

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>).

Philosophy and Modern Languages Course Information Sheet for entry in 2025

Philosophy and Modern Languages brings together some of the most important approaches to understanding language, literature and ideas.

The study of philosophy develops analytical rigour and the ability to criticise and reason logically. It allows you to apply these skills to questions ranging from how we acquire knowledge and form moral judgements to the nature of language, art and literature. Since many works of literature are shaped by the dominant philosophical ideas of their epoch, study of philosophy can illuminate that intellectual background.

The study of a modern European language develops analytical and critical abilities as well as highly competent linguistic skills. Studying the literature written in that language contributes to an understanding of many aspects of European culture. This enables students to develop attention to:

- stylistic and terminological detail
- rhetorical strategies
- and sensitivity to cultural and historical context

These skills are all of great value to the study of philosophy.

Studying these two disciplines in parallel has numerous advantages and affords students greater insights into each.

The Philosophy Faculty is the largest philosophy department in the UK, and one of the largest in the world. We admit around 450 undergraduates annually to read the various degrees involving Philosophy. Many faculty members have a worldwide reputation and our library and other facilities are acknowledged as among the best in the country.

Oxford's Modern Languages Faculty is one of the largest in the country, with a total intake of more than 250 students a year, including those reading joint degrees. The [Taylor Institution](#) is the biggest modern languages research library in the UK. The Modern Languages Faculty also has an undergraduate lending library, and students are able to take advantage of the well-equipped [Language Centre](#).

International opportunities

Modern Languages students spend a compulsory year abroad, usually in the third year. Opportunities for the year abroad 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 all 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 work will be divided between one or two tutorials and about six hours of lectures each week, in addition to about two or three hours of classes (first-year logic, language classes throughout the course). The rest of your week will be spent in independent study to prepare essays for tutorials and improve your command of your language.

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.

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

Course structure

YEAR 1	
<p>INDICATIVE COURSES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Philosophy <p>General philosophy</p> <p>Moral philosophy</p> <p>Logic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modern Languages <p>Practical language work (two papers)</p> <p>Study of important literary works and/or topics (two papers)</p>	<p>ASSESSMENT</p> <p>First University examinations: six written papers (two in Philosophy, four in Modern Languages)</p>

YEARS 2 AND 4 (YEAR 3 SPENT ABROAD)

INDICATIVE COURSES

- **Philosophy**

Either Early Modern philosophy

Or Plato's Republic

Or Aristotle's Nicomachean Ethics

- **Modern Languages**

One literature paper

Practical language work (two papers and an oral examination)

- **Further options**

Either four further papers in Philosophy (many options, including a thesis) and one further paper in Modern Languages from a range of options, which may include prescribed authors from the 12th to 20th centuries, options in linguistics, or special subjects

Or three further papers in Philosophy and two further papers in Modern Languages as above (one of which may be an extended essay)

Or two further papers in Philosophy (many options, including a thesis) and three further papers in Modern Languages as above (one of which may be an extended essay)

The options listed above are illustrative and may change. More information about current options is available on both [Philosophy](#) and [Modern Languages](#) websites.

ASSESSMENT

Final University examinations: nine written papers (with a minimum of three in Philosophy and four in Modern Languages; one Philosophy paper may be replaced by a thesis; some Modern Languages papers may be replaced by a thesis or a portfolio of essays); Modern Languages oral examination

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.

UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS AND OUTREACH

University Offices, Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JD



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.

Oxford living costs

Living costs for the academic year starting in 2024 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 Philosophy 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 24/25).

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 through departmental materials and briefings.

Work placement costs, study costs, visa costs and living costs (such as accommodation) and travel expenses will vary depending on the destination and the activity undertaken.

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 students can continue to access government funding for living costs, and those from lower-income households who are means-tested will remain eligible for 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

UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS AND OUTREACH

University Offices, Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JD



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.