



UNIVERSITY OF
OXFORD

Classics at Oxford





Classics at Oxford

The Faculty at Oxford is the largest in the world, with over 130 members of academic staff.

We have a number of courses available at undergraduate level, and this prospectus is designed to introduce them to you so that you can make a careful choice about what would best suit you. Each course page will give you:

- the course length
- course requirements
- some information about what the course involves

There are also a number of student profiles so that you can get a feel for what students already here make of their courses. With information about what Classicists go on to do, this prospectus is designed to introduce you to the whole world of tertiary Classics.

You will still need to consult the main University prospectus for some specific issues, such as the latest fees updates, standard offers, and which colleges are offering different courses on an annual basis.

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Why study the ancient world?

Classics is the study of the languages, culture, history and thought of the civilisations of ancient Greece and Rome.

It is one of the most varied and interdisciplinary of all subjects. Featuring a wide range of options, the course offers the opportunity to study literature (epic, drama, historical writing, and much else), the history and archaeology of the Greek and Roman Mediterranean, philosophy (both ancient and modern), and linguistics.

Whether you want to learn languages, read literature, explore the effect of the past on the present, or learn to apply science to arts, Classics has something for everyone. The study of Classics requires students to develop the analytical skills needed to understand ancient languages and engage in disciplines such as linguistics and textual criticism. The subject's involvement with a range of disciplines such as history, philosophy and art criticism, makes it constantly fresh and challenging and encourages mental versatility.



Why Classics at Oxford?

Oxford offers unparalleled teaching, library and museum resources and a range of extracurricular activities, including performances of Greek plays and various societies.

The Stelios Ioannou Centre for Research in Classical and Byzantine Studies was officially opened in 2007 and its award-winning architecture offers an excellent base for the Faculty. It includes a lecture theatre, an outreach and exhibition room, research centres and a common room.

The Ashmolean Museum is just next door to the Ioannou Classics Centre. It is the world's oldest public museum and the most important museum of art and archaeology in this country outside London. Following a major redevelopment it now offers 39 new galleries, a purpose-built Education Centre, a magnificent cast gallery and three new study centres with hands-on access to reserve collections.

Classics has been at the heart of the University since its foundation, and the Faculty continues to go from strength to strength.

Students also have access to libraries such as the Sackler, Taylorian and Bodleian. The Sackler and Taylorian offer subject-specific collections covering Classics (all areas) and modern languages. The Bodleian is one of the greatest reference libraries in the world, with especially strong holdings of books and electronic resources relating to Classics, as well as an exceptional collection of manuscripts and rare books.

In addition to study opportunities, Oxford is rich in Classics-related extracurricular opportunities. Several colleges have active Classics societies, while the Corpus Christi Centre for the Study of Greek and Roman Antiquity provides a hub for national and international Classics. A triennial Greek play is produced under the auspices of the Oxford University Classical Drama Society, and there are frequent productions of ancient plays.



Classics I and II

If you have studied Latin and/or Greek, then you may be in a position to apply for Classics course I. Course IA is designed for those who have studied Latin and Greek to A-level (or equivalent), IB for those who have studied only Latin, and IC for those who have studied only Greek to that level.

If you have not studied either Latin or Greek but would like to take up one (or both), then you may apply for Classics II.

Those who take Course IIA learn Latin from scratch, those who take Course IIB learn Greek from scratch. If you are accepted on a course to study one of the languages as a beginner, you will be asked to attend a summer school before you start your degree.

The first five terms are spent preparing for 'Mods' (Moderations), a series of core exams. Classics I students take 10 papers Classics II students take 7.

You then spend seven terms preparing for 'Greats'. You take eight papers, from a choice of over eighty. They cover literature, philosophy, archaeology, linguistics and history. Examples of current papers on offer include: Religions in the Greek and Roman World, Sexuality and Gender in Greece and Rome, Latin Philosophy, Aristotle's Physics, Historiography, Byzantine Literature, The Reception of Classical Literature in Poetry in English since 1900, Art under the Roman Empire AD 14-337, Greek Literature of the 5th Century BC.

Course Length: 4 years

Course requirements: Latin and / or Greek to A-level (or equivalent) for Classics I; no ancient language requirements for Classics II.

Classics offers you a great opportunity to study a vast range of subject areas focussing on the Graeco-Roman world and its reception in modern times. If you want to specialise in one language or discipline, such as Latin literature, then this is possible. If you want greater breadth, then there are opportunities for studying a variety of different materials including written texts, buildings, wall paintings and pots, from Britain to Egypt, Iran to Germany, 2000 BC to AD 2000. Whether you're interested in what Homeric warriors wore, how Ciceronian oratory influences modern politics, or the survival of an ancient text, there is something for everyone in a Classics degree.



