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Classics (BA) (four-year course) Course Information Sheet for entry in 2026

Entry requirements

Visit [Admission requirements for 2026 entry](#) to view a summary table of each undergraduate course's entry requirements.

If English is not your first language you may also need to meet our [English language requirements](#).

About the course

Classics (*Literae Humaniores*) is a wide-ranging course devoted to the study of the civilisations of ancient Greece and Rome and their reception into modern times. It is one of the most varied and interdisciplinary of all subjects. Classics students at Oxford have the opportunity to study the languages, literature, history, and archaeology of the Greek and Roman Mediterranean, as well as philosophy (both ancient and modern) and linguistics.

Oxford has the largest Classics Faculty in the world, with over sixty full-time academic staff members. It has outstanding teaching, library and museum resources. Resources include the [Bodleian Art, Archaeology and Ancient World Library](#) and [Bodleian Libraries](#), the [Ashmolean Museum](#) and a designated Classics Centre.

The breadth of expertise in the Faculty allows us to offer an extremely wide range of courses from Homeric archaeology to Byzantine literature. The length of the course allows students to explore the various disciplines within this vast subject and to engage with their particular interests within the classical world in real depth.

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 the [library and other facilities](#) are acknowledged as among the best in the country.

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 course involves extensive study of at least one ancient language, but candidates do not need to have any prior knowledge of either Greek or Latin.

In previous years Oxford offered two separate Classics courses: Classics Course I (Q800) – for those who had studied Latin and/or Greek to A-level or equivalent; and Classics Course II (Q810) – for those who had not studied Latin or Greek to A-level or equivalent. Following a redesign of the degree structure, there is now just one course (Classics – Q800) which is for all candidates, whether

or not they have any prior experience of Latin or Greek. Those with an A-level or equivalent in at least one classical language will follow a dual-language stream (Latin and Greek); those without can choose to follow either a Latin or Greek stream.

Fieldwork/work placements/international opportunities

Most course teaching takes place in Oxford and fieldwork is not a requirement in any part of the course but some undergraduates may participate in archaeological excavations.

A typical week

Your time will be divided between lectures, tutorials and private study. The working week is typically structured around two tutorials in different subjects.

Most of your independent work will be in preparation of essays for your tutorials, although systematic language-learning and reading of texts will also require considerable time and effort.

Much of the teaching will take place in your college, but lectures are given in the Classics Faculty and the Examination Schools, and for particular subjects you may also work with tutors from other colleges.

Visit the [Classics website](#) for more information.

Tutorials in colleges usually involve up to three students and a tutor. Class sizes will vary depending on the options you choose, and there are usually 5-10 students in a class. Some classes are jointly taught by two tutors at the same time. For centrally organised language classes in Classics, there are usually 8-10 students in a group.

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 doctoral level.

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

Significant self-study is expected of all students – for further details see [workload and independent study](#) information. Undergraduate courses at Oxford are full-time during term time. Students typically spend approximately 40 hours per week on academic work.

Course structure

LANGUAGE STREAM	TERMS 1-5 COURSES	TERMS 1-5 ASSESSMENTS
Dual-language stream (Latin and Greek, for those who have studied Latin and/or Greek to A-level or equivalent)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Greek literature selection• Latin literature selection• A special subject in Philosophy (ancient or modern)	First University examinations: nine papers, including four language papers. One of the papers is examined by a portfolio of three pre-submitted essays.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A classical special subject: historical, archaeological or philological• Greek and Latin language work at the appropriate level	
Latin stream (Latin only, for those who have not studied Latin or Greek to A-level or equivalent)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Greek literature selection (in translation)• Latin literature selection• A special subject in Philosophy (ancient or modern)• A classical special subject: historical, archaeological or philological• Latin language work	First University examinations: six papers, including two language papers. One of the papers is examined by a portfolio of three pre-submitted essays
Greek stream (Greek only, for those who have not studied Latin or Greek to A-level or equivalent)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Greek literature selection• Latin literature selection (in translation)• A special subject in Philosophy (ancient or modern)• A classical special subject: historical, archaeological or philological• Greek language work	First University examinations: six papers, including two language papers. One of the papers is examined by a portfolio of three pre-submitted essays.

