

## History of Art Information Sheet for entry in 2021

Anything designed by human beings exhibits visual qualities that are specific to the place and period in which it originates. History of Art aims to arrive at a historical understanding of the origins, meaning and purpose of art and artefacts from a wide range of world cultures, asking about the circumstances of their making, their makers, the media used, the functions of the images and objects, their critical reception and – not least – their subsequent history. As well as educating students in the historical interpretation of art in its cultural contexts, a degree in History of Art provides skills in the critical analysis of objects through the cultivation of visual literacy. The acquired skills have broad applicability in a wide range of professional settings, as well as serving the needs of enduring personal enlightenment.

The University collections, including the famous [Ashmolean](#) and [Pitt Rivers](#) museums, provide subjects for first-hand study under the supervision of those entrusted with their care. The historic architecture of the city and its environs supplies a rich source of study in its own right. The Oxford degree is designed to provide innovative insights into a wide range of world art, drawing its expertise from various University faculties and the staff of University collections, as well as from the department itself. There is a strong emphasis upon how the primary visual and written sources from various periods and places can be analysed in different ways. Students are encouraged to enquire about the nature of reactions to what we call 'art'.

### A typical week

Each week you will have around two lectures, and a weekly tutorial. Teaching usually takes place in the department or in a college, as well as in one of the Oxford museums and galleries where tutors often lecture in front of actual works of art. Visits to exhibitions or historical buildings will also be part of the course. Outside the classroom, most of your time will be spent preparing essays for your tutorials and working in libraries, archives or museums on longer research papers.

Tutorials are usually up to three students and a tutor. Class sizes may vary depending on the options you choose, but there would usually be no more than around 16 students. 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 studying at doctorate level.

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

**Course structure**

<b>YEAR 1</b>	
<p><b>COURSES</b> Four elements are taken:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Core course: Introduction to the history of art</li> <li>• Core course: European art, 1400–1900: meaning and interpretation</li> <li>• Core course: Antiquity after Antiquity</li> <li>• Supervised extended essay on a building, object or image in Oxford.</li> </ul> <p>Students also have the opportunity to undertake a French, German or Italian for Art Historians course through the University’s Language Centre. No previous experience or qualifications are required for these courses and they do not form part of the assessment.</p>	<p><b>ASSESSMENT</b> First University examinations: three written papers and one extended essay</p>
<b>YEARS 2 AND 3</b>	
<p><b>COURSES</b> <b>Seven elements are taken:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Core Course: Approaches to the history of art</li> <li>• Further subject in art history, options include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Anglo-Saxon archaeology</li> <li>○ The Carolingian Renaissance</li> <li>○ Culture and society in Early Renaissance Italy</li> <li>○ Northern European portraiture, 1400–1800</li> <li>○ Flanders and Italy in the Quattrocento</li> <li>○ Court culture and art in early modern Europe</li> <li>○ Intellect and culture in Victorian Britain</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Two Year 2 options, regularly taught options include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Egyptian art and architecture</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>ASSESSMENT</b> Final University examinations: four or five written papers, one or two extended essay(s) and one thesis</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Greek art and archaeology</li><li>○ Art under the Roman Empire</li><li>○ Encountering South Asian sculpture</li><li>○ Gothic art through medieval eyes</li><li>○ Understanding museums and collections</li><li>○ Literature and the visual arts in France</li><li>○ European cinema</li><li>○ Modernism and after</li><li>○ The experience of modernity: visual culture, 1880–1925</li><li>○ American art, 1560s–1960s</li></ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Special subject and extended essay in art history options include:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Art and culture in Renaissance Florence and Venice</li><li>○ Art and culture in the Dutch Golden Age</li><li>○ English architecture</li><li>○ Art and its public in France, 1815–67</li><li>○ The social life of photographs</li><li>○ Pop and the art of the Sixties: global perspectives</li></ul></li><li>● Undergraduate thesis</li></ul> <p>Students also have the opportunity to undertake a collections placement in one of the University museums, libraries or colleges in their second year.</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

## UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS AND OUTREACH

University Offices, Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JD



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.

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

## UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS AND OUTREACH

University Offices, Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JD



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.

### 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
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
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1,175</b>	<b>£1,710</b>	<b>£10,575</b>	<b>£15,390</b>

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

## UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS AND OUTREACH

University Offices, Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JD



If you require an accessible version of the document, please contact Undergraduate Admissions by email ([uao.comms@admin.ox.ac.uk](mailto: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.*