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Asian and Middle Eastern Studies Course Information Sheet for entry in 2024

Arabic, Chinese, Egyptology and Ancient Near Eastern Studies, Hebrew, Japanese, Jewish Studies, Persian, Sanskrit, Turkish.

Asian and Middle Eastern Studies is unique in its sole focus on introducing students to civilisations that are different from the Western ones upon which the curriculum in most British schools and colleges is based.

The courses present both the major traditions and cultural trends of the regions studied and, in most cases, their modern developments. All courses include a combination of linguistic, literary, historic and cultural studies. There are a wide range of options in fields such as art and archaeology, history, literature, philosophy, religion and modern social studies.

Asian and Middle Eastern Studies has a long history in Oxford. The Bodleian and other libraries have acquired extensive collections. The Nizami Ganjavi library, the KB Chen China Centre, and the Bodleian Japanese and Indian Institute libraries are all specialists in their respective fields.

Around the corner from the Faculty building (on Pusey Lane) is the Ashmolean Museum, which houses superb collections. Nearby are also the Leopold Muller Memorial Library at the Clarendon Institute for Hebrew and Jewish Studies material, and the Sackler Library. The Sackler Library contains the renowned Griffith Institute Archive, one of the finest libraries in the world for the study of ancient Egypt and the Ancient Near East.

Work placements/international opportunities

Most courses offer the opportunity to spend time in the region being studied. The Arabic course includes a year in the Middle East and the Turkish course a year in Turkey. The Chinese and Japanese courses also include a year in China or Taiwan and in Japan respectively.

For Persian, the Faculty decides each year whether it is advisable for its students to spend their year abroad in Iran. In years when Iran is not possible, they study in Tajikistan and/or Armenia instead. 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 time will be divided between lectures, tutorials (up to three students and a tutor) and language classes that will develop your writing, speaking and comprehension skills. The rest of your time will be dedicated to independent study, working on regular assignments in reading, writing and translation.

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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 10 students and often fewer, while lectures are normally around 15-25 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 doctorate level.

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

Course structure

Arabic T601, Persian T613, Turkish T600

YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEARS 3 AND 4
COURSES Elementary language Middle Eastern history and cultures	COURSES Year abroad: approved course of language instruction	COURSES Core work on language and literature History Specialisation or subsidiary language Islamic Religion (Arabic only)
ASSESSMENT First University examinations after term 3: three written papers; an oral exam (Arabic only)		ASSESSMENT Final University examinations at the end of Year 4: oral exam and eight or nine written papers (one of which must be a dissertation)

Options listed are only illustrative of what is available. A full list of current options is available on the [Asian and Middle Eastern Studies](#) website.

Chinese T101

YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEARS 3 AND 4
COURSES Elementary language in Modern and Classical Chinese	COURSES Year abroad in China or Taiwan	COURSES Extended language classes in modern Chinese Classical Chinese philosophy and history

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History and civilisation of China		Interdisciplinary course on modern China Dissertation Two options from a range covering ancient philosophy, history, literature, art and cinema, contemporary Chinese law, politics and society, and international relations; or a subsidiary language: Tibetan, Japanese or Korean
ASSESSMENT First University examinations: three written papers; an oral exam		ASSESSMENT Final University examinations: oral examination; seven written papers; dissertation; extended essay (for candidates who have taken options)

Options listed are only illustrative of what is available. A full list of current options is available on the [Asian and Middle Eastern Studies](#) website.

Mastering the ability to handwrite in Chinese has been identified as a competence standard for a **mandatory** core element of this course. This means that students will be required to produce handwritten work for assessment and it will not be possible to complete the assessment in an alternative format. If you are interested in this course and your personal circumstances mean that handwriting may present a challenge, please contact the department/faculty for further information.

Mastering the ability to handwrite in Chinese, Japanese and Korean has been identified as a competence standard for an assessment for an **optional** component of this course which means that students will be required to produce handwritten work for assessment and it will not be possible to complete the assessment for that optional component in an alternative format. If you are interested in this course and your personal circumstances mean that handwriting may present a challenge, please contact the department/faculty for further information.

[Egyptology and Ancient Near Eastern Studies Q401](#), [Egyptology Q400](#), [Ancient Near Eastern Studies Q402](#)

YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3
COURSES Broad survey of civilisations of Egypt and the Ancient Near East	COURSES Addition of second language, or Archaeology and Anthropology	COURSES Essay writing and dissertation work

<p>Language teaching in Egyptian or Akkadian</p>	<p>Language options: Akkadian, Egyptian, Arabic, Aramaic and Syriac, Coptic, Hebrew (Biblical and Rabbinic), Old Iranian, Sumerian or Hittite (if available)</p> <p>Literary and historical topics through study of texts and essay writing</p> <p>Intensive class work</p> <p>Artefact classes</p> <p>Subject to acceptance, students may also have the option of Classical Greek or Latin from the Classics with Asian and Middle Eastern Studies degree.</p>	<p>Intensive classes in the first and second terms</p> <p>Artefact classes</p> <p>Special option</p>
<p>ASSESSMENT</p> <p>First University examinations: four written papers</p>		<p>ASSESSMENT</p> <p>Final University examinations: ten units</p>

Options listed are only illustrative of what is available. A full list of current options is available on the [Asian and Middle Eastern Studies](#) website.

