

If you require an accessible version of the document, please contact Undergraduate Admissions by email (uao.comms@admin.ox.ac.uk) or via the online form (<http://www.ox.ac.uk/ask>).

Music Course Information Sheet for entry in 2025

Music is everywhere in the world around us; it is part of all of our lives, whether we play it, actively listen to it, or hear it in passing.

At Oxford, we study music by reading, listening, performing and composing. We create music in all its aspects – acoustic, electronic, individually and communally, working with world-class professionals and with local communities. We analyse the relationships within a piece of music, and between that piece and its genre and context.

Throughout the course, you will be exposed to music of all kinds and in all contexts:

- Western classical
- popular music
- global, world and traditional musics
- community music
- seeing these musics in terms of their social and cultural contexts (and how those contexts have been shaped over time).

Music has been part of the life of Oxford for more than 800 years. There are around 30 academic staff, of whom 15 give lectures regularly – scholars with distinguished reputations as musicologists, performers and composers. Oxford welcomes visits from numerous speakers and professional performing ensembles.

Students enjoy performance and composition workshops, and play an active part in the life of the faculty and their colleges – in chapels, orchestras, ensembles, bands and stage performances, and in musical outreach to the broader community.

The faculty building incorporates practice rooms, electronic music and recording studios, and one of the best music libraries in any British university. The world-famous [Bate Collection of Musical Instruments](#), housed in the faculty, lends historical instruments to students. The faculty also has a gamelan orchestra.

The course is broadly based but allows increasing specialisation and choice as you proceed. Whether you're a performer, a composer, a budding scholar of music history, sociology, psychology or education, the Music course offers something for you.

Students graduate as mature and well-rounded musicians with an informed and lively sense of the contemporary study and practice of the subject, and the ways in which music contributes to society more broadly.

A typical week

- Four to six lectures
- One or two tutorials in college
- Practice, workshops and rehearsals

UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS AND OUTREACH

University Offices, Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JD



- More time for independent study in the summer terms

Tutorials are usually 2-4 students and a tutor. Lecture sizes may vary depending on the options you choose. Compulsory lectures are the largest and will include the full year group of around 70 students, while the smallest lectures, for specialist options, might include fewer than 10 students. Seminars will also usually involve 10-12 students.

Most lectures are delivered by Associate Professors and Professors within the University. Most of these professors are also college subject tutors (although not all college tutors are University lecturers). Each college's subject tutor is responsible for giving and coordinating tutorials.

Many tutors are world-leading experts with years of experience in teaching and research. Some teaching (mostly at tutorial level) 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	
<p>COURSES Six subjects are taken (two chosen from a list of options)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Compulsory:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Foundations in the Study of Music○ Stylistic Composition, Arranging and Transcription○ Topics I, for example: Machaut's Songs; Women and Music in the 19th Century; Music, Mind, Behaviour; Global Hip Hop○ Musical Analysis and Critical Listening• Options:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Extended Essay○ Composition○ Performance○ Critical Studies in Ethnomusicology○ Historically Informed Performance○ Musical Skills	<p>ASSESSMENT Two written papers and three 'take-away' papers for compulsory subjects. The assessment for the two options will take the form of a written paper, practical examination, recital, portfolio of compositions, essay or take-away paper depending on the option chosen.</p>
YEAR 2	
<p>COURSES Eight subjects are taken (six chosen from a list of options)</p>	<p>ASSESSMENT Final University</p>

YEAR 2

Eight subjects are taken (six chosen from a list of options)

- Compulsory
 - Topics II (three from a range of historical and critical fields, eg: Vernacular Song in the Long 13th Century; The Renaissance Madrigal, 18th-century Opera)
 - Topics III (four from a range of historical and critical fields, eg: The String Quartet Between Classicism and Modernism; World Jazz; Women in Popular Music; Music Technology, and Worldmaking in the Nineteenth Century; History and Philosophy of Music Education)

- Optional topics studied
 - Dissertation
 - Composition
 - Solo Performance
 - Music Ethnography
 - Musical Analysis and Criticism
 - Musical Thought and Scholarship
 - Techniques of Composition
 - Orchestration
 - Edition with Commentary
 - Analysis Portfolio
 - Chamber Music
 - Choral Performance
 - Choral Conducting
 - Music Education: Practice and Pedagogy
 - Recording and Producing Music
 - Special topic papers. Some recent examples include: Music in the Community; Music and Politics in the Rise of Modern China; Art Decade: Rock Musics of the 1970s; Music and Philosophy: The Case of Wagner; The Trouvères; Mediating Intimacy: Space and Intersubjectivity in Recorded Music and Sound; Beethoven: Between History and Myth; Music and Gender in Britain, 1830-1930; Minimalism and After; Music for the Dead; Brazilian Music

examinations: two written examinations (with more possible, depending on student options) and a combination of take-away papers, portfolio submissions, recitals and practical tests, depending on the options chosen

Please note that the courses listed in this section are illustrative and may change.

Copies of our current student handbooks, with [details of all courses](#) are available on the Music website.

UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS AND OUTREACH

University Offices, Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JD



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)	£46,600

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 (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

UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS AND OUTREACH

University Offices, Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JD



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 Music](#)

Students may choose to have instrumental or voice tuition as part of their course, though please note that performance is not compulsory. With advice from your tutors, you can choose your own instrumental tutors. You will need to pay for these lessons yourself, but the money will be refunded by the Music Faculty at the end of term, up to £275. This usually covers the full cost of tuition.

Students can also apply to take part in a Faculty-funded scheme with the Royal Academy of Music (RAM), which provides 8 hourly lessons and participation in master-classes and performance classes at the RAM.