Alexander Reut-Hobbs

Course IC

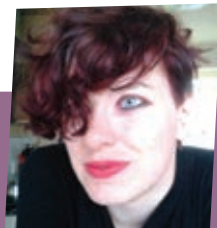
What other degree offers the chance to study philosophy (ancient and modern), art, archaeology, ancient history and literature – all at the same time?

Being able to sit down at least once a week, often one-on-one, with the leading experts in your field of study is virtually unparalleled elsewhere. Tutorials are the backbone of any Oxford arts degree, and this is no less the case with Classics.

The Ashmolean is also an invaluable resource: the redeveloped cast gallery offers the chance to really engage with Greek and Roman material culture without ever leaving central Oxford.

Francesca Railton

Course II



Having taken History, Politics and Religious Studies at A-level, as well as taking German to AS-level while I was in the upper sixth, I found it very difficult to decide which subject to study at university. I was drawn to a Classics degree because it enables me to study a wide range of topics, and it followed on well from subjects I had already studied and offered me an opportunity to learn something new.

Having attended a state comprehensive and rarely studied in classes of fewer than 25 people before university, I very much looked forward to Oxford's tutorial system, which allows for a great deal of discussion and debate.



Classical Archaeology and Ancient History

The course combines study of the history, archaeology and art of the classical world.

It looks at the societies and cultures of the ancient Mediterranean world through their written texts, visual art and material remains; and at its centre are the two classical cultures of Greece and Rome. It is aimed at anyone interested in investigating ancient civilisations and their remains, from Greek temples and Roman amphitheatres to wall-paintings and the poignant residues of everyday life. Whilst it is primarily a historical and non-linguistic degree, ancient languages can be read and learned as part of the course.

The CAAH degree is taught through a mixture of tutorials, lectures and classes. Some cover specifically archaeological or historical approaches to ancient Mediterranean cultures, but the degree is unique in also offering courses that combine both approaches. There are two practical elements – two weeks at the end of the first year spent either on a University-sponsored excavation or on another archaeological field project, and the preparation of a report in the second and third years focussing either on a particular ancient site or on an artefact or set of artefacts in a museum.

Course length: 3 years

Course requirements: none

Emma Searle

Classical Archaeology and Ancient History

I chose to study CAAH essentially because I am passionate about really old things: I believe that the conservation and understanding of history is crucial to our development and progress, not just on an individual level, but also as a society. So much of our continuing renaissance culture was and is informed by perceptions of the Classical world, but just how much about the ancient past do we really know?

Why Oxford? I attended a university open day where I visited the Classics Faculty and several of the colleges offering CAAH. It was obvious that Oxford's resources are unparalleled, but I was most impressed by the passion and enthusiasm of the tutors and current students and I knew I wanted to be part of such a rich and dynamic environment.



Ancient and Modern History

This Oxford course offers an extraordinary range of choices (more than 90 options), reflecting the breadth of interests of those who teach here.

This course enables students to study history from the Bronze Age Mediterranean and Near East, through the Roman Empire, middle ages, and early modern period, right up to British, European and world history in the present day. Fruitful comparisons between societies abound, and the methods by which we study them are mutually illuminating.

1st year Courses

Four courses are taken:

- One period of either Greek or Roman history
- One of the periods of General (non-British) history offered by the History Faculty
- The world of Homer and Hesiod; or Augustan Rome; or one of the History optional subjects
- A text-based paper on Herodotus; or Sallust; or Approaches to history; or Historiography: Tacitus to Weber, from the History syllabus or Greek/Latin language paper

2nd and 3rd years Courses

Six courses are taken:

- A period of Greek or Roman history
- A period of General history or one of the periods of the history of the British Isles
- Further subjects including work on primary sources, textual or archaeological
- A choice of further subjects from the History syllabus; or an ancient further subject, including: Athenian democracy in the classical age; Politics, society and culture from Nero to Hadrian; Religions in the Greek and Roman

world 31 BC–AD 312; The Greeks and the Mediterranean world 950–500 BC; Art under the Roman Empire AD 14–337

- Special subjects* (including work on primary sources, textual or archaeological). A choice of special subjects from the History syllabus; or an ancient special subject, Alexander the Great and his early successors; Cicero: politics and thought in the late Republic

*Either the further or the special subject must be ancient (they can both be ancient, if you wish)

- Disciplines of history
- Thesis
- Optional Greek/Latin language paper

Course length: 3 years.

Course requirements: none, although History is recommended.

Guy Bud

Ancient and Modern History

I've always known I wanted to study history at university, but there aren't many places which allow you to study topics on both sides of the divide between Classics and History courses. I'd been lucky enough to take both History and Ancient History courses at A2, and I didn't want to choose between them!

