

Philosophy and Modern Languages Information Sheet for entry in 2021

Philosophy and Modern Languages brings together some of the most important approaches to understanding language, literature and ideas.

The study of philosophy develops analytical rigour and the ability to criticise and reason logically. It allows you to apply these skills to questions ranging from how we acquire knowledge and form moral judgements to the nature of language, art and literature. Since many works of literature are shaped by the dominant philosophical ideas of their epoch, study of philosophy can illuminate that intellectual background.

The study of a modern European language develops analytical and critical abilities as well as highly competent linguistic skills. Studying the literature written in that language contributes to an understanding of many aspects of European culture, enabling students to develop attention to stylistic and terminological detail and rhetorical strategies, and sensitivity to cultural and historical context, all of which are of great value to the study of philosophy. Studying these two disciplines in parallel has numerous advantages and affords students greater insights into each.

The Philosophy Faculty is the largest philosophy department in the UK, and one of the largest in the world, admitting around 450 undergraduates annually to read the various degrees involving Philosophy. Many faculty members have a worldwide reputation and our library and other facilities are acknowledged as among the best in the country.

Oxford's Modern Languages Faculty is one of the largest in the country, with a total intake of more than 250 students a year, including those reading joint degrees. The [Taylor Institution](#) is the biggest modern languages research library in the UK. The Modern Languages Faculty also has an undergraduate lending library, and students are able to take advantage of the well-equipped [Language Centre](#).

International opportunities

Modern Languages students spend a compulsory year abroad, usually in the third year. Past opportunities abroad have typically included working as a paid language assistant in a school, undertaking an internship and/or studying at a University, all of which provide valuable experiences for improving language competence. 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.

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Students are also encouraged to spend as much of their vacations as possible in the countries whose languages they are studying.

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 may provide a salary. 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 one or two tutorials and about six hours of lectures each week, in addition to about two or three hours of classes (first-year logic, language classes throughout the course). The rest of your week will be spent in independent study to prepare essays for tutorials and improve your command of your language.

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

| YEAR 1 | |
|---------|------------|
| COURSES | ASSESSMENT |



| | |
|--|--|
| <p>Philosophy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General philosophy • Moral philosophy • Logic <p>Modern Languages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practical language work (two papers) • Study of important literary works and/or topics (two papers) | <p>First University examinations: six written papers (two in Philosophy, four in Modern Languages)</p> |
|--|--|

YEAR 2 AND 4 (YEAR 3 SPENT ABROAD)

| COURSES | ASSESSMENT |
|--|--|
| <p>Philosophy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Either</i> Early Modern philosophy • <i>Or</i> Plato’s <i>Republic</i> • <i>Or</i> Aristotle’s <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> <p>Modern Languages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One literature paper • Practical language work (two papers and an oral examination) <p>Further options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Either</i> four further papers in Philosophy (many options, including a thesis) and one further paper in Modern Languages from a range of options, which may include prescribed authors from the 12th to 20th centuries, options in linguistics, or special subjects • <i>Or</i> three further papers in Philosophy and two further papers in Modern Languages as above (one of which may be an extended essay) • <i>Or</i> two further papers in Philosophy (many options, including a thesis) and three further papers in Modern Languages as above (one of which may be an extended essay) <p><i>The options listed above are illustrative and may change. More information about current options is available on</i></p> | <p>Final University examinations: nine written papers (with a minimum of three in Philosophy and four in Modern Languages; one Philosophy paper may be replaced by a thesis; some Modern Languages papers may be replaced by a thesis or a portfolio of essays); Modern Languages oral examination</p> |

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both [Philosophy](#) and [Modern Languages](#) websites.

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.

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 Philosophy and Modern Languages

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.

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 |
| 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.