

Course Information Sheet for entry in 2025-26: MPhil in Greek and/or Latin Languages and Literature



Course facts

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|-----------------|----------------|
| Mode of study | Full Time Only |
| Expected length | 21 months |

About the course

The MPhil in Greek and/or Latin Literature is a 21-month taught graduate course that can be used as a route to the DPhil, if then followed by at least two years of doctoral study. Applicants for the MPhil wishing to enter doctoral programmes elsewhere after their master's degree at Oxford are also welcomed.

The majority of students take the shorter MSt, which the faculty recommends as the default master's choice in Greek and/or Latin languages and literature. However, the MPhil is often taken by two groups of students and designed with them in mind: those who feel that they would benefit from two more years of taught education in Classics before embarking on a doctorate; and those who have a clear idea of the topic that they hope to research eventually for their doctorate, and who wish to start extensive work on this topic already in their master's dissertation.

Most students take the course as preparation for a research degree, and for such students it might offer, for instance, linguistic training; the opportunity to become acquainted with an ancillary discipline such as papyrology; engagement with a particular author's texts at a deeper level; and/or textual criticism of Greek and/or Latin; or, reception studies. The MPhil also offers, through an obligatory dissertation, the first steps in actual research and the extended presentation of a scholarly argument.

You will study three options: a thesis and any two options from lists A and B. You will study one option in your first year and the other in your second year, and will work on your thesis across both years.

List A comprises major literary texts and genres - for example, historiography, lyric poetry, Cicero, Ovid. You may also devise your own option, subject to approval of your set of texts. The core of the teaching for these options is a series of, typically fortnightly, one-on-one sessions with a tutor.

List B comprises more technical subjects such as the textual criticism of Greek or Latin texts, papyrology, comparative philology and reception. These options are delivered in a variety of ways, often by (typically weekly) classes. Intermediate Ancient Greek or Latin may be taken if you have not studied both languages to a high level in the course of your first degree.

There is the possibility of specialising in reception across the course by choosing the Reception module option and working on reception topics in a text/genre option, though you will still sit a translation exam as detailed below.

All MPhil students have the opportunity to attend a wide range of lectures, seminars and talks by visiting speakers. In your first year, you will also attend a class on research techniques in Classical literature, extending over two to three terms. This looks at aspects of Classical scholarship and its history, and includes direct viewing of papyri, manuscripts, vases, and other resources in Oxford. In the second and third term considerable attention is paid to presentational skills, as students deliver papers of their own to each other.

Attendance

The course is full-time and requires attendance in Oxford. Full-time students are subject to the University's Residence requirements.

Resources to support your study

As a graduate student, you will have access to the University's wide range of world-class resources including libraries, museums, galleries, digital resources and IT services.

The Bodleian Libraries is the largest library system in the UK. It includes the main Bodleian Library and libraries across Oxford, including major research libraries and faculty, department and institute libraries. Together, the Libraries hold more than 13 million printed items, provide access to e-journals, and contain outstanding special collections including rare books and manuscripts, classical papyri, maps, music, art and printed ephemera.

The University's IT Services is available to all students to support with core university IT systems and tools, as well as many other services and facilities. IT Services also offers a range of IT learning courses for students, to support with learning and research.

Oxford has academic resources among the most extensive in the world for Classical languages and literature. The Ioannou Centre for Classical and Byzantine Studies offers various facilities for graduate students including a common room and a graduate study area. It is also the base for the various research projects based in the faculty.

The faculty is fortunate in having two world-class research libraries close at hand, the Bodleian and the Bodleian Art, Archaeology and Ancient World Library. The Bodleian Art, Archaeology and Ancient World Library is an open-shelf lending library indispensable to anyone studying ancient history, archaeology and art; it is also extremely useful to those studying literature or philology. The library houses the world's largest collection of literary and documentary papyri; the Bodleian has the UK's most important collection of Greek and Latin manuscripts.

Supervision

The allocation of graduate supervision for this course is the responsibility of the Faculty of Classics and it is not always possible to accommodate the preferences of incoming graduate students to work with a particular member of staff. Under exceptional circumstances a supervisor may be found outside the Faculty of Classics.

