This is particularly problematic as we are mid-stream in our studies and have already made a financial and educational commitment to the programme. Simply put, Oxford University has put us in a situation where we have little choice but to pay whatever you choose to charge or risk putting our academic careers in jeopardy. (We note that in the same situation, Cambridge University has opted to fix fees upon entry to their programmes.)

We believe that we have a right to expect fees to be set in a way that is proportionate, transparent and predictable—as has been the case up to this point. We believe that we have a right to be protected from precipitous increases in the cost of our studies from one year to the next.

We thank you for your time and may reach out in the near future to ask for a meeting to discuss this further.



Sincerely,  
Julian Mathe & Sidharth Suresh

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**From:** Nicola Cooper-Harvey <nicola.cooper-harvey@admin.ox.ac.uk>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 22, 2024 10:33 AM  
**To:** Sidharth Puthiyedathu Suresh <sidharth.puthiyedathusuresh@univ.ox.ac.uk>; Julian Mathe <julian.mathe@univ.ox.ac.uk>  
**Cc:** UAS Student Fees Team <student.fees@admin.ox.ac.uk>  
**Subject:** RE: Contract breaching tuition increase

Dear Julian and Sidharth,

Thank you for raising these queries about the 2024/25 fee rates, and for your patience while awaiting a further response. The Student Fees team have passed your query to me, as requested, as the Head of Student Fees and Funding. I hope the information below clarifies your concerns.

Fees are set by the University in line with the Terms and Conditions. The Financial Declaration form (FDF) indicates that the figures used for fees for later years of the course have been estimated by applying an annual figure of 6% but that actual increases could be higher. The FDF directs to <http://www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/feechanges> for more information, which confirms that fee increases will not exceed 6% or CPI if higher. This means that either 6% or CPI if higher can be used to determine fee increases. This detail is also included on the FDF template itself for those starting courses in 2023 onwards.

The specific CPI rate that the University uses in determining its standard annual fee increase is the August rate from the year before the fees are published. The August CPI rate is the most recently issued when the fee-setting process begins, and is published by the Office for National Statistics in mid-September. The fees for any given academic year are published in the September of the previous year so they are available to both on course students and new applicants simultaneously, to align with the opening of the admissions round. The process for setting fees through committees begins a year before publication, with approval steps normally completed late in Trinity Term, and publication preparation taking place during the Long Vacation. Therefore the fees for 2024/25 academic year were published in September 2023, and used the August 2022 CPI rate, which was 9.9%. The University has used the August CPI rate consistently for at least the last ten years in its fee setting. The Financial Declaration Form is updated annually, and covers students admitted throughout the academic cycle in question. In March 2023, the approval process for 2024/25 fee levels for new and continuing students was still underway, and the uplift had not been finalised.

In deciding the annual level of increase the University takes into account a range of factors, including rises in the costs of delivering the course, changes in government funding, and the overall financial position of the University and its colleges (which receive some of the fee income paid by students). These matters are discussed and approved through committees, specifically the Joint Fees and Student Support Advisory Group (JFSSAG), and the Planning and Resource Allocation Committee (PRAC) which has the final decision under the University's regulations. Student representatives from Oxford SU are consulted prior to JFSSAG meeting and Oxford SU sabbatical officers are student members of both JFSSAG and PRAC.

In terms of additional communication beyond the contractual documentation, specific items were included in the Student News mailings during last year. Students were encouraged to check their fees for the forthcoming year in the Student News mailings in Hilary Term week 8 and Trinity Term week 4 of 2023/24 academic year. The information in these communications specifically noted that fee increases may be higher than those estimated prior to starting the course, due to inflation.

Thank you for providing feedback on the FDF and fees websites. We continually review the information provided through our websites, documents and student mailings, and I will ensure your comments are considered as part of these review processes during the current academic year.

I hope that the information above is helpful in addressing your queries.

Yours,  
Nicola



**Nicola Cooper-Harvey**

Head of Student Fees and Funding  
Student Fees and Funding

Please note, I am currently working a blend of in the office and remotely. I can best be contacted through email or Teams.

