

European and Middle Eastern Languages Information Sheet for entry in 2021

The European and Middle Eastern Languages (EMEL) course enables students to combine papers in one of the languages taught in the Faculty of Modern Languages with papers in Arabic, Hebrew, Persian or Turkish, providing opportunities to take advantage of the cultural links which exist between a number of European and Middle Eastern languages. For example, appropriate combinations might well be French and Arabic, German and Turkish, or Hebrew and Russian, but even some of the less obvious pairings would provide similar cultural and historical linkage. For example, Spanish and Turkish would be an interesting combination for the history of Sephardi Judaism, while Persian and Portuguese are important for the study of early colonial expansion.

Through its long-standing traditions and connections, Oxford has outstanding resources for the study of Middle Eastern and modern European languages. [The Bodleian Library](#) and [Taylor Institution Library](#) have an extensive collection of books and manuscripts. The Taylor Institution is one of the biggest research and lending libraries devoted to modern European languages in the world. Associated with the University is the [Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies](#), which houses the Leopold Muller Library with more than 35,000 volumes in Hebrew and more than 7,000 volumes in Western languages.

International opportunities

You will normally spend your second year on an approved course of study in the Middle East. There are arrangements in place with partner universities to help you make the most of your time abroad. In addition to undertaking a study placement, students may also choose to undertake further language study or participate in internships.

However, for students choosing to undertake activity in Europe, please note that the types and nature of activities available may be subject to variation following the UK's departure from the EU. The University is working with European partners to seek to maintain the opportunities available to its students as the UK enters into a new relationship with the EU from 2021. You can find the latest information [here](#). You will be kept informed of developments relating to year abroad arrangements as these become clearer.

Staś, who studied Russian with Arabic, says: 'Aside from the intensive language tuition, our time in Jordan was filled with visits to natural and historical wonders – the Dead Sea, Jerash, Wadi Rum, and Petra. By the end of our year we had reached an advanced level of Arabic and fully immersed ourselves in contemporary Jordanian culture.'

You are strongly advised to spend the adjacent summers in a country where the European language of your choice is spoken. Past opportunities have typically included undertaking an internship or following a summer course for your chosen European language, which provides valuable experiences for improving language competence.

Staś (Russian with Arabic), goes on to say: 'For my Russian, I spent the first summer in Russia, partly on a language course at Perm University in the Urals. The following summer

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I worked as an intern in a great little translation firm. Saint Petersburg is Russia's coolest city, and my language quickly improved.'

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.

Funding during the year abroad

It is not yet clear what funding options will be available to support students on their year abroad after the UK's involvement in the Erasmus+ scheme has ended. You can find the latest information [here](#), and on-course students will be kept informed of developments.

Some year abroad activities provide a salary towards living costs. Currently, eligible UK students (including, from 2021/22, students with settled or pre-settled status in the UK under the EU Settlement Scheme) can continue to access living costs funding from the UK government (Student Finance agencies) during their year abroad. The level of funding available to you will be assessed based on your household income and where you are living during the academic year. Further information about the amount of funding which may be available can be found at: [Funding your future – Get ready to apply! \(campaign.gov.uk\)](#).

UK students from lower-income households with means-tested assessments will also remain eligible for Oxford's generous bursary provision. Travel grants may be available through your college and/or the Faculty. For students who experience particular difficulties related to their year abroad, some hardship funds are also available from the Faculty, and, for UK students with a shortfall in their finances, the University's Student Support Fund can provide additional assistance.

A typical week

Your work will be divided between language classes, lectures and tutorials (one or two a week). In the first year, the emphasis will be on intensive learning of the Middle Eastern language. Throughout your course, you will prepare essays for your weekly tutorials and classes, some of which will take place in the Faculties of Oriental Studies and Medieval and Modern Languages, while others will be held in your college.

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

Course structure

YEAR 1	
<p>COURSES</p> <p>European languages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two language papers • One literature paper <p>Middle Eastern language:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intensive language learning 	<p>ASSESSMENT</p> <p>First University examinations: five written papers; plus oral/aural examination (Arabic only)</p>
YEAR 2	
<p>YEAR ABROAD</p> <p>Middle Eastern Language</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students attend an approved course of language instruction in the Middle East <p>European Language</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students are encouraged to spend as much of their vacation time as possible in a relevant country <p><i>Refer to sections on Oriental Studies and Modern Languages</i></p>	<p>ASSESSMENT</p> <p>Qualifying examination at the end of Year 2 (Middle Eastern language only)</p>
YEAR 3 AND 4	
<p>COURSES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practical language work in the European language • Period of literature and further paper chosen from a wide range of options in the European language • Practical language work in the Middle Eastern language • Three papers including literature and a range of options in the Middle Eastern language • Extended essay on a topic bridging the European and the Middle Eastern language 	<p>ASSESSMENT</p> <p>Final University examinations: nine written papers are taken including a bridging extended essay; oral exam (both languages, but not Hebrew on the Middle Eastern side)</p>

The University will seek to deliver each course in accordance with the descriptions 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](#).

