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## Asian and Middle Eastern Studies Course Information Sheet for entry in 2025

### **Arabic, Assyriology, Chinese, Egyptology, Hebrew, Japanese, Jewish Studies, Persian, Sanskrit, Turkish.**

Asian and Middle Eastern Studies is unique in its sole focus on introducing students to civilisations that are different from the Western ones upon which the curriculum in most British schools and colleges is based.

The courses present both the major traditions and cultural trends of the regions studied and, in most cases, their modern developments. All courses include a combination of linguistic, literary, historic and cultural studies. There is a wide range of options in fields such as art and archaeology, history, literature, philosophy, religion and modern social studies.

Asian and Middle Eastern Studies has a long history in Oxford. The Bodleian and other libraries have acquired extensive collections. The Nizami Ganjavi Library, the KB Chen China Centre Library and the Bodleian Japanese Library are all specialists in their respective fields.

Around the corner from the Faculty building on Pusey Lane is the [Ashmolean Museum](#), which houses superb collections. Nearby are also the Leopold Muller Memorial Library at the Clarendon Institute for Hebrew and Jewish Studies material, and the [Bodleian Art, Archaeology and Ancient World Library](#). The Bodleian Art, Archaeology and Ancient World Library contains the renowned Griffith Institute Archive, one of the finest collections in the world for the study of ancient Egypt and the Ancient Near East.

### Work placements/international opportunities

Most courses offer the opportunity to spend time in the region being studied. The Arabic course includes a year in an Arabic-speaking country and the Turkish course a year in Turkey. The Chinese and Japanese courses also include a year in China or Taiwan and in Japan respectively.

For Persian, the Faculty decides each year whether it is advisable for its students to spend their year abroad in Iran. In years when Iran is not possible, they study in Tajikistan and/or Armenia instead. In certain circumstances, for example due to visa difficulties or because the health needs of students cannot be met, it may be necessary to make adjustments to a course's requirements for international study. Students who consider that they may be affected are asked to contact their department for advice.

### A typical week

Your time will be divided between lectures, tutorials (up to three students and a tutor) and language classes that will develop your writing, speaking - when relevant - and comprehension skills. The rest of your time will be dedicated to independent study, working on regular assignments in reading, writing and translation.

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Seminar and language class sizes may vary depending on the options you choose or the language you are studying, but there would usually be no more than around 10 students and often fewer, while lectures are normally around 15-25 students.

Most tutorials, classes, and lectures are delivered by staff who are tutors in their subject. Many are world-leading experts with years of experience in teaching and research. Some teaching may also be delivered by postgraduate students who are usually studying at doctorate level.

Visit our [Academic Year](#) page to find out more about how our teaching year is structured.

### Course structure

Arabic T601, Persian T613, Turkish T600

YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEARS 3 AND 4
<b>COURSES</b> Elementary language Middle Eastern history and cultures	<b>COURSES</b> Year abroad: approved course of language instruction	<b>COURSES</b> Core work on language and literature History Specialisation or subsidiary language Islamic Religion (Arabic only)
<b>ASSESSMENT</b>  First University examinations after term 3: three written papers; an oral exam (Arabic only)		<b>ASSESSMENT</b>  Final University examinations at the end of Year 4: oral exam and eight or nine written papers (one of which must be a dissertation)

*Options listed are only illustrative of what is available. A full list of current options is available on the [Asian and Middle Eastern Studies](#) website.*

### Assyriology Q401, Egyptology Q400

For students starting Assyriology (Ancient Near Eastern Studies) in 2025 or thereafter, please note that the degree title for course Q401 has changed from BA in Egyptology and Ancient Near Eastern Studies to BA in Assyriology. In the new structure, the Egyptology course will lead to a BA in Egyptology (Q400), and the Ancient Near Eastern Studies course will lead to a BA in Assyriology (Q401).

The course content and options will remain the same.

YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3
<p><b>COURSES</b></p> <p>Broad survey of history and cultures of Egypt and the Ancient Near East</p> <p>Intensive language and text teaching in Egyptian or Akkadian</p>	<p><b>COURSES</b></p> <p>Addition of second language, or Archaeology and Anthropology</p> <p>Language options with Akkadian: Arabic, Aramaic and Syriac, Early Iranian, Egyptian, Hebrew (Biblical and Rabbinic), Hittite (if available) or Sumerian</p> <p>Language options with Egyptian: Akkadian, Arabic, Aramaic and Syriac, Coptic, Demotic, Early Iranian or Hebrew (Biblical and Rabbinic)</p> <p>Literary and historical topics through study of texts and essay writing</p> <p>Intensive language and text class work</p> <p>Artefact classes</p>	<p><b>COURSES</b></p> <p>Essay writing and dissertation work</p> <p>Intensive classes in the first and second terms</p> <p>Artefact classes</p> <p>Special option</p>
<p><b>ASSESSMENT</b></p> <p>First University examinations: four written papers</p>		<p><b>ASSESSMENT</b></p> <p>Final University examinations: ten units</p>

Options listed are only illustrative of what is available. A full list of current options is available on the [Asian and Middle Eastern Studies](#) website.

### Chinese T101

YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEARS 3 AND 4
<p><b>COURSES</b></p> <p>Elementary language in Modern and Classical Chinese</p>	<p><b>COURSES</b></p> <p>Year abroad in China or Taiwan</p>	<p><b>COURSES</b></p> <p>Extended language classes in modern Chinese</p> <p>Classical Chinese philosophy and history</p> <p>Interdisciplinary course on modern China</p>

History and civilisation of China		Dissertation  Two options from a range covering ancient philosophy, history, literature, art and cinema, contemporary Chinese law, politics and society, and international relations; or a subsidiary language: Tibetan, Japanese or Korean
<b>ASSESSMENT</b>  First University examinations: three written papers; an oral exam		<b>ASSESSMENT</b>  Final University examinations: oral examination; eight written papers (including extended essay for candidates who have taken these options); dissertation

*Options listed are only illustrative of what is available. A full list of current options is available on the [Asian and Middle Eastern Studies](#) website.*

Mastering the ability to handwrite in Chinese has been identified as a competence standard for a **mandatory** core element of this course. This means that students will be required to produce handwritten work for assessment and it will not be possible to complete the assessment in an alternative format. If you are interested in this course and your personal circumstances mean that handwriting may present a challenge, please contact the department/faculty for further information.

Mastering the ability to handwrite in Chinese, Japanese and Korean has been identified as a competence standard for an assessment for an **optional** component of this course which means that students will be required to produce handwritten work for assessment and it will not be possible to complete the assessment for that optional component in an alternative format. If you are interested in this course and your personal circumstances mean that handwriting may present a challenge, please contact the department/faculty for further information.

#### Hebrew Q480

YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEARS 3 AND 4
<b>COURSES</b>  Intensive study in Hebrew language in all periods  Introduction to Jewish history and culture	<b>COURSES</b>  Intensive language study  Study of history and culture through texts	<b>COURSES</b>  Continued language and textual study  Tutorials in history, culture and society

	<p>Choice of two optional papers from Jewish Studies</p> <p>Subsidiary language options: Akkadian, Arabic, Aramaic and Syriac, Egyptology, Persian or Turkish</p>	<p>Year 3 is a compulsory year abroad for students on the four-year track.</p>
<p><b>ASSESSMENT</b></p> <p>First University examinations: four written papers</p>		<p><b>ASSESSMENT</b></p> <p>Final University examinations: seven written papers; dissertation; oral examination if taking a year abroad (four year course)</p>

Options listed are only illustrative of what is available. A full list of current options is available on the [Asian and Middle Eastern Studies](#) website.

