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Religion and Asian and Middle Eastern Studies Course Information Sheet for entry in 2025

The course in Religion and Asian and Middle Eastern Studies offers students an in-depth understanding of one of a number of the world's great religious traditions including Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam and Judaism.

To engage with all the different aspects of the course, you will have to become something of a historian and a philosopher, a textual and literary critic, as well as an accomplished linguist. These disciplines together, not only enable students to appreciate the qualities of religions that can be radically different from those in Western societies, but also equip graduates with the analytical and critical abilities to embark on a wide range of careers.

Religion and Asian and Middle Eastern Studies enables students to study a major world religion through its primary texts in their original languages. It provides them with an understanding of the intellectual underpinning of religious traditions, and of the social and cultural contexts for religious beliefs and practices. Students can also explore topics such as the relationship between religions and science, and the place of religious ethics in public life.

Between them, the Faculties of Theology and Religion and Asian and Middle Eastern Studies include more than 270 academics, ranging from experts in the ancient languages and literature of the world's religions to church historians and systematic theologians. The reputations of both faculties, together with Oxford's excellent library facilities, attract scholars from all over the world.

A typical week (Years 1-3)

Your typical weekly timetable will be divided between one or two tutorials, which may take place at your college or at the college of a specialist tutor. Each week you will also attend up to six lectures. Throughout the course and especially in your first year, you will attend at least three (and often more) language classes each week. A large part of your week will be spent in independent study to prepare for language classes and for tutorials.

Tutorials usually involve two students and a tutor. Class sizes may vary depending on the options you choose or the language you are studying, but would normally have no more than around 10 students.

Most tutorials, classes, and lectures are delivered by academics who are specialists in their subject. Many are world-leading experts with years of experience in teaching and research. Some teaching may also be delivered by advanced postgraduate students.

Visit our [Academic Year](#) page to find out more about how our teaching year is structured.

Course structure

YEAR 1

COURSES

- All students take a paper on Religion and religions
- The remaining three-quarters of the first year comprises the study of one of the following languages, as selected by the individual student:
 - Arabic
 - Hebrew
 - Hindi
 - Pali
 - Sanskrit
 - Tibetan

ASSESSMENT

First University examinations: four papers assessed by written and (depending on the option) oral examination.

YEARS 2 AND 3

COURSES

Students take eight papers. Three papers must be selected from those taught by the Faculty of Theology and Religion and another three must be from those taught by the Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies. The remaining two papers may be in either subject.

Students may choose papers from about 40 options offered by the Faculty of Theology and Religion.

Options cover a wide range of subject areas including:

- Biblical Studies;
- systematic and philosophical Christian theology;
- religious ethics; the study of religion;
- science and religion;
- history, teaching or practice in Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Judaism and Islam.

For Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, students specialise in the study of one of the following religions,

ASSESSMENT

Final University examinations: seven papers (assessed either by written examination or by submitted coursework, depending upon the option), plus a thesis.

YEARS 2 AND 3

particularly through the study of its texts in their original languages:

- Buddhism - for which students study one of Pali, Sanskrit or Tibetan (normally having studied any one of these three languages in the first year)
- Eastern Christianity - for which students study one of Armenian or Syriac (normally having studied Hebrew in the first year)
- Hinduism - for which students study one of Sanskrit or Hindi (normally having studied either of these languages in the first year)
- Islam - for which students study Arabic (normally having studied Arabic in the first year)
- Judaism - for which students study Hebrew (normally having studied Hebrew in the first year)

Advanced language options are for candidates who have studied the same language for the Preliminary Examination.

As one of their eight papers, all students must prepare a 12,000-word thesis on a topic of their choice in either Asian and Middle Eastern Studies or Theology and Religion.

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](#).

UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS AND OUTREACH

University Offices, Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JD



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 Religion and Asian and Middle Eastern Studies](#)

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