LANGUAGE STREAM	TERMS 6-12	TERMS 6-12
Dual-language stream (Latin and Greek, for those who have studied Latin and/or Greek to A-level or equivalent)	<p>Choose eight options from more than 80 in the following subjects (it is usually possible to offer an undergraduate thesis in place of one paper):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greek and Roman history (up to five): some are period papers, others topic-based • Philosophy (up to five): numerous ancient and modern options; up to four can be in modern Philosophy • Greek and Latin literature (up to five) • Greek and Roman archaeology (up to two, plus a thesis if you wish) • Philology and Linguistics (up to two, plus a thesis if you wish) • Opportunities for more language acquisition by studying the other ancient language at Greats if not studied at Mods 	<p>Eight exam subjects taken, with the possibility of offering one paper as a thesis. For some literature options: instead of a three-hour paper, assessment involves the composition of one long essay over a four-week period</p> <p>The options listed here are illustrative and may change. A full list of current options is available on the Classics website.</p>
Latin stream (Latin only, for those who have not studied Latin or Greek to A-level or equivalent)		<p>Final University examinations: as dual-language stream, but Latin only, unless you take optional second classical language</p>
Greek stream (Greek only, for those who have not studied Latin or Greek to A-level or equivalent)		<p>Final University examinations: as dual-language stream, but Greek only, unless you take optional second classical language</p>

For further details of the [course structure and the options available](#), please visit the Classics website. (Not all options may be available every year – these are subject to change, as explained in the [Terms & Conditions](#) and for reasons of staff availability and student demand. The department may add extra options.)

Most Oxford courses are assessed by examinations. These are typically at the end of the first and last years but you may have assessments at other times and some courses have exams in the second year also. First year examinations are often called Prelims or Moderations, and you need to pass these exams to progress to the second year. You must pass your final year exams, or 'finals', to pass your degree. For more information on assessment for your course, please see the Course Structure.

Finals also determine the classification of your degree. For some courses you may also be assessed on your practical work, or you may be required to submit a dissertation. Please check the assessment details for your course.

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](#) and information about [potential course changes](#).

You are also referred to the [Student Handbook](#) (which is updated every September).

Fees

These annual fees in 2026/27 are for full-time students who begin this undergraduate course here in 2026. Information about how much fees and other costs usually increase each year is set out in the [University's Terms and Conditions](#).

For details of annual increases, please see our [guidance on likely increases to fees and charges](#).

Fee status	Annual Course fees in 2026/27
Home	£9,790
Overseas	£43,600

In the 2027-28 academic year course fees for Home fee status students will rise to £10,050 (in line with the government fee cap.)

[Further details about fee status eligibility](#) can be found on the fee status webpage.

Living costs

Living costs for the academic year starting in 2026 are estimated to be between £1,405 and £2,105 for each month you are in Oxford. Students at Oxford can benefit from our [world class resources](#) and [college provision](#), which may help to keep costs down. Entitlement to certain types of support may depend on your personal financial circumstances.

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. For further details please visit our [living costs webpage](#).

Living costs breakdown

	Per month		Total for 9 months	
	Lower range	Upper range	Lower range	Upper range
Food	£315	£545	£2,835	£4,905
Accommodation (including utilities)	£825	£990	£7,425	£8,910
Personal items	£160	£310	£1,440	£2,790
Social activities	£50	£130	£450	£1,170
Study costs	£35	£90	£315	£810
Other	£20	£40	£180	£360
Total	£1,405	£2,105	£12,645	£18,945

In order to provide these estimated likely living costs (which are rounded to the nearest £5), the University in collaboration with the Oxford SU conducted a living costs survey in May 2025 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 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. When planning your finances for any future years of study in Oxford beyond 2026-27, it is suggested that you allow for potential increases in living expenses of around 4% each year – although this rate may vary depending on the national economic situation.

Additional Fees and Charges Information for Classics

There are no compulsory costs for this course beyond the fees shown above and your living costs.

Regulation - The University of Oxford is regulated by the [Office for Students](#) and subscribes to the [Office of the Independent Adjudicator for Higher Education](#) student complaints scheme.