### Japanese T201

YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEARS 3 AND 4
<p><b>COURSES</b></p> <p>Intensive Japanese language classes</p> <p>Japanese and East Asian history and culture</p> <p>Formal grammatical analysis of Japanese</p>	<p><b>COURSES</b></p> <p>Year abroad at Kobe University</p>	<p><b>COURSES</b></p> <p>Continued language classes</p> <p>Classical Japanese</p> <p>Dissertation</p> <p>Options with tutorials (five subjects to be chosen), from a range of specialised subjects within: Classical literature; Modern literature; Linguistics; History; Politics; Economics; Society, Art; Subsidiary language (counts as three subjects) from: Chinese, Korean or Tibetan</p>
<p><b>ASSESSMENT</b></p> <p>First University examinations: three written papers</p>	<p><b>ASSESSMENT</b></p> <p>Test at end of course</p>	<p><b>ASSESSMENT</b></p> <p>Final University examinations: oral examination; eight written papers; dissertation</p>

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*Options listed are only illustrative of what is available. A full list of current options is available on the [Asian and Middle Eastern Studies](#) website.*

Mastering the ability to handwrite in Japanese has been identified as a competence standard for a **mandatory** core element of this course. This means that students will be required to produce handwritten work for assessment and it will not be possible to complete the assessment in an alternative format. If you are interested in this course and your personal circumstances mean that handwriting may present a challenge, please contact the department/faculty for further information.

Mastering the ability to handwrite in Chinese, Japanese and Korean has been identified as a competence standard for an assessment for an **optional** component of this course which means that students will be required to produce handwritten work for assessment and it will not be possible to complete the assessment for that optional component in an alternative format. If you are interested in this course and your personal circumstances mean that handwriting may present a challenge, please contact the department/faculty for further information.

### Jewish Studies QV91

YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3
<b>COURSES</b> Intensive study in Hebrew language in all periods Introduction to Jewish history and culture	<b>COURSES</b> Intensive language study Options (three subjects to be chosen)	<b>COURSES</b> Continued language study Options (two subjects to be chosen) Tutorials in history, culture and society
<b>ASSESSMENT</b> First University examinations: four written papers		<b>ASSESSMENT</b> Final University examinations: seven written papers; dissertation

*Options listed are only illustrative of what is available. A full list of current options is available on the [Asian and Middle Eastern Studies](#) website.*

### Sanskrit Q450

YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3
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<b>COURSES</b> Intensive language learning Introduction to the study of ancient Indian civilisation	<b>COURSES</b> Continued language learning and text reading Study of the historically and culturally most important genres of Sanskrit literature Begin subsidiary language options: Hindi, Early Iranian, Pali, Prakrit or Tibetan	<b>COURSES</b> Continued language learning and text reading Option (one subject to be chosen from a range of specialised subjects relating to Sanskrit) Dissertation
<b>ASSESSMENT</b> First University examinations: three written papers		<b>ASSESSMENT</b> Final University examinations: ten papers (seven in Sanskrit, including a dissertation, and three in subsidiary languages)

*Options listed are only illustrative of what is available. A full list of current options is available on the [Asian and Middle Eastern Studies](#) website.*

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 registration. For further information, please see the University's [Terms and Conditions](#).

### Fees

These annual fees are for full-time students who begin this undergraduate course here in 2024.

Information about how much fees and other costs may increase is set out in the University's Terms and Conditions.

Please note that while the University sets out its annual fees as a single figure, this is a combined figure for both your University and college fees. More information is provided in your [Terms and Conditions](#).

<b>Fee status</b>	<b>Annual Course fees</b>
Home (UK, Republic of Ireland, Channel Islands & Isle of Man)	£9,535
Overseas (including most EU students – see Note below)	£41,130

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**Note:** Irish nationals living in the UK or Ireland, EU, other EEA, and Swiss nationals who have been granted settled or pre-settled status in the UK under the EU settlement scheme are eligible for 'Home fee' status and student loan support, subject to meeting residency requirements. We will contact you directly if we need further information from you to determine your fee status.

Please refer to the [Undergraduate fee status](#) pages for more information.

### Oxford living costs

Living costs for the academic year starting in 2025 are estimated to be between £1,425 and £2,035 for each month you are in Oxford. Our academic year is made up of three eight-week terms, so you would not usually need to be in Oxford for much more than six months of the year but may wish to budget over a nine-month period to ensure you also have sufficient funds during the holidays to meet essential costs. For further details please visit our [living costs webpage](#).

