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Classical Archaeology and Ancient History Course Information Sheet for entry in 2025

The course combines study of the history, archaeology and art of the classical world. It looks at the societies and cultures of the ancient Mediterranean, through written texts, visual art and material remains. The course has at its centre the two classical cultures of Greece and Rome.

The course is aimed at anyone interested in investigating ancient civilisations and their remains: from Greek temples and Roman amphitheatres to wall paintings and the poignant residues of everyday life.

While it is primarily a historical and non-linguistic degree, ancient languages can be used and learned as part of the course.

The degree is taught through a mixture of tutorials, lectures and classes. Some cover specifically archaeological or historical approaches to ancient Mediterranean cultures, but the degree is unique in also offering courses that combine both approaches.

In every year of the course there are classes led by both an archaeologist and a historian, which are designed to give an integrated, interdisciplinary approach to the topics studied.

The University's resources for this combined subject are excellent. The expertise, range and number of post-holders in the two fields are unique. Oxford has some of the best library facilities for the study of classical archaeology and ancient history in the world (especially the [Bodleian Art, Archaeology and Ancient World Library](#)). The [Ashmolean Museum](#) also contains wide-ranging collections of art and artefacts from classical cultures.

Fieldwork/work placements/international opportunities

There are two practical elements to the course:

- two weeks at the end of the first year spent on an archaeological field project or a practical museum placement
- the preparation of a report in the second and third years focusing either on a particular ancient site, or on an artefact or set of artefacts in a museum of your choice.

Fieldwork projects recently attended by Classical Archaeology and Ancient History (CAAH) students include:

- Birdoswald Roman Fort, Cumbria
- Dobra, Albania
- Fregellae, Lazio, Italy
- Populonia, Tuscany, Italy
- Halaesca, Sicily, Italy
- Sanisera Field School, Menorca, Spain
- Thouria, Kalamata, Greece
- Demetrias Field School, Greece

- Carnuntum, Austria.

Faculty financial support is provided for fieldwork.

A typical week (Year 1)

- Lectures (4-6 per week)
- Team-taught classes (one per week for the first two terms)
- Tutorials (one every one to two weeks) and/or language classes

A typical week (Year 2-3)

You will take six options and produce a site or museum report. Currently, the options are chosen from:

- Integrated classes, bringing together historical and archaeological approaches to a particular period
- Core papers, which deal with central topics in Greco-Roman studies
- Further papers, which allow you either to build up concentrated expertise in some central areas and periods or to extend into earlier and later periods, and into non-classical cultures
- Greek or Latin language papers.

Tutorials are usually two students (possibly three) and a tutor; a larger group is normally defined as a class.

Where options are taught in classes, the class size will depend on the options you choose. They would usually be no more than 10 students. For the core papers the class size is usually eight or less.

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 studying at doctorate level. To find out more about how our teaching year is structured, visit our [Academic Year](#) page.

Course structure

YEAR 1	
COURSES Four courses are taken Core elements: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Aristocracy and democracy in the Greek world, 550–450 BC• Republic to empire: Rome, 50 BC to AD 50 Current optional elements:	ASSESSMENT First University examinations: four written papers

YEAR 1

- Archaeology: Homeric archaeology and early Greece from 1550 to 700 BC; Greek vases; Greek sculpture c600– 300 BC; Roman architecture
- History: Thucydides and the West; Aristophanes’ political comedy; Cicero and Catiline; Tacitus and Tiberius
- Ancient Languages: Beginning Ancient Greek or Latin; Intermediate Ancient Greek or Latin; Advanced Ancient Greek or Latin

YEARS 2 AND 3

COURSES

Six courses are taken from a wide choice of options. These currently include:

- Rome, Italy, and the Hellenistic East, c300-100 BC
- Imperial culture and society, cAD 50-150
- The Greeks and the Mediterranean world, c950-500 BC
- Greek art and archaeology, c500-300 BC
- Art under the Roman Empire, AD 14-337
- Roman archaeology: cities and settlement under the Empire
- Alexander the Great and his early successors
- The Greek city in the Roman world from Dio Chrysostom to John Chrysostom
- Thucydides and the Greek world, 479-403 BC
- Republic in crisis, 146-46 BC
- The archaeology of Minoan Crete, 3200-1000 BC
- Etruscan Italy, 900-300 BC
- Science-based methods in archaeology
- Greek and Roman coins
- Mediterranean maritime archaeology
- The archaeology of the late Roman Empire, AD 284-641
- Athenian democracy in the Classical Age
- Cicero: politics and thought in the late Republic
- Religions in the Greek and Roman world, c31 BC-AD 312
- Sexuality and gender in Greece and Rome
- The Achaemenid Empire, 550-330 BC
- St Augustine and the last days of Rome, AD 370-430
- Epigraphy of the Greek and/or Roman world, c700 BC-AD 300
- Intermediate Ancient Greek or Latin
- Advanced Ancient Greek or Latin
- Research for a site or museum report

ASSESSMENT

Final University examinations: six written papers; one site or museum report

YEARS 2 AND 3

For more information, visit the [Classical Archaeology and Ancient History 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 2025.

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](#).

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

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.

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

UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS AND OUTREACH

University Offices, Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JD



	Per month		Total for 9 months	
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
Total	£1,425	£2,035	£12,825	£18,315

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 Classical Archaeology and Ancient History](#)

At the end of the first year, CAAH students are required to undertake fieldwork or alternatively a practical museum placement. Fieldwork projects recently attended by CAAH students include:

- Birdoswald Roman Fort, Cumbria
- Dobra, Albania
- Fregellae, Lazio, Italy
- Populonia, Tuscany, Italy
- Halaesa, Sicily, Italy
- Sanisera Field School, Menorca, Spain
- Thouria, Kalamata, Greece
- Demetrias Field School, Greece
- Carnuntum, Austria

Museum placements included the Ashmolean Museum, Copenhagen Glyptothek (Denmark), Beazley Archive (Oxford) and others.

You can choose an alternative location if you wish, subject to the approval of the CAAH standing committee. The cost of participating in fieldwork will depend on your choice of fieldwork project, but will typically vary between £500 - £1,200. All CAAH students starting in 2024 will receive a fieldwork grant of up to £1,000 from the faculty; opportunities exist for receiving additional support from your colleges.