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**From:** UAS Student Fees Team <[student.fees@admin.ox.ac.uk](mailto:student.fees@admin.ox.ac.uk)>  
**Sent:** 11 October 2024 10:08  
**To:** Sidharth Puthiyedathu Suresh <[sidharth.puthiyedathusuresh@univ.ox.ac.uk](mailto:sidharth.puthiyedathusuresh@univ.ox.ac.uk)>  
**Cc:** Julian Mathe <[julian.mathe@univ.ox.ac.uk](mailto:julian.mathe@univ.ox.ac.uk)>  
**Subject:** RE: Contract breaching tuition increase

Dear Julian and Sidharth,

Thanks, you will no doubt hear back from us in due course.

Kind regards,



**Paul Penfold**

Student Fees and Funding Administrator  
Student Fees and Funding

University of Oxford  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, 4 Worcester Street, Oxford OX1 2BX

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**From:** Sidharth Puthiyedathu Suresh <[sidharth.puthiyedathusuresh@univ.ox.ac.uk](mailto:sidharth.puthiyedathusuresh@univ.ox.ac.uk)>  
**Sent:** 10 October 2024 21:02  
**To:** UAS Student Fees Team <[student.fees@admin.ox.ac.uk](mailto:student.fees@admin.ox.ac.uk)>  
**Cc:** Julian Mathe <[julian.mathe@univ.ox.ac.uk](mailto:julian.mathe@univ.ox.ac.uk)>  
**Subject:** Re: Contract breaching tuition increase

Dear Paul,

Thank you for your timely response. We would appreciate it if you could forward our correspondence to the senior members of the Student Fees and Funding team.

From our perspective, the annual fee setting process remains opaque with few details provided on the website or in documentation sent to us. In particular, we still do not understand which precise period the CPI rate was calculated over and why it is not possible for the University to use the CPI 12-month rate from July or August that are available directly before the fees must be published and that are more in line with the real increase in the cost of the course during our attendance. Moreover, it is still unclear why we were provided in writing with an estimate for the 2024-2025 course fees that was already known to be inaccurate at the time of the financial declaration was sent to us in March 2023.

We await a response. In the meantime, we will also endeavour to contact student representation for support in this matter.

Sincerely,  
Julian Máthé and Sidharth Suresh

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**From:** UAS Student Fees Team <[student.fees@admin.ox.ac.uk](mailto:student.fees@admin.ox.ac.uk)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 9, 2024 12:34:52 PM  
**To:** Sidharth Puthiyedathu Suresh <[sidharth.puthiyedathusuresh@univ.ox.ac.uk](mailto:sidharth.puthiyedathusuresh@univ.ox.ac.uk)>  
**Cc:** Julian Mathe <[julian.mathe@univ.ox.ac.uk](mailto:julian.mathe@univ.ox.ac.uk)>  
**Subject:** RE: Contract breaching tuition increase

Dear Sidharth and Julian,

Thanks for your reply. Based on my own familiarity with elements of the annual fee setting process, I do not think that it would be possible for the University to use CPI figures from the July or August directly before the fees are published. With regard to the financial declarations that you will have both received, you will note that the declaration clearly states that the estimated figures are calculated using a 6% increase rate, but that the actual fees charged may be higher. If you would like a further explanation of the University's decision-making regarding these matters, I can forward your message to senior members of staff within Student Fees and Funding, however I would advise you that the University will have very carefully considered these matters, and will not have taken a course of action that breaches student contracts.

Kind regards,



**Paul Penfold**  
Student Fees and Funding Administrator  
Student Fees and Funding

University of Oxford  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, 4 Worcester Street, Oxford OX1 2BX

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**From:** Sidharth Puthiyedathu Suresh <[sidharth.puthiyedathusuresh@univ.ox.ac.uk](mailto:sidharth.puthiyedathusuresh@univ.ox.ac.uk)>  
**Sent:** 09 October 2024 11:58  
**To:** UAS Student Fees Team <[student.fees@admin.ox.ac.uk](mailto:student.fees@admin.ox.ac.uk)>  
**Cc:** Julian Mathe <[julian.mathe@univ.ox.ac.uk](mailto:julian.mathe@univ.ox.ac.uk)>  
**Subject:** Re: Contract breaching tuition increase

Dear Paul ,

We appreciate your response. Nevertheless, we are struggling to understand the justification behind your fee assessment.

