

Oriental Studies Information Sheet for entry in 2021

Oriental Studies is unique in its sole focus on introducing students to civilisations that are different from the Western ones upon which the curriculum in most British schools and colleges is based. The courses present both the major traditions and cultural trends of the regions studied and, in most cases, their modern developments. All courses include a combination of linguistic, literary, historic and cultural studies and there is a wide range of options in fields such as art and archaeology, history, literature, philosophy, religion and modern social studies.

Oriental Studies has a long history in Oxford. The Bodleian and other libraries have acquired extensive collections. The Oriental Institute, the China Centre, the Bodleian Japanese and Indian Institute Libraries are all specialists in their respective fields. Around the corner from the Oriental Institute is the [Ashmolean Museum](#), which houses superb collections, and the [Sackler Library](#) which contains the renowned Griffith Library, one of the finest libraries in the world for the study of ancient Egypt and the Ancient Near East.

International opportunities

Most courses offer the opportunity to spend time in the region being studied. The Arabic course includes a year in the Middle East, the Turkish course a year in Turkey and the Hebrew course an optional year in Israel. The Chinese and Japanese courses also include a year in China and Japan respectively. For Persian, the faculty decides each year whether it is advisable for its students to spend their year abroad in Iran. In years when Iran is not possible, they study in Tajikistan instead.

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.

A typical week

Your time will be divided between lectures, tutorials (up to three students and a tutor) and language classes that will develop your writing, speaking and comprehension skills. The rest of your time will be dedicated to independent study, working on regular assignments in reading, writing and translation. 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 10 students and often fewer, while lectures are normally around 15-25 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 usually studying at doctorate level.

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

Course structure

Arabic and Islamic Studies T601		Persian with subsidiary language T6TX	
Arabic with subsidiary language T6T9		Turkish T600	
Persian T613		Turkish with subsidiary language T6TY	
YEAR 1		YEAR 2	
COURSES		COURSES	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elementary language Middle Eastern history and cultures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year abroad: approved course of language instruction 	PROJECT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Core work on language and literature History Specialisation or subsidiary language Islamic Religion (Arabic only) 	
ASSESSMENT		ASSESSMENT	
First University examinations after term 3: three written papers; an oral exam (Arabic only)		Final University examinations at the end of Year 4: oral exam and eight or nine written papers (one of which must be a dissertation)	

Chinese T101		
YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3 AND 4
COURSES	COURSES	COURSES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elementary language in Modern and Classical Chinese History and civilisation of China 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year abroad at Peking University 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extended language classes in modern and classical Chinese Interdisciplinary course on modern China Options: China and the World; Contemporary Chinese cities in literature, art and cinema; Organization and ideology of the Chinese Communist Party; Literary worlds and cultural flows in Pre-Modern China; Angst in



		Early China; Chinese painters on painting; Chinese ceramics; Women and writing in Republican China; Chinese law and society; <i>or</i> subsidiary languages: Tibetan, Japanese or Korean
ASSESSMENT First University examinations: three written papers; an oral exam		ASSESSMENT Final University examinations: oral examination; seven written papers; dissertation; extended essay (for candidates who have taken options)

Egyptology and Ancient Near Eastern Studies Q401

Egyptology Q400

Ancient Near Eastern Studies Q402

YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3
<p>COURSES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Broad survey of civilisations of Egypt and the Ancient Near East Language teaching in Egyptian or Akkadian 	<p>COURSES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Addition of second language, or Archaeology and Anthropology Language options: Akkadian, Egyptian, Arabic, Aramaic and Syriac, Coptic, Hebrew (Biblical and Mishnaic), Old Iranian, Sumerian or Hittite (if available) Literary and historical topics through study of texts and essay writing Intensive class work Artefact classes <p><i>Subject to acceptance, students may also have the option of Classical Greek or</i></p>	<p>COURSES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Essay writing and dissertation work Intensive classes in the first and second terms Artefact classes Field of concentration

	<i>Latin from the Classics with Oriental Studies degree.</i>	
ASSESSMENT First University examinations: four written papers		ASSESSMENT Final University examinations: ten units

Hebrew Q480		
YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3 AND 4
COURSES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intensive study in Hebrew language in all periods Introduction to Jewish history and culture 	COURSES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intensive language study Study of history and culture through texts Choice of options from Jewish Studies 	COURSES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued language study Tutorials in history, culture and society <p><i>Year 3 is a compulsory year abroad for students on the four-year track.</i></p>
ASSESSMENT First University examinations: four written papers		ASSESSMENT Final University examinations: seven written papers; dissertation 4-year course only: oral examination if taking a year abroad

Japanese T201		
YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3 AND 4
COURSES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> History and culture Intensive Japanese language classes 	COURSES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year abroad at Kobe University 	COURSES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued language classes Classical Japanese Options with tutorials (five subjects to be chosen), from a range of specialised



		<p>subjects within: Classical literature; Modern literature; Linguistics; History; Politics; Economics; Society, Art; Subsidiary language (counts as three subjects) from: Chinese, Korean or Tibetan</p> <p><i>Options listed are only illustrative of what is available. A full list of current options is available on the Oriental Studies website.</i></p>
<p>ASSESSMENT First University examinations: three written papers</p>	<p>ASSESSMENT Test at end of course</p>	<p>ASSESSMENT Final University examinations: oral examination; eight written papers; dissertation</p>

Jewish Studies QV91		
YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3
<p>COURSES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intensive study in Hebrew language in all periods • Introduction to Jewish history and culture 	<p>COURSES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intensive language study • Options (three subjects to be chosen) 	<p>COURSES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Options (two subjects to be chosen) • Tutorials in history, culture and society <p><i>A full list of current options is available on the Oriental Studies website.</i></p>
<p>ASSESSMENT First University examinations: four written papers</p>		<p>ASSESSMENT Final University examinations: seven written papers; dissertation</p>

Sanskrit Q450		
YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3
<p>COURSES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intensive language learning • Introduction to the study of ancient Indian civilization 	<p>COURSES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued language learning and text reading • Study of the historically and culturally most important genres of Sanskrit literature • Begin subsidiary language options: Hindi, Early Iranian, Pali, Prakrit or Tibetan 	<p>COURSES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued language learning and text reading • Specialisation in one area of Sanskrit literature • Additional special subject or dissertation <p><i>Options listed are only illustrative of what is available. A full list of current options is available on the Oriental Studies website.</i></p>
<p>ASSESSMENT First University examinations: three written papers</p>	<p>ASSESSMENT</p>	<p>ASSESSMENT Final University examinations: nine papers (seven in Sanskrit and two in subsidiary languages)</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.

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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 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 Oriental Studies

Students taking Arabic, Chinese, Japanese, Persian or Turkish will take the second year abroad. Students of Hebrew can choose to take a year abroad, but it is not compulsory.

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During the year abroad, students currently pay significantly reduced fees to the University. For example, for students going on their year abroad in 2021, who started an undergraduate course from 2019, the course fees are:

- Home/Republic of Ireland/Islands students: £1,385 for the year.
- International students: £10,620 for the year.

The Faculty of Oriental Studies covers the cost of language tuition abroad, but not living costs and flights. Students who are eligible for government maintenance support will also be assessed for an Oxford Bursary during their year abroad.

Some bursaries and scholarships are currently available for students of Chinese and Japanese, and a number of colleges have funds to support their students' period of study abroad.

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
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

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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.