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Classics and Asian and Middle Eastern Studies - (BA) (Classics with Asian and Middle Eastern Studies) (four-year course) or (BA) (Asian and Middle Eastern Studies with Classics) (three-year or four-year course depending on language chosen) 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

This course allows you to combine the study of an Asian or Middle Eastern language and culture with Latin and/or Greek and the study of the ancient world.

There are two options: Classics with Asian and Middle Eastern Studies (Q8T9) and Asian and Middle Eastern Studies with Classics (T9Q8). In each case the subject mentioned first is the main subject (about two-thirds of the degree) and the second is an additional subject (about one-third of the degree).

This joint honours degree provides an exciting opportunity for students who want to focus on interdisciplinary studies. It enables students to explore the cultural development and crossover in places such as the Middle East, Iran, Egypt and India. You will study the relationship between the languages and cultures of the great monotheistic religions within their various Greek and Roman contexts.

Those who choose Arabic, Persian or Turkish as their main language for the Asian and Middle Eastern Studies with Classics degree will spend their second year undertaking immersive language study abroad.

Oxford is ideally placed for the combined study of Classics and Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, not least due to the numerous and varied teaching staff in each faculty, and the resources of the [Ashmolean Museum](#), the [Bodleian Art, Archaeology and Ancient World Library](#) and the [China Centre](#). The Nizami Ganjavi Library has core collections comprising Islamic, South Asian and Jewish Studies.

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, including the Bodleian Art, Archaeology and Ancient World Library and other Bodleian Libraries, the Ashmolean Museum and a designated Classics Centre.

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, the Asian and Middle Eastern Studies Faculty and the Examination Schools, and for particular subjects you may work with tutors from other colleges.

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 5-20 students in a class.

Most tutorials, classes, and lectures are delivered by academics who are specialists in their subject. Many are world-leading experts with years of experience in teaching and research. Some teaching may also be delivered by qualified postgraduate students 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](#). Undergraduate courses at Oxford are full-time during term time. Students typically spend approximately 40 hours per week on academic work.

Course structure

Classics with Asian and Middle Eastern Studies

YEARS 1-2 (Terms 1-5)	YEARS 2, 3 AND 4 (Terms 6-12)
COURSES Follow the course for Classics (refer to Classics page)	COURSES Carry on with Classics options and start with chosen language from: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Akkadian• Arabic• Aramaic and Syriac• Armenian• Coptic• Egyptian• Early Iranian• Hebrew• Pali• Persian• Prakrit• Sanskrit• Turkish

	The options listed here are illustrative and may change - as explained in the Terms and Conditions and for reasons of staff availability and student demand. The department may add extra options. More information about current options is available on the Classics and Asian and Middle Eastern Studies websites.
ASSESSMENT First University examinations in Classics (refer to the Classics course page)	ASSESSMENT Final University examinations: eight written papers (five in Classics, three in Asian and Middle Eastern Studies); one paper may be substituted by a thesis.

Course structure

Asian and Middle Eastern Studies with Classics

YEAR 1	YEAR 2 (with year abroad)	YEARS 2 and 3 (without a year abroad) or YEARS 3 and 4 (with a year abroad)
COURSES Select main language: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Akkadian • Arabic* • Egyptian • Hebrew • Persian* • Sanskrit • Turkish* *These languages include a year abroad in Year 2.	COURSES Year abroad: approved course of language instruction	COURSES Carry on with Asian and Middle Eastern Studies options and choose either Greek or Latin More information about current options is available on the Classics and Asian and Middle Eastern Studies websites.
ASSESSMENT First University examinations in Asian and Middle Eastern Studies (refer to Asian and Middle Eastern Studies page)		ASSESSMENT Final University examinations: eight to ten written papers (five to seven in Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, three in Classics)

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The options listed here are illustrative and may change - as explained in the [Terms and Conditions](#) and for reasons of staff availability and student demand. The department may add extra options.). More information about current options is available on the [Classics](#) and [Asian and Middle Eastern Studies](#) websites.

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](#).

Fees 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.

Oxford 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

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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 with Asian and Middle Eastern Studies

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

Additional Fees and Charges Information for Asian and Middle Eastern Studies with Classics

Students taking Arabic, Persian, Turkish will take the second year abroad will take the second year abroad. Students of Hebrew can choose to take a year abroad, but it is not compulsory.

During the year abroad, students currently pay significantly reduced fees to the University. Fees for later years have not yet been confirmed but as an example, the course fees for a new-cohort undergraduate student on a Humanities course going on a year abroad in 2026 would equate to:

- Home students: £1,465 for the year
- Overseas students: £14,825 for the year (please note this is an illustrative example for 2026/27)

At present course fees for students undertaking a year abroad are charged at 15% of the usual home fee rate in line with the Government cap, which is used for this example, but that may change if the Government varies that cap.

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We recommend that students begin to research the costs associated with the various year abroad options as early as possible in the second year of the course. There is plenty of support, information and advice to help you.

The Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies covers the cost of language tuition abroad, but not living costs and flights. Students taking Arabic are able to choose between several institutions abroad. Depending on the choice of education provider, additional costs may be incurred. These will be confirmed in advance each year.

Some funding towards year abroad placements is currently available through the Turing scheme, which provides living costs grants and enhanced support for disadvantaged students. The University plans to bid for Turing scheme funding to support year abroad activity in future academic years.

Living costs support during the year abroad

Some year abroad activities provide a salary, and other year-abroad funding is available from a variety of sources.

Visit the dedicated [Study Abroad page](#) for the latest information on studying abroad.

Some funding towards year abroad placements is currently available through the Turing scheme, which provides living costs grants and enhanced support for disadvantaged students. The University plans to bid for funding available through the relevant UK government scheme(s) to support year abroad activity in future academic years.

All UK students 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 your placement type. Further information about the amount of funding which may be available can be found at: Student finance - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk). UK students from lower-income households with means-tested assessments will also remain eligible for Oxford's bursary provision, which is separate to the living costs support mentioned above. For UK students who are struggling financially, the University's Financial Assistance schemes may be able to provide additional support.

Travel grants may be available through your college and/or the Faculty and some financial assistance is also available from the Faculty.

Please note, at the time of publishing the CIS, full details about UK national funding agency arrangements for living costs support during the year abroad were outstanding. [Our Turing Scheme webpage](#) (will be updated as information becomes available and on-course students will be kept informed of developments.

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.