Specifically, you said that “it is likely that the August 2022 CPI figure was the most recent data available when the fee increase for 24/25 was agreed” in September 2023. However, CPI figures are published monthly. It is unclear why you could not use the July or August 2023 figures which were 6.8%-6.7% respectively to set fees in September 2023.

Also, if you did intend to use the August 2022 CPI to set fees, this CPI was already known before you sent us the contract which included estimated costs in March 2023. This means that the contract we signed with you was misleading.

In short, your process of fee setting seems legally tenuous, particularly given the contract we signed. And we would ask that you set fees in line with the contract that we undertook in good faith.

Sincerely,  
Sidharth Suresh and Julian Máthé

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**From:** UAS Student Fees Team <[student.fees@admin.ox.ac.uk](mailto:student.fees@admin.ox.ac.uk)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 8, 2024 4:12:38 PM  
**To:** Sidharth Puthiyedathu Suresh <[sidharth.puthiyedathusuresh@univ.ox.ac.uk](mailto:sidharth.puthiyedathusuresh@univ.ox.ac.uk)>  
**Subject:** RE: Contract breaching tuition increase

Dear Sidharth,

Thanks for your reply. Course fee figures for the 24/25 academic year were published at the start of September 2023, and the fee increase rate will be one of the first elements to be agreed within the fee setting process. Because of this, it is likely that the August 2022 CPI figure was the most recent data available when the fee increase for 24/25 was agreed.

Kind regards,



**Paul Penfold**  
Student Fees and Funding Administrator  
Student Fees and Funding

University of Oxford  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, 4 Worcester Street, Oxford OX1 2BX

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**From:** Sidharth Puthiyedathu Suresh <[sidharth.puthiyedathusuresh@univ.ox.ac.uk](mailto:sidharth.puthiyedathusuresh@univ.ox.ac.uk)>  
**Sent:** 08 October 2024 16:05  
**To:** UAS Student Fees Team <[student.fees@admin.ox.ac.uk](mailto:student.fees@admin.ox.ac.uk)>  
**Subject:** Re: Contract breaching tuition increase

Dear Paul,

Why was a two-year time period used for the CPI calculation instead of the one year where the fees increase, which would be the natural interpretation of the statement given on the website? Was this two-year CPI calculation mentioned anywhere within the contract? Because as far as I've seen it's only stated CPI.

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**From:** UAS Student Fees Team <[student.fees@admin.ox.ac.uk](mailto:student.fees@admin.ox.ac.uk)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 8 October 2024 3:50 PM  
**To:** Sidharth Puthiyedathu Suresh <[sidharth.puthiyedathusuresh@univ.ox.ac.uk](mailto:sidharth.puthiyedathusuresh@univ.ox.ac.uk)>  
**Subject:** RE: Contract breaching tuition increase

Dear Sidharth,

Thanks, yes the University used the August 2022 CPI rate when calculating fee increases for the 24/25 academic year.

Kind regards,



**Paul Penfold**  
Student Fees and Funding Administrator  
Student Fees and Funding  
  
University of Oxford  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, 4 Worcester Street, Oxford OX1 2BX

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**From:** Sidharth Puthiyedathu Suresh <[sidharth.puthiyedathusuresh@univ.ox.ac.uk](mailto:sidharth.puthiyedathusuresh@univ.ox.ac.uk)>  
**Sent:** 08 October 2024 15:49  
**To:** UAS Student Fees Team <[student.fees@admin.ox.ac.uk](mailto:student.fees@admin.ox.ac.uk)>  
**Subject:** Re: Contract breaching tuition increase

Dear Paul,

Could you clarify what this 9.9% CPI is specifically referring to?

