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## History of Art Course Information Sheet for entry in 2024

Anything designed by human beings exhibits visual qualities that are specific to the place and period in which it originates.

History of Art aims to arrive at a historical understanding of the origins, meaning and purpose of art and artefacts from a wide range of world cultures. It asks about the circumstances of art and artefacts' making, their makers, the media used, the functions of the images and objects, their critical reception and – not least – their subsequent history.

As well as educating students in the historical interpretation of art in its cultural contexts, a degree in History of Art provides skills in the critical analysis of objects through the cultivation of visual literacy.

The acquired skills have broad applicability in a wide range of professional settings, as well as serving the needs of enduring personal enlightenment.

The University collections, including the famous Ashmolean and Pitt Rivers museums, provide subjects for first-hand study under the supervision of those entrusted with their care. The historic architecture of the city and its environs supplies a rich source of study in its own right.

The Oxford degree is designed to provide innovative insights into a wide range of world art, drawing its expertise from various University faculties and the staff of University collections, as well as from the department itself.

There is a strong emphasis upon how the primary visual and written sources from various periods and places can be analysed in different ways. Students are encouraged to enquire about the nature of reactions to what we call 'art'.

### A typical week

Each week you will have around two lectures, and a weekly tutorial.

Teaching usually takes place in the department or in a college, as well as in one of the Oxford museums and galleries where tutors often lecture in front of actual works of art. Visits to exhibitions or historical buildings will also be part of the course.

Outside the classroom most of your time will be spent preparing essays for your tutorials and working in libraries, archives or museums on longer research papers.

Tutorials usually comprise up to three students and a tutor. Class sizes may vary depending on the options you choose, but there would usually be no more than around 16 students, and often significantly fewer.

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

## Course structure

### YEAR 1

#### COURSES

Four elements are taken:

- Core course: Introduction to the history of art
- Core course: Art, design, architecture: meaning and interpretation
- Core course: Challenging antiquities
- Supervised extended essay on a building, object or image in Oxford.

Students also have the opportunity to undertake a French, German or Italian for Art Historians course through the University's Language Centre.

No previous experience or qualifications are required for these courses and they do not form part of the assessment.

#### ASSESSMENT

First University examinations: three written papers and one extended essay

### YEARS 2 AND 3

#### COURSES

Seven elements are taken:

- Core Course: Approaches to the history of art
- Further subject in art history, options include:
  - Anglo-Saxon archaeology
  - The Carolingian Renaissance
  - Culture and society in Early Renaissance Italy
  - Northern European portraiture, 1400–1800
  - Flanders and Italy in the Quattrocento
  - Court culture and art in early modern Europe
  - Intellect and culture in Victorian Britain
- Two Year 2 options, regularly taught options include:
  - Egyptian art and architecture
  - Greek art and archaeology
  - Art under the Roman Empire
  - Encountering South Asian sculpture
  - Gothic art through medieval eyes
  - Understanding museums and collections

#### ASSESSMENT

Final University examinations: four or five written papers, one or two extended essay(s) and one thesis

## YEARS 2 AND 3

- Literature and the visual arts in France
- Topics in Islamic art
- European cinema
- Modernism and after
- The experience of modernity: visual culture, 1880–1925
- American art, 1560s–1960s
- Inventing photography: a history of origins
- Visual culture in contemporary East Asia
- Special subject and extended essay in art history options include:
  - Art and culture in Renaissance Florence and Venice
  - Art and culture in the Dutch Golden Age
  - English architecture
  - Art and its public in France, 1815–67
  - Pop and the art of the Sixties: global perspectives
  - Art and politics: class and power in Chinese art
- Undergraduate thesis

Students also have the opportunity to undertake a collections placement in one of the University museums, libraries or colleges in their second year.

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](#).

## 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)	£9,250
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.

### 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
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1,345</b>	<b>£1,955</b>	<b>£12,105</b>	<b>£17,595</b>

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 History of Art

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