



Modern Languages Information Sheet for entry in 2019

Studying Modern Languages provides both practical training in written and spoken language and also an extensive introduction to European literature and thought. As well as learning to write and speak the language(s) fluently, you can study a broad range of literature, or focus your studies on any period from the medieval to the present day. A wide range of other options allow you to explore subjects including linguistics, philology, film studies or (in French and German) advanced translation.

Modern Languages have been taught in Oxford since 1724. The faculty is one of the largest in the country, with a total intake of more than 250 students a year (including joint courses). Undergraduate students can use the Taylor Institution Library, the biggest research library in Britain devoted to modern languages.

Language is at the centre of the Oxford course, making up around 50% of both first-year and final examinations. The course aims to teach spoken fluency in colloquial and more formal situations, the ability to write essays in the foreign language, and the ability to translate into and out of the foreign language with accuracy and sensitivity to a range of vocabulary, styles and registers. You will also develop your reading skills to a high level. The University's excellently equipped [Language Centre](#) has resources specifically tailored to the needs of Modern Language students.

The study of literature gives you an understanding of other cultures that cannot be acquired solely through learning the language. It leads you into areas such as gender issues, popular culture, theatre studies, aesthetics, anthropology, art history, ethics, history, philosophy, politics, psychology and theology, developing your skills as a critical reader, writer and thinker.

International opportunities

Modern Languages students spend a compulsory year abroad, usually in the third year. They may work as paid language assistants in a foreign school or do internships abroad, both of which provide valuable opportunities to develop career experience while improving language competence. The year may also be spent studying at a foreign university. (Students taking Beginners' Russian spend the second year – as opposed to the third year – of their studies on a specially designed eight-month language course in the city of Yaroslavl.) Students are encouraged to spend as much as possible of their vacations in the countries whose languages they are studying. In addition to the possibility of [Erasmus funding](#), extra financial support, including travel scholarships, may be available from your college and/or the faculty.

A typical week

Your week's work will include a tutorial in, or organised by, your college, language classes in the language(s) you study, and typically three to four hours of lectures for each subject. 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 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

Your first year is closely structured. You will attend oral classes and courses on the grammatical structure of your language(s), translation into and out of the language(s) and, in some of the languages, comprehension. You will also attend introductory lecture courses and participate in

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seminars and/or tutorials on literature. If you study French, German, Spanish or Russian as a single language you will take a range of additional options in that language in the first year (see below). All other languages must be studied in combination with another language or another subject.

Your other years of study give you more freedom to choose the areas on which you wish to focus, from a very wide range of options. Students studying courses with Polish take this as a subsidiary language, beginning in the second year. Catalan, Galician, Provençal, Yiddish and most of the Slavonic languages may also be taken as additional options.

1st year	
Courses Two-language course <ul style="list-style-type: none">practical language workstudy of important works and/or topics in the literature of each language One-language course: as above, plus <ul style="list-style-type: none">for French, German, Russian and Spanish, additional options: film studies; literary theory (French); medieval studies (German/Spanish); key texts in French or German thought; short fiction (Spanish); Polish and Church Slavonic (Russian) Other languages must be studied in combination with another language or joint school.	Assessment First University examinations: Seven or eight written papers, including translation and literature (language only for Beginners' Russian).
2nd year	
Courses Two-language course <ul style="list-style-type: none">practical language worka period of literature in each languageoptional subjects, including linguistics; medieval literature; detailed study of individual authors One-language course <ul style="list-style-type: none">as above, but including a greater range of optional subjects	
3rd and 4th years	
Year 3 Typically spent abroad Beginners' Russian: Students spend the second year in Russia, and the third year in Oxford Year 4 Continues the course from year 2, plus special subjects across a wide range of options including film studies <i>The options listed above are illustrative and may change. More information about current options is available on the Modern Languages website.</i>	Assessment Final University examinations: Nine or ten written papers and an oral examination are taken, including unprepared translations, literature subjects, special subjects and linguistics. Some special subjects are examined by submitting a portfolio of essays.

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.

Fees

These annual fees are for full-time students who begin this undergraduate course here in 2019.

Fee status	Annual Course fees
Home/EU	£9,250
Islands (Channel Islands & Isle of Man)	£9,250
Overseas	£26,235

Information about how much fees and other costs may increase is set out in the University's Terms and Conditions.

Additional Fees and Charges Information for Modern Languages

During the year abroad, students pay significantly reduced fees. For students who started an undergraduate course from 2018, who are going on their year abroad in 2019, the course fees are:

- Home/EU/Islands students: £1,385 for the year.
- International students: £8,415 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. You may choose to work or study during your year abroad, or you may do both. Students undertake a range of activities while on their year abroad, some activities may receive a salary and thus - depending on individual choices - it is possible for the year abroad to be cost neutral. Actual costs (such as course fees) and living costs will vary depending on the destination and the activity undertaken.

You will need to pay for living costs during the year abroad, including accommodation and travel expenses. Subject to the UK continuing to be eligible to participate in the Erasmus Programme after leaving the EU, students taking part in Erasmus study exchanges will not need to pay course fees to other institutions. However, if you decide to study outside Erasmus you will be liable to pay course fees to the relevant institution.

You may receive salary payments or grants to offset some or all of these costs. Also, if you receive government funding for the rest of your course, you will still be entitled to government support during your year abroad. Hardship funds are available from the [Faculty of Medieval & Modern Languages](#) for students who can demonstrate particular difficulties related to their year abroad. These are awarded through a termly application process.

Beginners' Russian

Courses including beginners' Russian are slightly different, as they are the only courses with a prescribed year abroad option. Students have to take an 8-month Russian Language Undergraduate Studies course in Yaroslavl (www.rlus.co.uk) during their second year. Students will not incur an additional course fee, however, they will be liable for additional administration and visa fees. For students starting their year abroad in 2018 these fees are £145 and £45 respectively.

Living costs

Your living costs will vary significantly dependent on your lifestyle. These are estimated to be between £1,058 and £1,643 per month in 2019-20. 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.

	Per month		Total for 9 months	
	Lower range	Upper range	Lower range	Upper range
Food	£265	£371	£2,387	£3,342
Accommodation (including utilities)	£566	£739	£5,093	£6,655
Personal items	£122	£271	£1,098	£2,435
Social activities	£42	£126	£380	£1,138
Study costs	£40	£88	£359	£788
Other	£23	£48	£208	£432
Total	£1,058	£1,643	£9,525	£14,790

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 2019-20, you should allow for an estimated increase in living expenses of 3% each year.