

## Course Information Sheet for entry in 2020~21

### Foundation Certificate in History

#### About the course

The two-year part-time Foundation Certificate in History is equivalent to the first year of a full-time degree in History at Oxford University. Students who successfully complete the course are eligible to apply for second-year entry to undergraduate history courses at the University of Oxford and other institutions. Please note that completing the course does not give you automatic right of entry to any institution. You will still have to apply for a place, in competition with other applicants.

Students are introduced to the study of history through extended surveys of periods of modern British and European history. Source-based optional subjects provide an opportunity to explore major topics in greater depth and to develop and refine the skills needed by the historian. Students are also encouraged to reflect upon the nature and purpose of history by tracing the development of historical writing and exploring cross-fertilisations between history and other academic disciplines.

The course is taught through a programme of weekly seminars, supplemented by individual and paired tutorials (all delivered online in Michaelmas term). A variety of teaching methods will be used. In addition to lectures by the tutors, there will be the opportunity to work in small discussion groups and to give short presentations on prepared topics to the class (all online in Michaelmas term).

In addition to attending the Foundation Certificate's own weekly seminar programme, students are also entitled, for no extra payment, to attend the wide range of lectures and seminars (delivered online in Michaelmas term) organised by the University's Faculty of History.

The Foundation Certificate in History course consists of five elements:

#### *1 British History 1485-1603*

From the usurpation of the crown by Henry VII, following his victory at Bosworth Field, to the lonely death of Elizabeth I, without a named successor, Tudor Britain saw far-reaching changes in government, church, economy and society. The achievements of the Tudor dynasty were considerable but their years of power were also plagued by turmoil and uncertainty. Students examine the successes and failures of the reigns of individual Tudor monarchs with particular emphasis upon the development of government; religious reformation; relations with other European states and social and economic policy. The course also explores broad themes spanning the 'long sixteenth century'. These will include: political opposition and rebellion; changing attitudes towards family and women; town and city; population growth and the relief of poverty; and the use of culture to buttress the image of monarchy.

#### *2 British History 1900-1979*

During this period Britain experienced profound political and social change: the impact of two world wars, the introduction of universal suffrage, the sudden arrival of the Labour Party as a governing force, the creation of the Welfare State, and the retreat from Empire after 1945. The course

examines the nature of these changes, as well as examining the significant elements of continuity, such as the dominance of the Conservative Party in the inter-war years and in the 1950s. There is also an opportunity to assess the role of leading politicians such as David Lloyd George, Stanley Baldwin, Winston Churchill, Harold Wilson and Margaret Thatcher.

### *3 European History 1815-1914*

The nineteenth century saw the development of the European nation states amid other changes wrought by industrialisation, urbanisation and growing consciousness of class, gender and national identity. Beginning with the Napoleonic Wars, the course also encompasses the “long peace” of the 1820s and 1830s, the Revolutions of 1848, the unification of Germany and Italy, and the struggle for stability in the years before the First World War. Students are provided with a chronological framework for the period, but the main focus is on themes which span many decades and countries. The themes include Liberalism and the middle classes, Socialism and the working classes, and patterns of industrial and urban development.

### *4 Approaches to History*

The study of history has evolved over time. In Year 1, the course examines the evolution of historical writing from early times to the modern day, with particular emphasis upon the development of history as a systematic academic discipline. Students consider the purpose of the study of history, receive an introduction to some aspects of research methodology, and learn how to evaluate the reliability of both the historical record and historical writing.

In year two, students will examine recent developments in historical writing and explore the inter-relationship between history and other disciplines such as archaeology, local history, art history, architectural history and gender studies. Material will be drawn largely, though not exclusively, from the social, political and religious life of the nineteenth century.

### *5 Optional subject*

The optional subjects offer the opportunity for more detailed study of a specific topic. Students work primarily from original source material, where necessary in translation or modern transcription, and learn to evaluate historical evidence in a practical setting. Options previously offered include The Nobility and Gentry in England 1560-1640, The Spanish Civil War 1936-1939 and The Age of Bede.

### **Assessment**

Assessment is by coursework and written examination. Candidates are required to submit the number of assessments required and to achieve a weighted average of at least 40% across the coursework and the examinations for each year of the Certificate.

- *Coursework*

This will account for 30% of the total marks; 15% for each year.

Candidates are set the following coursework:

Year 1 Six written assignments, each of not more than 2,000 words.

Year 2 Five written assignments, each of not more than 2,000 words. And one extended essay of not more than 4,000 words.

In each year the lowest mark for a written assignment is discounted, so that for Year 1 the five highest marks are carried forward and for Year 2 the four highest marks (and the mark for the extended essay) are carried forward.

- *Examinations*

At the end of each year, there will be two four-hour online, open-book examinations. For the core papers, students are required to answer two questions for each examination. For the optional subject paper, students are required to answer one essay question and two gobbet questions. The examinations set at the conclusion of Year 1 account for 35% of the total marks for the course; the examinations set at the end of Year 2 account for a further 35%.

Both years are equally weighted.

**Attendance (online and in person)**

Candidates are expected to attend a minimum of:

- 75% of the taught classes per year and
- 75% of the study week.

**Changes to courses**

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.

**Expected length of course**

2 years

### Annual fees for entry in 2020-21

Fee Status	Tuition fee	College Fee	Total annual fees
Home/EU (including islands)	£2,825	N/A	£2,825
Overseas	£4,840	N/A	£4,840

The fees shown above are the annual tuition fees for this course for entry in the 2020-21 academic year; 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. College fees are not generally payable for non-matriculated courses although a small number of courses may permit college affiliation for which a charge will be made.

Tuition 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 tuition fees).

#### Additional cost information

This course has a study week in Oxford so you will need to meet any travel and accommodation costs you may incur in attending this week.

## 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.

The likely living costs for 2020-21 are published below. These costs are based on a single, full-time graduate student, with no dependants, living in Oxford. We provide the cost per month so you can multiply up by the number of months you expect to live in Oxford.

	Likely living costs for 1 month		Likely living costs for 9 months		Likely living costs for 12 months	
	Lower range	Upper range	Lower range	Upper range	Lower range	Upper range
<b>FOOD</b>	£270	£385	£2,430	£3,465	£3,240	£4,620
<b>Accommodation</b>	£630	£760	£5,670	£6,840	£7,560	£9,120
<b>Personal items</b>	£130	£245	£1,170	£2,205	£1,560	£2,940
<b>Social activities</b>	£45	£110	£405	£990	£540	£1,320
<b>Study costs</b>	£40	£95	£360	£855	£480	£1,140
<b>Other</b>	£20	£55	£180	£495	£240	£660
<b>Total</b>	£1,135	£1,650	£10,215	£14,850	£13,620	£19,800

When planning your finances for any future years of study in Oxford beyond 2020-21 you should allow for an estimated increase in living expenses of 3% each year.

More information about how these figures have been calculated is available at [www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/living-costs](http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/living-costs).