Hebrew Q480

YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEARS 3 AND 4
<p>COURSES</p> <p>Intensive study in Hebrew language in all periods</p> <p>Introduction to Jewish history and culture</p>	<p>COURSES</p> <p>Intensive language study</p> <p>Study of history and culture through texts</p> <p>Choice of two optional papers from Jewish Studies</p> <p>Subsidiary language options: Akkadian, Arabic, Aramaic and Syriac, Egyptology, Persian and Turkish</p>	<p>COURSES</p> <p>Continued language study</p> <p>Tutorials in history, culture and society</p> <p>Year 3 is a compulsory year abroad for students on the four-year track.</p>

<p>ASSESSMENT</p> <p>First University examinations: four written papers</p>		<p>ASSESSMENT</p> <p>Final University examinations: seven written papers; dissertation; oral examination if taking a year abroad (four year course)</p>
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Options listed are only illustrative of what is available. A full list of current options is available on the [Asian and Middle Eastern Studies](#) website.

Japanese T201

YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEARS 3 AND 4
<p>COURSES</p> <p>History and culture</p> <p>Intensive Japanese language classes</p> <p>Formal grammatical analysis of Japanese</p>	<p>COURSES</p> <p>Year abroad at Kobe University</p>	<p>COURSES</p> <p>Continued language classes</p> <p>Classical Japanese</p> <p>Options with tutorials (five subjects to be chosen), from a range of specialised subjects within: Classical literature; Modern literature; Linguistics; History; Politics; Economics; Society, Art; Subsidiary language (counts as three subjects) from: Chinese, Korean or Tibetan</p>
<p>ASSESSMENT</p> <p>First University examinations: three written papers</p>	<p>ASSESSMENT</p> <p>Test at end of course</p>	<p>ASSESSMENT</p> <p>Final University examinations: oral examination; eight written papers; dissertation</p>

Options listed are only illustrative of what is available. A full list of current options is available on the [Asian and Middle Eastern Studies](#) website.

Mastering the ability to handwrite in Japanese has been identified as a competence standard for a **mandatory** core element of this course. This means that students will be required to produce handwritten work for assessment and it will not be possible to complete the assessment in an alternative format. If you are interested in this course and your personal circumstances mean that handwriting may present a challenge, please contact the department/faculty for further information.

Mastering the ability to handwrite in Chinese, Japanese and Korean has been identified as a

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competence standard for an assessment for an **optional** component of this course which means that students will be required to produce handwritten work for assessment and it will not be possible to complete the assessment for that optional component in an alternative format. If you are interested in this course and your personal circumstances mean that handwriting may present a challenge, please contact the department/faculty for further information.

Jewish Studies QV91

YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3
COURSES Intensive study in Hebrew language in all periods Introduction to Jewish history and culture	COURSES Intensive language study Options (three subjects to be chosen)	COURSES Options (two subjects to be chosen) Tutorials in history, culture and society
ASSESSMENT First University examinations: four written papers		ASSESSMENT Final University examinations: seven written papers; dissertation

Options listed are only illustrative of what is available. A full list of current options is available on the [Asian and Middle Eastern Studies](#) website.

Sanskrit Q450

YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3
COURSES Intensive language learning Introduction to the study of ancient Indian civilization	COURSES Continued language learning and text reading Study of the historically and culturally most important genres of Sanskrit literature Begin subsidiary language options: Hindi, Early	COURSES Continued language learning and text reading Specialisation in one chosen area of Sanskrit literature Additional special subject and dissertation Options listed are only illustrative of what is available. A full list of current options is available on the Asian and Middle Eastern Studies website .

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	Iranian, Pali, Prakrit or Tibetan	
ASSESSMENT First University examinations: three written papers		ASSESSMENT Final University examinations: ten papers (seven in Sanskrit and three in subsidiary languages)

Options listed are only illustrative of what is available. A full list of current options is available on the [Asian and Middle Eastern Studies](#) website.

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 2024.

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)	£9,250
Overseas (including most EU students – see Note below)	£38,550

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 £1,345 and £1,955 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	£315	£495	£2,835	£4,455
Accommodation (including utilities)	£745	£925	£6,705	£8,325
Personal items	£190	£320	£1,710	£2,880
Social activities	£40	£95	£360	£855
Study costs	£35	£85	£315	£765
Other	£20	£35	£180	£315
Total	£1,345	£1,955	£12,105	£17,595

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 2024-25, it is suggested that you allow for potential increases in living expenses of around 5% each year – although this rate may vary depending on the national economic situation. UK inflationary increases will be kept under review and the [living costs webpage](#) updated.

Additional Fees and Charges Information for Asian and Middle Eastern Studies

Students taking Arabic, Chinese, Japanese, Persian or Turkish will take the second year abroad. Students of Hebrew can choose to take a year abroad, but it is not compulsory.

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 2024 would equate to:

- Home students: £1,385 for the year.
- Overseas students: £13,110 for the year (please note this is an illustrative example for 24/25)

The Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies covers the cost of language tuition abroad, but not living costs and flights.

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 generous bursaries from Oxford. Travel grants and financial assistance for those with insufficient funds may also be available through your college and the University.

Please refer to the 'Living costs support during the year abroad' section below for information about sources of funding.

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 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.

In the event that the University is not successful in securing Turing scheme funding, it will provide grants towards living costs at a similar level to Turing grants to support undergraduates undertaking approved study exchanges or work placements required for their course.

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 generous [bursary provision](#), which is separate to the living costs support mentioned above. For UK students who are struggling financially, the University's Student Support Fund may be able to provide additional assistance.

Some faculty bursaries and scholarships are currently available for students of Chinese and Japanese, and a number of colleges have funds, including travel grants to support their students' period of study abroad.

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.