

Religion and Oriental Studies Information Sheet for entry in 2021

The course in Religion and Oriental Studies offers students an in-depth understanding of a number of the world's great religious traditions including Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam and Judaism. To engage with all the different aspects of the course, you will have to become something of a historian and a philosopher, a textual and literary critic, as well as an accomplished linguist. These disciplines together, not only enable students to appreciate the qualities of religions that can be radically different from those in Western societies, but also equip graduates with the analytical and critical abilities to embark on a wide range of careers.

Religion and Oriental Studies enables students to study the major world religions and their primary languages. It provides them with an understanding of the intellectual underpinning of religious traditions, and of the social and cultural contexts for religious beliefs and practices. Students can also explore topics such as the relationship between religions and science, and the place of religious ethics in public life.

Between them, the Faculties of Theology and Religion and Oriental Studies include more than 270 academics, ranging from experts in the ancient languages and literature of the world's religions to church historians and systematic theologians. The reputations of both faculties, together with Oxford's excellent library facilities, attract scholars from all over the world.

A typical week

Your typical weekly timetable will be divided between one or two tutorials and up to six lectures each week. Throughout the course and particularly in your first year, you will attend at least three (and often more) language classes each week. A large part of your week will be spent in independent study to prepare for language classes and for tutorials.

Tutorials are usually up to three 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 10 students and classes would often be smaller. 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

YEAR 1	
<p>COURSES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Religion and religions • One of the following languages, each of which have three assessment components each: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Greek ○ Hebrew ○ Arabic ○ Tibetan ○ Hindi ○ Pali ○ Sanskrit 	<p>ASSESSMENT</p> <p>First University examinations: four papers assessed by written and (depending on the option) oral examination</p>
YEAR 2 AND 3	
<p>COURSES</p> <p>Students specialise in the study of a religion, particularly through the study of its texts in their original languages. Students specialising in Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam or Judaism usually continue studying in the language they began to learn in their first year. Students specialising in Eastern Christianity take up either Syriac or Armenian in their second year, usually having prepared by studying Greek in their first year.</p> <p>Students take seven papers, three in Oriental Studies and three in Religion; the seventh may be chosen from either Oriental Studies or Religion.</p> <p>In addition, all students must prepare a 12,000-word thesis on a topic of their choice, which may be chosen from either Oriental Studies or Religion.</p>	<p>ASSESSMENT</p> <p>Final University examinations: seven papers (assessed either by written examination or by submitted coursework, depending upon the option), plus a thesis</p>

The options listed above are illustrative and may change; not all languages are available every year. More information about current options is available on the [Religion and Oriental Studies](#) website.

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

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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 the above 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

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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.

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 2021-2022. 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.

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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.