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Classics and English Course Information Sheet for entry in 2023

The Classics and English degree at Oxford gives students the opportunity to study the literature and culture of the ancient and modern world, both separately and in comparison; to trace ideas, forms, and genres across cultures and time; and to think about continuities and change in how people think, write, and imagine their world. All students study either Latin or Greek or both, so that they can encounter ancient literature in the original language(s). Course I is a three-year course for candidates with an A-level or equivalent in either Latin or Greek; Course II is for those who have not had the opportunity to study either language at school or college and includes a preliminary year, in which students learn Latin or Greek alongside some study of classical literature, making it a four-year course.

You can choose to specialise in what you find most interesting from each side of the course, taking a range of options in English literature, and in ancient literature, history, philosophy, and linguistics. But the degree also integrates the two sides of its course, offering several papers designed specifically for the kind of comparative work that the course encourages. In the first year (second, for Course II), students take a paper in English literature of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries – the period during which writers were most consistently and intensely engaged with the languages and literatures of ancient Greece and Rome. Among the highlights of the latter two years are the four ‘link papers’: all students take Epic, and read and compare authors such as Homer, Virgil, Milton, Alice Oswald, and Derek Walcott; and then choose to take either Comedy, Tragedy, or Reception (in which you study the reception of ancient literature in 20th-century poetry). (Students who choose to take up a second classical language in their second (third for Course II) year only take Epic.) The final-year dissertation allows students to pursue an independently devised topic with an expert supervisor, which may combine the subjects or focus on an aspect of one of them. All of the courses allow students to pursue the twists and turns of literary genres across time.

Oxford has a long and distinguished tradition of research and teaching in both Classics and English, and possesses remarkable library provision in both subjects. Oxford has the largest Classics department and programme of courses in the world, with outstanding teaching, library and museum resources, including the Bodleian and Sackler Libraries, the Ashmolean Museum and a designated Classics Centre. The English Faculty is the largest English department in Britain. All Oxford colleges have tutors in English who are responsible for tutorial teaching (in groups of three students or fewer) in their own college. Many also give lectures to all students in the English Faculty. You therefore have the opportunity to learn from a wide range of specialist teachers. Library provision for English at Oxford is exceptionally good: all students have access to the Bodleian Library (with its extensive manuscript collection), the English Faculty Library, their own college libraries, and a wide range of electronic resources.

A typical week

A typical week is structured around two tutorials in different subjects, with the rest of your time divided between lectures, classes (including languages classes) and private study. Most of your work will be preparation of essays for tutorials (you will be expected to produce between eight and twelve pieces of written work during a term), however, language-learning and reading will also require considerable time. Much of your teaching will take place in your college, but you will attend three to four lectures a week in either faculty.

Tutorials are usually up to three students and a tutor. Class sizes may vary depending on the options you choose. There would usually be no more than around 15 students. 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.

This table is a summary of Course I. In Course II students have a preliminary year studying Latin or Greek, and then follow the structure outlined below. To find out more about how our teaching year is structured, visit our [Academic Year](#) page.

Course structure

YEAR 1	
<p>COURSES</p> <p>Five papers are taken:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to English language and literature • Literature in English 1550–1660 • Unseen translation for Classics • Greek and/or Latin literature (two papers) <p><i>Note: Course II students spend an additional preliminary year learning Latin or Greek, alongside some study of classical literature.</i></p>	<p>ASSESSMENT</p> <p>Four written papers form the first University examination, together with a submitted portfolio of two essays for Introduction to English language and literature. All exams must be passed, but marks do not count towards the final degree.</p>

YEARS 2 and 3

COURSES

Seven papers are taken:

- Two link papers, one compulsory (Epic), and a choice from Comedy, Tragedy, Reception
- Two papers from the English single honours course, including one period paper not taken in the first year
- One core paper in Latin or in Greek literature
- One Classics option
- Dissertation of 8,000 words, either interdisciplinary or focused on English or Classics

A full list of current options is available on the [Classics course website](#) and on the [English department website](#).

ASSESSMENT

Up to three papers examined as coursework (extended essays and dissertation). The remaining papers will then be examined by final written examinations.

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](#).

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

UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS AND OUTREACH

University Offices, Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JD



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).

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 Classics and English

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