Why Oxford? Simply, the course allows amazing freedom to choose the periods and topics that you find interesting from a really wide range of topics. After all, few other universities give you the possibility of choosing ancient Greek history in one term, and 19th century Europe in another!



Classics and English

If students are studying Latin and / or Greek to A-level this is normally a three-year option (Course I). But students who have not had the opportunity to study an ancient language before can take a four-year course beginning with an intensive introduction to Latin and / or Greek (Course II).

Either version offers a well integrated (and truly 'joint') course, which alongside English literature of the Renaissance and beyond, and Graeco- Roman authors such as Herodotus, Euripides, Virgil, Catullus and Juvenal, also explores the rich connections between ancient and modern literature. Students can pursue whatever aspect of English or classical literature appeals to them, but among the highlights of the course are the three 'Link Papers' studied in the final year. In these, through topics such as Epic, Tragedy, Comedy, Pastoral and Satire, the twists and turns of literary genres can be traced from Homer to Milton and Walcott, or from Theocritus to Arnold and Heaney.

1st year Courses

Five papers are taken:

- Introduction to English Language and Literature
- Literature in English 1550–1660
- Unseen translation for Classics
- Greek and Latin literature (two papers, offering a choice of Greek or Latin authors)

2nd and 3rd years

Seven papers are taken:

- Two link papers, one compulsory (Epic), and a choice from Comedy, Tragedy, Reception
- One of Papers 2–5 from the English single honours course not taken in the first year
- One of Papers 1–6 from the English single honours course not taken in the first year
- Classics core paper
- One classics option
- Dissertation of 8,000 words, either interdisciplinary, or focused on English or Classics

Course length: 3 years (Course I) or 4 years (Course II)





India Collins-Davies

Classics & English Course IIb (*ab initio* Greek)

Studying Classics & English means I don't need to compromise my interest in either subject, but I still get to experience the huge breadth of what Classics has to offer. I could never get bored of it!

Oxford was the only place offering exactly what I wanted from a Classics & English degree: the course is structured around the core "link" papers, as opposed to treating each half as a separate entity. I also really value the importance of learning the classical languages and have been able to learn Greek from scratch since coming to Oxford, despite it never being available to me as an A Level option.



Classics and Modern Foreign Languages

Classics and Modern Languages enables you to combine study of either one or both of Latin and Ancient Greek with a modern language.

The course involves extensive study of major literary texts alongside training in linguistic skills. The Greeks and Romans were active in all the countries covered by the available languages. Studying this course helps to give you greater access to the ancient cultures, as well as a chance to examine how it has been received in the modern one. The option of a year abroad helps bring the course to life even more.

Most students study the main Classics Mods programme for their first two years, keeping up with their modern language through language classes. The formal part of the Joint Honours comes in the second part of the degree.

Course length: 4 or 5 years

Course requirements

Ancient language: for course I, Latin or Greek A-level. For course II, neither is required.

Modern language: for Celtic, Czech or Modern Greek no previous experience is required. For French, German, Russian or Spanish students would usually be expected to have the language to A-level, Advanced higher, Higher Level in IB or another academic equivalent. For Italian students may come with no experience but would be expected to work on their Italian before coming up to Oxford. For Portuguese most candidates apply as complete beginners but would be expected to work on their Portuguese before coming up to Oxford.



Marina Lambrakis

Classics and Modern Greek – no Latin

Studying Classics with modern Greek made perfect sense to me. I'd always been interested in the ancient Greek world, and combining it with the more recent development of the language allowed me to study a wide range of material, from Homer and Greek tragedy through to Surrealist poetry and 21st century films.

Being taught one-on-one or in small groups is really helpful, as you're encouraged to discuss and develop your own opinions. My experience at undergraduate level not only helped to build up my confidence but also inspired me to stay on for postgraduate studies combining both aspects, my current research focusing on the reception of the ancient world in modern Greek culture

Classics and Oriental Studies

This course allows you to combine the study of an Oriental language and culture with Latin and / or Greek and the study of the ancient world. There are seven main languages or subjects you can take as part of the degree: Akkadian, Arabic, Egyptian, Hebrew, Persian, Sanskrit and Turkish. It is also possible to come in as an Oriental Studies candidate and take up some Classics.

This joint honours degree provides an exciting opportunity for students who want to focus in interdisciplinary studies. It might suit you if:

- You want to immerse yourself in a broader range of languages, both Indo-European and non-Indo-European.
- You have an interest in Judaeo-Christianity and would appreciate the chance to learn more about the relationship between the languages and cultures of the great monotheistic religions in their various (e.g. Greek and Roman) contexts.
- You are fascinated by the cultural development and crossover in places such as Persia, Egypt and India.