### Living costs breakdown

	Per month		Total for 9 months	
	Lower range	Upper range	Lower range	Upper range
Food	£330	£515	£2,970	£4,635
Accommodation (including utilities)	£790	£955	£7,110	£8,595
Personal items	£200	£335	£1,800	£3,015
Social activities	£45	£100	£405	£900
Study costs	£40	£90	£360	£810
Other	£20	£40	£180	£360
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1,425</b>	<b>£2,035</b>	<b>£12,825</b>	<b>£18,315</b>

In order to provide these likely living costs (which are rounded to the nearest £5), the University and the Oxford SU conducted a living costs survey to complement existing student expenditure data from a variety of sources, including the UK government's Student Income and Expenditure Survey and the National Union of Students (NUS).

The current economic climate and high national rate of inflation make it very hard to estimate potential changes to the cost of living over the next few years. When planning your finances for any future years of study in Oxford beyond 2025-26, it is suggested that you allow for potential increases in living expenses of around 4% each year – although this rate may vary depending on the national economic situation.

### Additional Fees and Charges Information for Asian and Middle Eastern Studies

Students taking Arabic, Chinese, Japanese, Persian or Turkish will take the second year abroad.

Students of Hebrew can choose to take a year abroad, but it is not compulsory.

During the year abroad, students currently pay significantly reduced fees to the University. Fees for later years have not yet been confirmed but as an example, the course fees for a new-cohort undergraduate student on a Humanities course going on a year abroad in 2025 would equate to:

Home students: £1,430 for the year.



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Overseas students: £13,985 for the year (please note this is an illustrative example for 25/26)  
The Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies covers the cost of language tuition abroad, but not living costs and flights. Students taking Arabic are able to choose between several institutions abroad. Depending on the choice of education provider, additional costs may be incurred. These will be confirmed in advance each year.

Some funding towards year abroad placements is currently available through the Turing scheme, which provides living costs grants and enhanced support for disadvantaged students. The University plans to bid for Turing scheme funding to support year abroad activity in future academic years. UK students can continue to access government funding for living costs, and those from lower-income households who are means-tested will remain eligible for generous bursaries from Oxford. Travel grants and financial assistance for those with insufficient funds may also be available through your college and the University.

### Living costs support during the year abroad

There are a number of sources of funding which you may be eligible for to contribute to your living costs on your year abroad and these are detailed below. Some year abroad activities may provide a salary, depending on placement type and terms. Please note that dependent on your placement(s) and country, it is possible that the combination of available sources of funding will not cover your living costs in full. You should therefore carefully research the likely living costs in your host country and consider your own expected outgoings to identify whether you may need to explore alternative sources of funding through your college, the University or other means.

Some funding towards year abroad placements is currently available through the Turing scheme, which provides living costs grants to all students on eligible placements, with enhanced support available for disadvantaged students. The University plans to bid for Turing scheme funding to support year abroad activity in future academic years. [This page](#) will be updated as information becomes available and on-course students will be kept informed of developments.

In the event that the University is not successful in securing Turing scheme funding, it will provide grants towards living costs at a similar level to Turing grants to support undergraduates undertaking approved study exchanges or work placements required for their course.

All UK students can continue to access living costs funding from the UK government (Student Finance agencies) during their year abroad in conjunction with any Turing scheme funding available. The level of funding available to you will be assessed based on your household income and your placement type. Further information about the amount of funding which may be available can be found at: [Student finance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk). UK students from lower-income households with means-tested assessments will also remain eligible for Oxford's generous [bursary provision](#), which is separate to the living costs support mentioned above. For UK students who are struggling financially, the University's Student Support Fund may be able to provide additional assistance.

Some faculty bursaries and scholarships are currently available for students of Chinese and Japanese, and a number of colleges have funds, including travel grants to support their students' period of study abroad.



*Please note, at the time of publishing the CIS, full details about Turing scheme funding arrangements for living costs support during the year abroad were outstanding. [This page](#) will be updated as information becomes available and on-course students will be kept informed of developments.*