

Course Information Sheet for entry in 2021-22: MPhil in Late Antique and Byzantine Studies



About the course

This two-year course has been devised as a multi-purpose introduction to the Roman world in Late Antiquity, to Byzantium, the medieval successor of the East Roman Empire, and to neighbouring peoples and their cultures.

This course can be taken as a free-standing degree, or as the first step towards doctoral research. The course includes the completion of a 30,000-word dissertation.

Course structure

You have the option of selecting a focus of study dependant on your knowledge of languages or on your primary interests in the field. Two basic pathways lead into each field of study, one in language training and one in auxiliary disciplines, and you are expected to choose between them at the beginning of the course.

Pathway one

The first is the language training pathway which offers intensive training in any one of the following ancient and medieval languages:

- Greek
- Latin
- Slavonic
- Armenian
- Syriac
- Coptic
- Arabic

In year one, you will take a core paper on history, art and archaeology or history and Byzantine literature comprising two sets of weekly classes taken in the first two academic terms. You will also take intensive courses in both language and literature.

In the second year, you will write a thesis of not more than 30,000 words, on a subject approved by your supervisor.

You will then choose either:

- a special subject 10,000-word dissertation on a topic of your choosing, subject to the approval of your supervisor; or
- one of the language papers on offer (Greek, Latin, Slavonic, Armenian, Syriac, Coptic, Arabic).

Pathway two

The second pathway is designed for those who already have considerable competence in their chosen language and are able to read the primary sources. You will receive instruction in one or two of a range of specialist auxiliary disciplines of papyrology, epigraphy, palaeography, numismatics, sigillography or artefact studies and you will choose a special subject from a list in your preferred subject area, ie in either history, art and archaeology, literature or religion.

In year one, you will take a core paper on history, art and archaeology or history and Byzantine literature comprising two sets of weekly classes taken in the first two academic terms. You will also receive instruction in one or two auxiliary disciplines and also in a special subject 10,000- word dissertation on a topic of your choosing, subject to the approval of your supervisor.

In the second year, you will write a thesis of not more than 30,000 words, on a subject approved by your supervisor, submitted at the end of Trinity term.

You will then choose either:

- a special subject 10,000-word dissertation on a topic of your choosing, subject to the approval of your supervisor; or
- one or two auxiliary disciplines.

Assessment

Pathway one

In year one, the core paper will be examined on the basis of two 5,000-word essays on topics of your choosing, subject to the approval of your supervisor, submitted in Hilary and Trinity term. The intensive courses in language and literature will be assessed with examinations at the end of the year.

In year two, you will be assessed on your 30,000 word thesis submitted at the end of Trinity term. Depending on which option you then take, you will either be assessed on a 10,000 word dissertation submitted at the end of Trinity term or examined on your chosen language paper.

Pathway two

In addition to the 10,000 word dissertation in year one, the core paper will be examined on the basis of two 5,000-word essays on topics of your choosing, subject to the approval of your supervisor, submitted in Hilary and Trinity term.

In year two, you will be assessed on your thesis. You will then normally be examined on the auxiliary disciplines by unseen examinations at the end of Trinity term or assessed on the dissertation submitted at the end of Trinity term, depending on the option you choose.

Please note that not every optional subject listed may be on offer every year, depending in part on levels of student demand. Full details of core and optional papers available are available on the course webpage.

Although the two components of the course, Late Antiquity and Byzantium, have been designed to the same specification and are conjoined in a single course, you are expected to concentrate on one or other of the fields.

If you wish to apply for the DPhil you will be encouraged to develop your doctoral proposal in consultation with your supervisor during the first few months of your second year, so that you will be well placed to make a doctoral application.

You should not apply to both the MSc and MPhil in this research area. Both courses have the same entry requirements.

Supervision

The allocation of graduate supervision for this course is the responsibility of the Faculty of History and it is not always possible to accommodate the preferences of incoming graduate students to work with a particular member of staff. Under some circumstances a supervisor outside the Faculty of History may be nominated.

An Oxford academic's pre-application indication of willingness to supervise an enquiring applicant is not a guarantee that the applicant will be offered a place, or that the supervisor in question has capacity in that particular year.

Changes to courses

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. These may include significant changes made necessary by a pandemic (including Covid-19), epidemic or local health emergency. For further information, please see the University's Terms and Conditions (<http://www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/terms>) and our page on changes to courses (<http://www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/coursechanges>).

Expected length of course

	Full Time Only
Expected length	21 months

Costs

Annual fees for entry in 2021-22

Fee status	Annual Course fees
Home (UK, Republic of Ireland, Channel Islands & Isle of Man)	£12,070
Overseas (including EU)	£27,460

Course fees are payable each year, for the duration of your fee liability (your fee liability is the length of time for which you are required to pay course fees). For courses lasting longer than one year, please be aware that fees will usually increase annually. Information about how much fees and other costs may increase is set out in the University's Terms and Conditions.

Course fees cover your teaching as well as other academic services and facilities provided to support your studies. Unless specified in the additional cost information (below), course fees do not cover your accommodation, residential costs or other living costs. They also don't cover any additional costs and charges that are outlined in the additional cost information.

Additional cost information

There are no compulsory elements of this course that entail additional costs beyond fees and living costs. However, as part of your course requirements, you may need to choose a dissertation, a project or a thesis topic. Please note that, depending on your choice of topic and the research required to complete it, you may incur additional expenses, such as travel expenses, research expenses, and field trips. You will need to meet these additional costs, although you may be able to apply for small grants from your department and/or college to help you cover some of these expenses.

Living costs

In addition to your course fees, you will need to ensure that you have adequate funds to support your living costs for the duration of your course.

The likely living costs for 2021-22 are published below. These costs are based on a single, full-time graduate student, with no dependants, living in Oxford. We provide the cost per month so you can multiply up by the number of months you expect to live in Oxford.

Likely living costs for 2021-22

	Likely living costs for 1 month		Likely living costs for 9 months		Likely living costs for 12 months	
	Lower range	Upper range	Lower range	Upper range	Lower range	Upper range
Food	£280	£400	£2,520	£3,600	£3,360	£4,800
Accommodation	£655	£790	£5,895	£7,110	£7,860	£9,480
Personal items	£130	£250	£1,170	£2,250	£1,560	£3,000
Social activities	£45	£115	£405	£1,035	£540	£1,380
Study costs	£45	£100	£405	£900	£540	£1,200
Other	£20	£55	£180	£495	£240	£660
Total	£1,175	£1,710	£10,575	£15,390	£14,100	£20,520

When planning your finances for any future years of study at Oxford beyond 2021-22, you should allow for an estimated increase in living expenses of 3% each year.

More information about how these figures have been calculated is available at www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/livingcosts.

Document accessibility

If you require an accessible version of the document please contact Graduate Admissions and Recruitment by email (graduate.admissions@admin.ox.ac.uk) or via the online form (<http://www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/ask>).