

Course Information Sheet for entry in 2026-27: MSt in Greek and/or Latin Languages and Literature



Course facts

Mode of study	Full Time Only
Expected length	9 months

About the course

The MSt in Greek and/or Latin Languages and Literature is a nine-month taught course offering advanced study in classical texts, languages, and scholarship methods. It is aimed at a level between undergraduate and doctoral study.

The MSt is the main Master's course in Classical literature and the one which the faculty recommends unless there are particular reasons for preferring the [MPhil in Greek and/or Latin Languages and Literature](https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/courses/mphil-greek-and-or-latin-languages-and-literature) (<https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/courses/mphil-greek-and-or-latin-languages-and-literature>).

The majority of students take the course as preparation for a research degree, and for such students it might offer, for instance, linguistic training; the opportunity to become acquainted with an ancillary discipline such as papyrology or palaeography; engagement with a particular author's texts at a deeper level; and a first introduction, via the dissertation, to extended research and the extended presentation of a scholarly argument.

Course structure

An overview of the course structure is provided below. Details of the compulsory and optional elements of the course are provided in the *Course components* section of this page.

All students attend a class on research techniques in Classical literature, extending over three terms.

You will also undertake three options. The scheduling of the options depends on the choices you make, but typically you will work particularly on your first two options in the first two terms and particularly on your dissertation in the third. There is the possibility of specialising in reception (one of the option modules) across the course, by choosing the reception module and by working on reception topics in the text option, though you will still sit a translation exam as detailed below.

You will have considerable input yourself in shaping and driving your studies. You also have the opportunity to attend a wide range of lectures, seminars and talks by visiting speakers.

Attendance

The course is full-time and requires attendance in Oxford. Full-time students are subject to the [University's Residence requirements](https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/after-you-apply/accommodation/residence-requirements) (<https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/after-you-apply/accommodation/residence-requirements>).

Though there are numerous classes and seminars, most of your time will be spent on self-directed study.

Resources to support your study

As a graduate student, you will have access to the University's wide range of resources including libraries, museums, galleries, digital resources and IT services.

The Bodleian Libraries is the largest library system in the UK. It includes the main Bodleian Library and libraries across Oxford, including major research libraries and faculty, department and institute libraries. Together, the Libraries hold more than 13 million printed items, provide access to e-journals, and contain outstanding special collections including rare books and manuscripts, classical papyri, maps, music, art and printed ephemera.

The University's IT Services is available to all students to support with core university IT systems and tools, as well as many other services and facilities. IT Services also offers a range of IT learning courses for students to support with learning and research, as well as [guidance on what technology to bring with you as a new student](https://www.it.ox.ac.uk/what-to-bring) (<https://www.it.ox.ac.uk/what-to-bring>) at Oxford.

Oxford has academic resources among the most extensive in the world for Classical Languages and Literature. The Ioannou Centre for Classical and Byzantine Studies offers various facilities for graduate students including a common room and a graduate study area. It is also the base for the various research projects in the faculty.

The faculty is fortunate in having two world-class research libraries close at hand, the Bodleian Library and the Bodleian Art, Archaeology and Ancient World Library. The latter is an open-shelf lending library indispensable to anyone studying ancient history, archaeology and art; it is also extremely useful to those studying literature or philology. The library houses the world's

largest collection of literary and documentary papyri; the Bodleian has the UK's most important collection of Greek and Latin manuscripts.

Supervision

The allocation of graduate supervision for this course is the responsibility of the Faculty of Classics and it is not always possible to accommodate the preferences of incoming graduate students to work with a particular member of staff. Where appropriate, supervision can be found outside the Faculty of Classics.

You will be assigned a supervisor, who provides overall direction for your course. Your supervisor will arrange tutors for you for each option.

Most students have the opportunity to meet individually with their supervisor on a weekly or fortnightly basis, in particular for the dissertation and for the text options, as well as attending classes which are typically on a weekly basis.

Assessment

Assessment for text options is by two essays, submitted either in Hilary or Trinity (ie second or third) term, and a translation exam in Trinity term. Skills-based options are assessed either by exam or by pre-submitted work, or by a combination of the two. The dissertation is submitted in Trinity term.

Course components

Compulsory study

All students attend a class on research techniques in Classical literature, extending over three terms. This looks at aspects of Classical scholarship and its history, and includes direct viewing of papyri, manuscripts, vases, and other resources in Oxford. In the second and third term considerable attention is paid to presentational skills, as the students deliver papers of their own.

Options

You will undertake three options, from lists A, B or C, or D.

One of your chosen options must be from lists B or C. Most students choose a dissertation (D) as one of their three options, although this is not compulsory.

The scheduling of the options depends on the choices you make, but typically you will work particularly on your first two options in the first two terms and particularly on your dissertation in the third. There is also the possibility of specialising in reception (from List B) across the course, by choosing the reception module and by working on reception topics in the text option, though you will still sit a translation exam.

