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Classical Archaeology and Ancient History Course Information Sheet for entry in 2023

The course combines study of the history, archaeology and art of the classical world. It looks at the societies and cultures of the ancient Mediterranean, through written texts, visual art and material remains, and has at its centre the two classical cultures of Greece and Rome. It is aimed at anyone interested in investigating ancient civilisations and their remains: from Greek temples and Roman amphitheatres to wall paintings and the poignant residues of everyday life. While it is primarily a historical and non-linguistic degree, ancient languages can be used and learned as part of the course.

The degree is taught through a mixture of tutorials, lectures and classes. Some cover specifically archaeological or historical approaches to ancient Mediterranean cultures, but the degree is unique in also offering courses that combine both approaches. In every year of the course there are classes led by both an archaeologist and a historian, which are designed to give an integrated, interdisciplinary approach to the topics studied.

The University's resources for this combined subject are excellent, both in terms of library facilities (especially the Sackler Library), and the range and number of post-holders in the two fields. The Ashmolean Museum also contains wide-ranging collections of art and artefacts from classical cultures.

Fieldwork/international opportunities

There are two practical elements – two weeks at the end of the first year spent on an archaeological field project, and the preparation of a report in the second and third years focusing either on a particular ancient site, or on an artefact or set of artefacts in a museum of your choice. Fieldwork projects recently attended by CAAH students include: Sangro Valley Project, Abruzzo, Italy; Halaesa, Sicily, Italy; Sanisera Field School, Menorca, Spain and Thouria, Kalamata, Greece.

A typical week (Year 1)

- Lectures (4-6 per week)
- Team-taught classes (one per week for the first two terms)
- Tutorials (one every one to two weeks) and/or language classes

A typical week (Years 2-3)

You will take six options and produce a site or museum report. Currently, the options are chosen from:

- Integrated classes, bringing together historical and archaeological approaches to a particular period
- Core papers, which deal with central topics in Greco-Roman studies



- Further papers, which allow you either to build up concentrated expertise in some central areas and periods or to extend into earlier and later periods, and into non-classical cultures
- Greek or Latin language papers.

Tutorials are usually two students (possibly three) and a tutor. For the core papers the class size is usually eight or less. Where options are taught in classes, the class size will depend on the options you choose. They would usually be no more than 20 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 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> <p>Four courses are taken</p> <p>Core elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aristocracy and democracy in the Greek world, 550–450 BC • Republic to empire: Rome, 50 BC to AD 50 <p>Current optional elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Archaeology: Homeric archaeology and early Greece from 1550 to 700 BC; Greek vases; Greek sculpture c600– 300 BC; Roman architecture • History: Thucydides and the West; Aristophanes’ political comedy; Cicero and Catiline; Tacitus and Tiberius • Ancient Languages: Beginning Ancient Greek or Latin; Intermediate Ancient Greek or Latin; Advanced Ancient Greek or Latin 	<p>ASSESSMENT</p> <p>First University examinations: four written papers</p>

YEARS 2 and 3	
<p>COURSES</p> <p>Six courses are taken from a wide choice of options. These currently include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rome, Italy, and the Hellenistic East, c300-100 BC 	<p>ASSESSMENT</p> <p>Final University examinations: six written papers; one site or museum report</p>

YEARS 2 and 3

- Imperial culture and society, cAD 50-150
- The Greeks and the Mediterranean world, c950-500 BC
- Greek art and archaeology, c500-300 BC
- Art under the Roman Empire, AD 14-337
- Roman archaeology: cities and settlement under the Empire
- Alexander the Great and his early successors
- The Greek city in the Roman world from Dio Chrysostom to John Chrysostom
- Thucydides and the Greek world, 479-403 BC
- Republic in crisis, 146-46 BC
- Egyptian art and architecture
- The archaeology of Minoan Crete, 3200-1000 BC
- Etruscan Italy, 900-300 BC
- Science-based methods in archaeology
- Greek and Roman coins
- Mediterranean maritime archaeology
- The archaeology of the late Roman Empire, AD 284-641
- Athenian democracy in the Classical Age
- Cicero: politics and thought in the late Republic
- Religions in the Greek and Roman world, c31 BC-AD 312
- Sexuality and gender in Greece and Rome
- The Achaemenid Empire, 550-330 BC
- St Augustine and the last days of Rome, AD 370-430
- Epigraphy of the Greek and/or Roman world, c700 BC-AD 300
- Intermediate Ancient Greek or Latin
- Advanced Ancient Greek or Latin
- Research for a site or museum report

For more information, [visit the Classical Archaeology and Ancient History website](#).

The University will seek to deliver this course in accordance with the description 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](#).

UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS AND OUTREACH

University Offices, Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JD



Fees

These annual fees are for full-time students who begin this undergraduate course here in 2023.

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)	£35,080

Note: Irish nationals living in the UK or Ireland, EU, other EEA, and Swiss nationals who have been granted settled or pre-settled status in the UK under the EU settlement scheme are eligible for 'Home fee' status and student loan support, subject to meeting residency requirements. We will contact you directly if we need further information from you to determine your fee status.

Please refer to the [Undergraduate fee status](#) pages for more information.

Living costs

Living costs for the academic year starting in 2023 are estimated to be between £1,290 and £1,840 for each month you are in Oxford. Our academic year is made up of three eight-week terms, so you would not usually need to be in Oxford for much more than six months of the year but 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	£300	£470	£2,700	£4,230
Accommodation (including utilities)	£715	£860	£6,435	£7,740
Personal items	£180	£305	£1,620	£2,745
Social activities	£40	£90	£360	£810
Study costs	£35	£80	£315	£720
Other	£20	£35	£180	£315
Total	£1,290	£1,840	£11,610	£16,560

In order to provide these likely living costs (which are rounded to the nearest £5), the University and the Oxford SU 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).

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The current economic climate and high national rate of inflation make it very hard to estimate potential changes to the cost of living over the next few years. When planning your finances for any future years of study in Oxford beyond 2023-24, it is suggested that you allow for potential increases in living expenses of 5% or more each year – although this rate may vary significantly depending on how the national economic situation develops. UK inflationary increases will be kept under review and the [Living costs webpage](#) updated.

[Additional Fees and Charges Information for Classical Archaeology and Ancient History](#)

At the end of the first year, CAAH students are required to undertake fieldwork. Fieldwork projects recently attended by CAAH students include:

- Dorchester Field School (University of Oxford/Oxford Archaeology), Oxfordshire
- Sangro Valley Project, Abruzzo, Italy
- Apolline Project, near Naples, Italy
- Tarquinia, Lazio, Italy
- Halaesa, Sicily, Italy
- Sanisera Field School, Menorca, Spain
- Thouria, Kalamata, Greece

You can choose an alternative location if you wish, subject to the approval of the CAAH standing committee. The cost of participating in fieldwork may be anything from £500 to £2,500, depending on your choice of fieldwork project. All CAAH students starting in 2023 will receive a fieldwork grant of up to £1,000 from the faculty.