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History and Politics Course Information Sheet for entry in 2025

The History and Politics course brings together complementary but distinct disciplines to form a coherent and stimulating programme.

The degree not only enables students to set contemporary political problems in their historical perspective, but also equips them to approach the study of the past with the conceptual rigour derived from political science. Students are required to study quantitative methods in preparation for year 2 Social Science papers.

A special feature of the Oxford course is the chance to choose from a broad range of subjects across the two disciplines, making it possible, for example, to combine medieval history options with analysis of contemporary political systems.

The intellectual rigour of this course benefits from the expertise of Oxford's political theorists and historians in the history of political thought. It is also strengthened by the thematic approach taken to European and World history teaching in the first year, combined with an emphasis on interdisciplinarity in a number of both Politics and History papers.

Oxford also possesses exceptional library provision for History in the [Bodleian Library](#), the [History Faculty Library](#), the [Weston Library's](#) special collections as well as the [Social Sciences Library](#).

A typical week

During the first year, you will be expected to attend around five lectures each week, participate in regular meetings with tutors to discuss work, conduct independent research and write at least one essay a week. You will also learn quantitative methods.

In the second and third years you will have the opportunity to choose from an enormous variety of lectures, and your regular tutorials will be supplemented by faculty classes where you will discuss work with a larger number of students.

The third-year thesis will give you the opportunity to engage in a piece of independent research. Generally, students are very much in charge of their own timetable throughout their course.

Tutorials are usually 2-4 students and a tutor. Class sizes may vary depending on the options you choose, but there would usually be no more than around 20 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 doctoral level.

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

Course structure

YEAR 1

COURSES

Four examination papers and a short piece of assessed coursework:

- Either any one of the seven periods in the history of the British Isles or any one of the four periods of European/World history
- Introduction to the theory of politics or Theories of the state
- One optional subject from a choice of:
 - Quantification in history
 - Approaches to history
 - Historiography: Tacitus to Weber
 - Any of the optional subjects (see [History](#), except Theories of the state) or any one of six foreign texts
- The practice of politics
- Quantitative methods: political analysis (not examined)

ASSESSMENT

First University examinations:
four written papers

YEARS 2 AND 3

COURSES

The course has seven components:

- A period of the history of the British Isles
- A period of European/World history
- Any two of the five core subjects in Politics:
 - Comparative government*
 - British politics and government since 1900
 - Theory of politics
 - International relations*
 - Political sociology*
- One of the following combinations:

ASSESSMENT

Final University examinations:
either six written papers; one thesis in History or Politics **OR**
five written papers; one extended essay; one thesis in History or Politics.

YEARS 2 AND 3

- A special subject in History (two papers) and an optional subject in Politics (either a core paper not yet taken or a further subject)
 - A further subject in History and two optional subjects in Politics
 - A further subject in History, one optional subject in Politics and one special subject in Politics
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- A thesis in either History or Politics

*these papers require Quantitative methods

Visit the [History website](#) and [Politics website](#) for the latest information on all course details and options.

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
Accommodation	£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 History and Politics

There are no compulsory costs for this course beyond the fees shown above and your living costs.