Teaching delivery

At the time of writing course information sheets for 2021/22 entry, the COVID-19 pandemic was still impacting the University. A range of measures have been put in place to comply with Government legislation and guidance in response to the pandemic, and to help keep students, staff and the wider community safe.

Inevitably, some changes have been necessary to teaching and student services during the pandemic (for example, a greater amount of online teaching and examinations, and restrictions on numbers allowed to access facilities at one time).

Whatever the circumstances in the 2021/22 academic year, the University will deliver core services and learning outcomes for each course, even though the modes of delivery may change.

All course information sheets should be read in that context, and we will keep offer holders and students regularly informed if circumstances change. Further details are available on our [website](#) and within the [Student Terms and Conditions](#).

Fees

These annual fees are for full-time students who begin this undergraduate course here in 2021.

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)	£31,230

Note: Following the UK's departure from the EU, most EU students starting a course in 2021/22 will no longer be eligible to pay fees at the 'Home' rate and will instead be charged the higher 'Overseas' rate. This change will not apply to Irish nationals living in the UK or Ireland, who will continue to be charged fees at the 'Home' rate for the duration of their course.

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The government has issued guidance stating that EU, other EEA, and Swiss nationals who have been granted settled or pre-settled status in the UK under the EU settlement scheme may be eligible for 'Home fee' status and student loan support, subject to meeting residency requirements. However, until the government formally updates its fee status regulations the University is unable to confirm fee statuses for students who may qualify on this basis. We will contact you directly if we need further information from you to determine your fee status.

Please refer to the [Undergraduate fee status](#) and the [Oxford and the EU](#) pages for more information.

Additional Fees and Charges Information for European and Middle Eastern Languages

During the year abroad, students currently pay significantly reduced fees to the University. For example, for students going on their year abroad in 2020, who started an undergraduate course from 2019, the course fees are:

- Home/EU/Islands students: £1,385 for the year
- International students: £8,750 for the year

We recommend that students begin to research their year abroad options – including the financial implications – as early as possible in the second year of the course. There is plenty of support, information and advice to help you.

Actual costs (such as course fees) and living costs will vary depending on the destination and the activity undertaken. Some of the costs relating to year abroad activity may be subject to variation as arrangements relating to the UK's departure from the EU are progressed. See [here](#) for the latest information. You will need to pay for living costs during the year abroad, including accommodation and travel expenses. For study abroad you may also be liable to pay course fees and any other applicable charges to your host institution. Please refer to the advice 'Funding during the year abroad' section earlier in this document for more information about sources of funding.

Living costs

Your living costs will vary significantly dependent on your lifestyle. These are estimated to be between £1,175 and £1,710 per month in 2021-22. Each year of an undergraduate course usually consists of three terms of eight weeks each but you may need to be in Oxford for longer. As a guide, you may wish to budget over a nine-month period to ensure you also have sufficient funds during the holidays to meet essential costs.

Living costs breakdown

	Per month		Total for 9 months	
	Lower range	Upper range	Lower range	Upper range
Food	£280	£400	£2,520	£3,600

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Accommodation (including utilities)	£655	£790	£5,895	£7,110
Personal items	£130	£250	£1,170	£2,250
Social activities	£45	£115	£405	£1,035
Study costs	£45	£100	£405	£900
Other	£20	£55	£180	£495
Total	£1,175	£1,710	£10,575	£15,390

In order to provide these likely living costs, the University and the Oxford University Students' Union 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 likely lower and upper ranges above are based on a single student with no dependants living in college accommodation (including utility bills) and are provided for information only.

When planning your finances for future years of study at Oxford beyond 2021-22, you should allow for an estimated increase in living expenses of 3% each year.

Document accessibility

If you require an accessible version of the document, please contact Undergraduate Admissions by email (uao.comms@admin.ox.ac.uk) or via the online form (<http://www.ox.ac.uk/ask>).

Please note, at the time of publishing the CIS, further details regarding the availability and eligibility of financial support for some EU students with settled or pre-settled status remained outstanding. Confirmation about funding arrangements for the year abroad were also outstanding. Any updates impacting students will be published on the Oxford and the EU webpage.