You will be assigned a supervisor, who provides overall direction for your course. Your supervisor will arrange tutors for you for each option. You will have considerable input yourself in shaping and driving your studies. Most students have the opportunity to meet their supervisor twice a term, although more frequent meetings can be arranged as needed.

Assessment

Option courses from List A are assessed by means of three submitted essays and a paper of translation and comment.

Assessment for option courses from List B is by exam or pre-submitted work or a combination of the two.

Your thesis subject has to be devised in consultation with your supervisor and approved by the Graduate Studies Committee, and must be submitted by the sixth week of the Trinity (ie third) term of your second year.

Changes to this course

The University will seek to deliver this course in accordance with the description set out above. However, there may be situations in which it is desirable or necessary for the University to make changes in course provision, either before or after you commence your course. These might include significant changes made necessary by any pandemic, epidemic or local health emergency. For further information, please see the University's Terms and Conditions (<http://www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/terms>) and our page on changes to courses (<http://www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/coursechanges>).

Costs

Annual fees for entry in 2025-26

| Fee status | Annual Course fees |
|------------|--------------------|
| Home | £16,900 |
| Overseas | £41,250 |

Information about course fees

Course fees are payable each year, for the duration of your fee liability (your fee liability is the length of time for which you are required to pay course fees). For courses lasting longer than one year, please be aware that fees will usually increase annually. Information about how much fees and other costs may increase is set out in the University's Terms and Conditions (<http://www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/terms>).

Course fees cover your teaching as well as other academic services and facilities provided to support your studies. Unless specified in the additional cost information (below), course fees do not cover your accommodation, residential costs or other living costs. They also don't cover any additional costs and charges that are outlined in the additional cost information.

Additional cost information

There are no compulsory elements of this course that entail additional costs beyond fees and living costs. However, as part of your course requirements, you may need to choose a dissertation, a project or a thesis topic. Please note that, depending on your choice of topic and the research required to complete it, you may incur additional expenses, such as travel expenses, research expenses, and field trips. You will need to meet these additional costs, although you may be able to apply for small grants from your department and/or college to help you cover some of these expenses.

Living costs

In addition to your course fees and any additional course-specific costs, you will need to ensure that you have adequate funds to support your living costs for the duration of your course.

The likely living costs for the 2025-26 academic year are published below. These costs are based on a single, full-time graduate student, with no dependants, living in Oxford. We provide the cost per month so you can multiply up by the number of months you expect to live in Oxford.

Likely living costs for one month

| | Lower range | Upper range |
|--------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Food | £330 | £515 |
| Accommodation | £790 | £955 |
| Personal items | £200 | £335 |
| Social activities | £45 | £100 |
| Study costs | £40 | £90 |
| Other | £20 | £40 |
| Total | £1,425 | £2,035 |

Likely living costs for nine months

| | Lower range | Upper range |
|--------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Food | £2,970 | £4,635 |
| Accommodation | £7,110 | £8,595 |
| Personal items | £1,800 | £3,015 |
| Social activities | £405 | £900 |
| Study costs | £360 | £810 |
| Other | £180 | £360 |
| Total | £12,825 | £18,315 |

Likely living costs for twelve months

| | Lower range | Upper range |
|--------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Food | £3,960 | £6,180 |
| Accommodation | £9,480 | £11,460 |
| Personal items | £2,400 | £4,020 |
| Social activities | £540 | £1,200 |
| Study costs | £480 | £1,080 |
| Other | £240 | £480 |
| Total | £17,100 | £24,420 |

When planning your finances for any future years of study at Oxford beyond the 2025-26 academic year, it is suggested that you allow for potential increases in living expenses of 4% each year – although this rate may vary depending on the national economic situation.

More information about how these figures have been calculated is available at www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/livingcosts.

Document accessibility

If you require a more accessible version of this document please contact Graduate Admissions and Recruitment by email (graduate.admissions@admin.ox.ac.uk) or via the online form (<http://www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/ask/form>).