Course length: Usually 4 years; 3 for those taking Oriental Studies as their main subject but not having a year abroad.

Course requirements: none.

Rosemary Ward

Classics and Oriental Studies

After my first exams I started Old Persian and Avestan as well as continuing Latin and Greek. It's a fantastic combination as it fits in perfectly with my Classics modules in so many ways, whether historically or linguistically. I'd only done Latin at school, but the language teaching has been excellent, and doing this course means I have gained a wider understanding of the Classical world.



Teaching and learning

Teaching at Oxford takes a variety of forms. Your time is divided between lectures, tutorials, classes and private study. Most of your work will be in preparation of essays for your tutorials. For Classics I and II in particular, systematic reading of texts, not necessarily aimed at any specific tutorial, also requires a considerable input of time and effort.



The application process

STAGE 1: UCAS forms due in by 15th October.

STAGE 2: submission of written work. Criteria vary, so check requirements on an annual basis.

STAGE 3: written tests. All candidates for Classics I and II will be required to sit written tests. These are designed to test linguistic competence by translation from the ancient language into English, or (for Course II) testing linguistic skills by other means. Translation into the ancient language is not expected. Each written test will normally last one hour. The use of dictionaries will not be permitted.

Tests for the different courses will be as follows:

- IA: A-level standard test in Latin and A-level standard test in Greek
- IB: A-level standard test in Latin
- IC: A-level standard test in Greek
- IIA and IIB: All Course II candidates take a Language Aptitude Test.

For Classics and English all candidates are required to sit the ELAT.

Please note that separate registration is required for the Classics Aptitude Test and the deadline is the same as for the main application.

STAGE 4: interview. The interviews take place in mid-December, and the majority of Classics applicants are interviewed.

“My advice for anyone applying to Oxford would be to remember that tutors are just looking for potential to succeed, ability to cope with the hectic timetable here and genuine enthusiasm for your subject. It is an amazing place to be a student and although it is tough, it is also so much fun and I wouldn’t change it for the world!”



Preparing for the interview

We recommend that you:

- **think** about the obvious questions that are often asked at the beginning of an interview to help you settle down, and think how you might answer them. Think specifically about why you want to study at Oxford and why have you chosen this particular subject.
- **read widely** around your chosen subject, including newspaper articles, websites, journals, magazines and other publications that relate to your subject.
- **take a critical view** of ideas and arguments that you encounter at school or college, or in the media – think about all sides of any debate.
- **be prepared** to show some background knowledge of the subject. For example, you may be asked what role your subject plays in society. For these subjects, the topics for discussion are likely to allow you to demonstrate the skills needed by an undergraduate: the ability to use information to construct your own opinions, the willingness and ability to analyse and facility in problem-solving.
- **re-read any written work** that you have submitted, and think about how you might expand on what you wrote.
- **re-read your personal statement** and remind yourself of the selection criteria for your chosen subject.
- **organise a practice interview** for yourself. This could be with a teacher or someone else who is familiar with your subject, but preferably not someone you know very well. This will help you to get some more experience of talking about yourself and your work in an unfamiliar environment.



What Classicists go on to do

Classicists are well-known for having a broad range of skills, making them highly employable.

Examples of professions which attract Classicists include:

ACCOUNTANCY

MANAGEMENT
CONSULTANCY

TEACHING

LAW

LIBRARIANSHIP

MEDIA

ACADEMIA

PUBLISHING

CIVIL SERVICE

SOCIAL WORK

MUSEUMS WORK

ARCHIVE WORK

ARCHAEOLOGY

AUCTION HOUSE WORK

JOURNALISM

POLITICS

MEDIA

ARTS MANAGEMENT

THEATRE AND
PERFORMING ARTS



Visiting the Faculty of Classics

The Faculty is happy to communicate with anyone who is interested in finding out more about the courses on offer at Oxford. The main reception will be able to direct you to the right person: 01865 288372.

Oxford and Cambridge Universities hold a joint Classics Open Day once a year. It will be at Oxford in 2015, 2017, 2019, etc. For more information about dates and booking, see either university website:

www.classics.ox.ac.uk

www.classics.cam.ac.uk

The University runs a series of Open Days in which Classics also participates. These are in late June / early July, and September. They provide an opportunity to look around the whole University, including colleges, attend sample lectures, speak to staff and students and generally get a feel for the University and city. For more information please get in touch with the Faculty directly.

There is also a central admissions centre which will be able to help with general enquiries. Their website:

www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/admissions_i

or visit in person at 55 Little Clarendon Street.





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Come up to the house
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Last chance to
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before it's sold
BNC best
in South East
BNC CR
next TRINITY
- see 4/10
MURPHY - 15
JASON
- 10/10
SUMMER VILL


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