List A

Comprises a choice of options on genres, authors or groups of texts, eg historiography, Greek tragedy, comedy, Cicero, Ovid. You may also devise your own option, subject to approval of your set of texts.

List B

Comprises a range of options on methods and techniques of scholarship, eg papyrology, palaeography, reception, linguistics, and textual criticism.

List C

Comprises language options in Ancient Greek and Latin, for those who have not studied both languages to a high level in the course of their first degree. Only one language option may be taken. Language classes are available in Greek and Latin at both elementary and intermediate levels.

List D

Comprises a dissertation of up to 10,000 words.

Changes to this course

The University will seek to deliver this course in accordance with the description set out in this course page. 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. The safety of students, staff and visitors is paramount and major changes to delivery or services may have to be made if a pandemic, epidemic or local health emergency occurs. In addition, 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 course requirements for international study.

Where possible your academic supervisor will not change for the duration of your course. However, it may be necessary to assign a new academic supervisor during the course of study or before registration for reasons which might include illness, sabbatical leave, parental leave or change in employment.

For further information please see our page on [changes to courses](http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/courses/changes-to-courses) (<http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/courses/changes-to-courses>) and the [provisions of the student contract](http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/after-you-apply/your-offer-and-contract) (<http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/after-you-apply/your-offer-and-contract>) regarding changes to courses.

Costs

Annual course fees

The fees for this course are charged on an annual basis.

Fees for the 2026-27 academic year at the University of Oxford

Fee status	Annual Course fees
Home	£17,910
Overseas	£43,730

What do course fees cover?

Course fees cover your teaching as well as other academic services and facilities provided to support your studies. Unless specified in the additional information section below, course fees do not cover your accommodation, residential costs or other living costs. They also don't cover any additional costs and charges that are outlined in the additional costs information below.

How long do I need to pay course fees?

Course fees are payable each year, for the duration of your fee liability (your fee liability is the length of time for which you are required to pay course fees). For courses lasting longer than one year fees will usually increase annually, as explained in the University's [Terms and Conditions \(//www.ox.ac.uk/students/new/contract\)](https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/new/contract).

Our [fees and other charges \(//www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/fees-and-other-charges\)](https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/fees-and-other-charges) pages provide further information, including details about:

- [course fees and fee liability \(//www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/fees-and-other-charges/courses-fees-and-liability\)](https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/fees-and-other-charges/courses-fees-and-liability);
- [how your fee status is determined \(//www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/fees-and-other-charges/fee-status\)](https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/fees-and-other-charges/fee-status); and
- [changes to fees and other charges \(//www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/fees-and-other-charges/changes-to-fees-and-charges\)](https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/fees-and-other-charges/changes-to-fees-and-charges).

Information about how much fees and other costs will usually increase each academic year is set out in the University's [Terms and Conditions \(//www.ox.ac.uk/students/new/contract\)](https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/new/contract).

Additional costs

There are no compulsory elements of this course that entail additional costs beyond fees and living costs. However, as part of your course requirements, you may need to choose a dissertation, a project or a thesis topic. Please note that, depending on your choice of topic and the research required to complete it, you may incur additional expenses, such as travel expenses, research expenses, and field trips. You will need to meet these additional costs, although you may be able to apply for small grants from your faculty to help you cover some of these expenses.

Living costs

In addition to your course fees and any additional course-specific costs, you will need to ensure that you have adequate funds to support your living costs for the duration of your course.

Living costs for full-time study

For the 2026-27 academic year, the range of likely living costs for a single, full-time student is between £1,405 and £2,105 for each month spent in Oxford. We provide the cost per month so you can multiply up by the number of months you expect to live in Oxford. Depending on your circumstances, you may also need to budget for the [costs of a student visa and immigration health surcharge \(//www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/living-costs\)](https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/living-costs) and/or [living costs for family members or other dependants \(//www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/living-costs#field_listing_content_content-item--2\)](https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/living-costs#field_listing_content_content-item--2), that you plan to bring with you to Oxford (if [dependant visa eligibility criteria \(//www.ox.ac.uk/students/visa/before/family\)](https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/visa/before/family) are met).

Further information about living costs

The current economic climate and periods of high national inflation in recent years make it harder to estimate potential changes to the cost of living over the next few years. For study in Oxford beyond the 2026-27 academic year, it is suggested that you budget for potential increases in living expenses of around 4% each year – although this rate may vary depending on the national economic situation.

A breakdown of likely living costs for one month during the 2026-27 academic year are shown below. These costs are based on a single, full-time graduate student, with no dependants, living in Oxford.

Likely living costs for one month in Oxford during the 2026-27 academic year

	Lower range	Upper range
Food	£315	£545
Accommodation	£825	£990
Personal items	£160	£310
Social activities	£50	£130
Study costs	£35	£90
Other	£20	£40
Total	£1,405	£2,105

For information about how these figures have been calculated as well as tables showing the likely living costs for nine and twelve months, please refer to the [living costs \(//www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/living-costs\)](https://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/living-costs) page of our website.

Document accessibility

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