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Modern Languages Course Information Sheet for entry in 2024

Czech (with Slovak), French, German, Modern Greek, Italian, Polish, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish.

Studying Modern Languages provides both practical training in written and spoken language and an extensive introduction to literature and thought written in European languages.

As well as learning to write and speak the language(s) fluently, you can study a broad range of literature, or focus your studies on any period from the medieval to the present day.

A wide range of other options allow you to explore subjects including linguistics, philology, film or gender studies or (in French, German and Spanish) advanced translation.

Modern Languages have been taught in Oxford since 1724. The faculty is one of the largest in the country, with a total intake of more than 250 students a year (including joint courses).

Undergraduate students have access to the [Taylor Institution Library](#), the biggest research library in Britain devoted to modern languages, and the University's central library the [Bodleian](#), as well as many online resources. The University's well-equipped [Language Centre](#) has resources specifically tailored to the needs of Modern Language students.

Language is at the centre of the Oxford course, making up around 50% of both first-year and final examinations. The course aims to teach spoken fluency in colloquial and more formal situations, as well as the ability to write essays in the foreign language, and the ability to translate into and out of the foreign language with accuracy and sensitivity to a range of vocabulary, styles and registers. You will also develop your reading skills to a high level.

The study of literature gives you an understanding of other cultures that cannot be acquired solely through learning the language. It leads you into areas such as: gender studies, popular culture, theatre, aesthetics, anthropology, art history, ethics, history, philosophy, politics, psychology and theology. These areas of study develop your skills as a critical reader, writer and thinker.

International opportunities

Modern Languages students spend a compulsory year abroad, usually in the third year. Opportunities abroad include working as a paid language assistant in a school, undertaking an internship and/or studying at a University. These opportunities provide valuable experiences for improving language competence.

The University is working with European partners to maintain the opportunities available to its students post-Brexit. University exchanges, language assistantships and work placements will continue to be available as opportunities for your year abroad.

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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 week's work will include a tutorial in, or organised by, your college, language classes in the language(s) you study, and typically three to four hours of lectures for each subject.

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 classes 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

Your first year is closely structured. You will attend oral classes and courses on the grammatical structure of your language(s), translation into and out of the language(s) and, in some of the languages, comprehension. You will also attend typically three to four hours of introductory lectures and participate in seminars and/or tutorials on literature.

If you study French, German, Spanish or Russian as a single language you will take a range of further options in that language in the first year. All other languages must be studied in combination with another language or another subject.

Your other years of study give you more freedom to choose the areas on which you wish to focus, from a very wide range of options.

Students may take Polish as a subsidiary language, beginning in the second year. Catalan, Galician, Yiddish and most of the Slavonic languages may also be taken as additional options.

Deferred entry

Students are welcome to apply for deferred entry for any language courses except those including Beginners' Russian.

YEAR 1

COURSES

- **Two-language course**

Practical language work

Study of important works and/or topics in the literature of each language

- **One-language course, as above, plus:**

For French, German, Russian and Spanish, additional options: film studies; literary theory (French); medieval studies (German/Spanish); key texts in French or German thought; short fiction (Spanish); Polish and Church Slavonic (Russian)

(Other languages must be studied in combination with another language or joint school.)

ASSESSMENT

First University examinations: seven or eight written papers, including translation and literature (language only for Beginners' Russian)

YEAR 2

COURSES

- **Two-language course**

Practical language work

A period of literature in each language

Optional subjects, including linguistics; medieval literature; detailed study of individual authors

- **One-language course**

As above, but including a greater range of optional subjects

YEARS 3 AND 4

COURSES

Year 3: typically spent abroad (Beginners' Russian: students spend the second year on a

ASSESSMENT

Final University examinations: nine or ten written papers and an oral examination are taken,

YEARS 3 AND 4

Russian Language Undergraduate Studies course. This currently takes place in Tallinn, Estonia. The third year is spent in Oxford).

Year 4: continues the course from Year 2, plus special subjects across a wide range of options including film studies.

including unprepared translations, literature subjects, special subjects and linguistics. Some special subjects are examined by submitting a portfolio of essays.

The options listed above are illustrative and may change. More information about current options is available on the [Modern Languages 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 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 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).

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.

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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](#).

Beginners' Russian

Courses including beginners' Russian are slightly different, as they are the only courses where the mandatory year abroad is prescribed. Students have to take a 7-month Russian Language Undergraduate Studies course, which currently take place in [Tallinn, Estonia](#) during their second year.

Students will not incur an additional course fee. However, they will be liable for additional administration and visa fees. For students starting their year abroad in 2023 the combined fee for these is approximately £200.

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.

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

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found at: [Student finance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://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.