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Classics and Modern Languages Course Information Sheet for entry in 2025

Classics and Modern Languages enables you to combine study of Latin and/or Ancient Greek with a modern language. The course involves extensive study of major literary texts, alongside training in linguistic skills.

The Greeks and Romans were active in all the countries covered by the available languages. Not only does studying this course help to give students greater access to the ancient cultures, it is also a chance to examine how classical literature and culture have shaped their modern counterparts. Some options provide an opportunity to directly compare texts from both sides of the course, focusing on classical influence on modern European literature.

Oxford has the largest Classics department in the world, with over sixty full-time academic staff-members. It has outstanding teaching, library and museum resources, including the [Bodleian](#) and [Bodleian Art, Archaeology and Ancient World Libraries](#), the [Ashmolean Museum](#) and a designated Classics Centre.

The Medieval and Modern Languages Faculty is one of the largest in the country, with a major research library, the [Taylor Institution](#), and a well-equipped [Language Centre](#). Students develop oral proficiency in the modern language by regular contact with native speakers.

International opportunities

Modern Languages students spend a compulsory year abroad, usually in the third year. Opportunities abroad may include (but aren't restricted to) working as a paid language assistant in a school, undertaking an internship and/or studying at a University. These opportunities provide valuable experiences for improving language competence.

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 is divided between lectures, tutorials and private study. The working week is typically structured around two tutorials in different subjects.

Most of your independent work will be in preparation of essays for your tutorials, although systematic language-learning and reading of texts will also require considerable time and effort.

Much of the teaching will take place in your college, but lectures are given in the Classics Faculty, the Faculty of Medieval and Modern Languages and the Examination Schools. For particular subjects you may also work with tutors from other colleges.

Tutorials are usually up to four students and a tutor. 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 20 students and would often be much smaller.

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 doctoral level.

Course structure

Two routes through the course, called 'options', are available to Classics and Modern Languages (CML) students.

The two routes are identical in their last two years, and lead to the same final exams; they differ only in their first one or two years.

Please consider the two following routes carefully before you make your decision.

Option A

Option A divides its time evenly between Classics (mostly language and literature) and Modern Languages.

This option lasts three years for students who have studied Latin and/or Greek to A-Level or equivalent, and four years for those who are taking the version with Beginners' Latin or Greek. Option A is also known as the 'Prelims route', because you will take a Preliminary Examination similar to that taken by [Classics and English](#) or [Modern Languages](#) students.

With the year abroad, this option is total of four or five years.

Summary of key features of Option A route

- 'Prelims Route'
- Preliminary Examination at the end of first year
- four or five years in total (depending on whether or not you are starting your classical language as a beginner).

Option B

Option B begins with a focus on Classics. For the first five terms, students take all the same options available to students of [Classics](#):

- Greek and/or Latin language,
- literature,
- ancient history,
- archaeology,
- philology
- and ancient or modern philosophy

This option lasts four years, whether or not you have any prior experience in Latin or Greek. Option B is also known as the 'Mods route', because you will take Honour Moderations (first exams) in Classics, which are identical to those taken by Classics students.

With the year abroad Option B is a total of five years.

Summary of key features of Option B route

- 'Mods Route'
- Honour Moderations Examinations in the second term of second year
- more focus on Classics in the first five terms
- five years in total.

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

OPTION A YEAR 1 (CLASSICS AND MODERN LANGUAGES) or YEARS 1 AND 2 (CLASSICS AND MODERN LANGUAGES WITH BEGINNERS' LATIN AND GREEK)

Students taking Classics and Modern Languages with Beginners' Latin or Greek spend a preliminary year learning Latin or Greek, alongside some study of classical literature. Then they follow the same programme as other Option A students.

- Translation from the ancient language(s) into English (one paper)
- Literature in the ancient language or languages (two papers)
- Practical language work for the modern language (two papers)
- Literature in the modern language (two papers)

ASSESSMENT

First University examinations: three papers in the ancient language; four papers in the modern language

OPTION B YEARS 1 AND 2 (TERMS 1–5)

COURSES

As for [Classics](#) for the first five terms. In Addition, undergraduates normally maintain their modern language through language classes.

ASSESSMENT

First University examinations in Classics: six/nine papers

OPTIONS A AND B (plus intercalated year abroad) TERMS 4–9 (OPTION A, CLASSICS AND MODERN LANGUAGES), 6–12 (OPTION B), or 7–12 (OPTION A, CLASSICS AND MODERN LANGUAGES WITH BEGINNERS' LATIN OR GREEK)	
COURSES <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Classics (three/four papers)• Modern Language (four/five papers)• Possibility of a paper or a long essay exploring the links between ancient and modern literatures	ASSESSMENT <p>Final University examinations: nine papers in total (eight compulsory, one optional) plus oral exam in the modern language. A thesis may be offered in place of one of the Classics papers.</p>
<p>The options listed above are illustrative and may change. More information about current options is available on the Classics and Modern Languages websites.</p>	

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](#).

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.

UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS AND OUTREACH

University Offices, Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JD



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
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 Classics and Modern Languages

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.
- Overseas students: £13,985 for the year (please note this is an illustrative example for 25/26).

We recommend that students begin to research the costs associated with the various year abroad options as early as possible in the second year of the course. There is plenty of support, information and advice to help you.

Certain year abroad activities may provide a salary, depending on placement type and terms. 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

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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, the faculty and the University.

At present, students taking part in approved study exchanges supported by the Turing scheme do not pay tuition fees to other institutions. However, for some destinations, additional charges, which apply to all students at that institution, may be payable. If you study outside the Turing scheme framework, you will be liable to pay course fees and any other applicable charges to the relevant institution.

You can find the latest information about the Turing scheme at Oxford, on our [dedicated webpage](#).

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.

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 [bursary provision](#), which is separate to the living costs support mentioned above. For UK students who are struggling financially, the University's Financial Assistance schemes may be able to provide additional support.

Travel grants may be available through your college and/or the Faculty and some financial assistance is also available from the Faculty.

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.