

Course Information Sheet for entry in 2024~25

Undergraduate Certificate in the History of Art

About the course

Taught at first-year undergraduate level, the Undergraduate Certificate in the History of Art offers an excellent introduction for students who want to develop their knowledge of the discipline of art history through structured study. You will learn about how artworks are made, and receive an overview of the development of Western art in its global context from the classical period to the present. The visual practices studied on the course are wide ranging, from the traditional 'fine arts' to wider forms of visual and material culture. You do not need to have any formal qualification or previous study in the subject area.

This is a two-year part-time course, with three terms per year. You will usually attend weekly classes during term-time. Students are expected to read set texts in preparation for class and to come ready to discuss ideas.

Tutors will lead visits to museums and art galleries throughout the course, with trips to current exhibitions if possible. Oxford has many museums and gallery spaces, and you will be encouraged to visit these. Trips may take place on Saturdays.

In the first year, you will learn how to look carefully at various art forms and interpret their historical and cultural significance. You will explore a wide range of artistic materials and their meanings and develop the critical vocabulary and analytical tools necessary to gain a deeper understanding of art and material culture. Each term you will engage closely with different forms of artistic media, including painting, sculpture and other types of visual and material culture.

The second year provides a survey of Western art history in its global contexts, considering the fine arts in relation to wider forms of visual and material culture, from Renaissance altarpieces to documentary photography and from medieval artefacts to abstract art. While the year follows a broad chronological sweep, each unit addresses themes that cut across geography and time.

As well as the time spent in teaching sessions, you will need to spend around 8-10 hours a week studying in term-time. This might include reading, preparing course work, and visiting museums, libraries and sites.

Most teaching events and visits are usually held in-person, but may be moved online, rescheduled or revised if necessary e.g. as a result of a pandemic.

OUTLINE PROGRAMME

Year 1 will centre on these themes:

- Visual analysis and its critical vocabulary
- Methodologies and theoretical perspectives used by art historians

- The materials and meanings of a range of historical art forms (usually including painting, sculpture, architecture and the decorative arts)
- The significance of context for viewing art, past and present
- The social and political functions of art and material culture
- Traditions and innovations within the history of the visual arts

Year 2 will continue to explore the above themes and issues in relation to the following:

- Medieval art and material culture
- Renaissance art and material culture
- Modern and Contemporary art and material culture

Assessment

- For Year 1, you must complete five assignments of not more than 1,500 words and one 3,000 word project.
- For Year 2, you must complete three assignments of not more than 2,000 words and one 5,000 word project.

There is no formal examination at the end of the Certificate course.

Please note that 2024 entry is the last chance to study the Certificate in the History of Art in its current format. If you would like to know more about the changes for 2025 entry, please get in touch: undergraduate@conted.ox.ac.uk

Attendance

Candidates are expected to attend a minimum of:

- 75% of the taught classes per module, and
- Three study visits per year.

Changes to courses

The University will seek to deliver this course in accordance with the description set out in this course information sheet. 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. The safety of students, staff and visitors is paramount and major changes to delivery or services may have to be made in circumstances of a pandemic (including Covid-19), epidemic or local health emergency. In addition, 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 course requirements for international study.

You can find full information under “Changes to Courses” (sections 30 to 39) in [the Terms and Conditions](https://www.conted.ox.ac.uk/mnt/attachments/2023-09-20-final-non-matric-cont-ed-ts-and-cs-for-2024-5-entry.pdf) for this course (<https://www.conted.ox.ac.uk/mnt/attachments/2023-09-20-final-non-matric-cont-ed-ts-and-cs-for-2024-5-entry.pdf>).

Expected length of course

2 years

Annual fees for entry in 2024~25

Fee Status	Annual Course Fees
Home (UK/Republic of Ireland/ Channel Islands & Isle of Man)	£3,295
Overseas	£6,210

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. For details, please see our [guidance on likely increases to fees and charges](#).

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 accommodation, residential costs or other living costs. They also do not cover any additional costs and charges that are outlined in the additional cost information.

Fee status

Broadly speaking, your fee status depends on your nationality, your immigration status in the UK, where you have been living and what you have been doing for the three years prior to the start of your course. Please refer to the [Undergraduate fee status](#) pages for more information.

Information for applicants from the EU, EEA and Switzerland

On 11 May 2021 the UK Council for International Student Affairs published [new regulations and guidance](#) to be used in assessing the fee status of students commencing courses in August 2021 and later. We will be using this guidance to carry out fee status assessments for students commencing courses in 2024~25, including students from the EU, EEA and Switzerland.

If you are an EU national and do not live in the UK then you are likely to be charged Overseas fees. Students with settled and pre-settled status in the UK and some other categories of students who work in the UK can qualify for Home fee status as long as they meet the residence criteria.

Additional cost information

Students are not required to buy books, but there may be a few recommended key texts which you may choose to buy. Transport for trips and visits is normally arranged on a car sharing basis by the students themselves. Entry fees to museums and galleries are paid individually by the students.

You will also need a computer which meets our minimum specification, with access to the internet and various other software programmes. Please see the [system requirements webpage](#) for full details.

Living costs

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

For the 2024~25 academic year, the range of likely living costs for full-time study is between c. £1,345 and £1,995 for each month spent in Oxford. Full information, including a breakdown of likely living costs in Oxford for items such as food, accommodation and study costs, is available on our [living costs](#) page. When planning your finances for any future years of study in Oxford beyond 2024~25, you should allow for an estimated increase in living expenses of 5% or more each year, although this rate may vary significantly depending on how the national economic situation develops.

The living costs above are based on single, full-time students living in Oxford. While it may be the case that, as a part-time student, you will not be based in Oxford during your studies, you will still need to cover your cost of living on a full-time basis. If this applies to you, you should calculate your living costs to be sure that you have sufficient funding to meet these costs for the duration of your course. In particular, part-time students who are not based in Oxford will need to calculate travel and accommodation costs carefully. Please note that living costs outside Oxford may be different from those shown above.

Document accessibility

If you require an accessible version of this document please contact undergraduate@conted.ox.ac.uk.