Thank you

Sidharth

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**From:** UAS Student Fees Team <[student.fees@admin.ox.ac.uk](mailto:student.fees@admin.ox.ac.uk)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 8 October 2024 3:42 PM  
**To:** Sidharth Puthiyedathu Suresh <[sidharth.puthiyedathusuresh@univ.ox.ac.uk](mailto:sidharth.puthiyedathusuresh@univ.ox.ac.uk)>  
**Subject:** RE: Contract breaching tuition increase

Hi Sidharth,

Thank you for your email. As advised on the University website, course fees for most students may increase annually by either 6% or CPI, whichever is higher (<https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/fees-funding/fees-changes-fees-and-charges>). The relevant CPI figure was 9.9%, therefore fees for most courses will have increased by this amount for the 24/25 academic year.

Kind regards,



**Paul Penfold**  
Student Fees and Funding Administrator  
Student Fees and Funding

University of Oxford  
3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, 4 Worcester Street, Oxford OX1 2BX

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**From:** Sidharth Puthiyedathu Suresh <[sidharth.puthiyedathusuresh@univ.ox.ac.uk](mailto:sidharth.puthiyedathusuresh@univ.ox.ac.uk)>

**Sent:** 08 October 2024 15:35

**To:** UAS Student Fees Team <[student.fees@admin.ox.ac.uk](mailto:student.fees@admin.ox.ac.uk)>

**Subject:** Contract breaching tuition increase

Hello!

In the Initial Financial Declaration, we were informed that the fees would increase by at most the maximum of 6 % and the CPI. The CPI for the past year was less than 6 % yet the fee increase has far exceeded 6 % for Math and CS and I assume other courses as well. Please explain this discrepancy.

Thank you

Sidharth

**ANNEX IV**  
**February 27th Letter from Oxford Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Education**

Important message

[View newsletter online](#)



## **Reduction of course fees for 2024/25**

Dear student,

I am writing to inform you that the University has identified your course and year of study as eligible for a fee reduction for the 2024/25 academic year.

This is because of the way in which the University calculated fee increases for some students in line with inflation and how this was communicated to students.

It means that continuing students whose fees increased by more than 6.7% for the 2024/25 academic year will see this increase reduced to 6.7%.

The University is now reviewing your individual case to confirm eligibility according to your specific circumstances and the level of adjustment for your course fees. This process is complex, and staff across the University and colleges are working hard to provide more detailed information by the end of March. All fees adjustments are expected to be completed by the end of 8th Week of Trinity term 2025.

How these adjustments will be made will depend on how your course fees were originally paid for the 2024/25 year. This may vary depending on whether third party funding is in place, for example through a scholarship or sponsor, or if you paid your fees directly.

You will be contacted again by the end of March with further information on the status of your course fee adjustment and the payment process.

There is no specific action required of you at this time and information will be kept updated on this [dedicated FAQs page](#) (SSO required).

Kind regards,

Professor Martin Williams  
Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Education)

**ANNEX V**  
**2024-2025 Fee Setting Meeting Schedule for JFSSAG & PRAC**

**Outline timetable for 2024/25, to set fees for 2026/27**

<b>Term</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Action</b>
MT	MT week 0	Officers' Subgroup considers proposals for annual percentage uplift
	MT week 2	JFSSAG considers and agrees annual percentage uplift
	MT week 3	Circular issued to divisions/ODCE inviting fee proposals for 2026/27
	MT week 5	PRAC and Conference agree annual percentage uplift
HT	HT week 5-8	Deadline for responses from divisions in relation to proposals on the setting of individual course fees
	HT week 11	JFSSAG to consider divisional benchmarking (Week 11, not Week 10)
TT	TT week 1	JFSSAG to consider divisional fee proposals and recommendation to PRAC, Education Committee and Conference
	TT week 4	Officers' Subgroup considers any outstanding issues arising from the fee proposals and approve other charges
	TT week 5	PRAC, EdC and Conference consider recommendations from JFSSAG
	TT week 6	JFSSAG considers report from the Officers' Subgroup on any outstanding issues
	TT week 8	Education Committee considers JFSSAG report on any outstanding issues
	TT week 9	Conference considers JFSSAG report on any outstanding issues
	TT week 10	PRAC considers JFSSAG report on any outstanding issues
Vac	Sept 2025	University and college fees published on website

*(The SU serves on the JFSSAG and PRAC committees in a consultative role.)*