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Classics and Modern Languages (BA) (four-year or five-year course with a year abroad) 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 and Modern Languages enables you to combine study of Latin and/or Ancient Greek with a modern language. The course involves extensive study of major literary texts, alongside training in linguistic skills.

The Greeks and Romans were active in all the countries covered by the available languages. Not only does studying this course help to give students greater access to the ancient cultures, it is also a chance to examine how classical literature and culture have shaped their modern counterparts.

Some options provide an opportunity to directly compare texts from both sides of the course, focusing on classical influence on modern European literature.

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

The Medieval and Modern Languages Faculty is the largest in the country, with a major research library, the [Taylor Institution](#), and a well-equipped [Language Centre](#).

Studying Modern Languages provides both practical training in written and spoken language and an extensive introduction to literature and thought written in European languages. Students develop oral and aural proficiency in the modern language by regular contact with native speakers and study a broad range of literature from the medieval to the present day.

International opportunities

Classics and Modern Languages students spend a compulsory year abroad.

Options for the year abroad include (but aren't restricted to):

- working as a paid language assistant in a school;
- undertaking an internship;
- and/or studying at a University.

These all provide valuable experiences for improving language competence.

The University is working with European partners to maintain the opportunities available to its students post-Brexit. University exchanges, language assistantships and work placements continue to be available as opportunities for your year abroad.

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 a course's requirements for international study. Students who consider that they may be affected are asked to contact their department for advice.

A typical week

Your time is 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 Faculty of Medieval and Modern Languages, and the Examination Schools. For particular subjects you may also work with tutors from other colleges.

Tutorials are usually up to four students and a tutor. Seminar and language class sizes may vary depending on the options you choose or the language you are studying, but there would usually be around 20 students and would often be much smaller.

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 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

Two routes through the course, called 'options', are available to Classics and Modern Languages (CML) students.

The two routes are identical in their last two years, and lead to the same final exams; they differ only in their first one or two years.

Option A

Option A divides its time evenly between Classics (mostly language and literature) and Modern Languages.

This option lasts four years for students who have studied Latin and/or Greek to A-Level or equivalent, and five years for those who are taking the version with Beginners' Latin or Greek. Option A is also known as the 'Prelims route', because you will take a Preliminary Examination similar to that taken by [Classics and English](#) or [Modern Languages](#) students.

Summary of key features of Option A route

- ‘Prelims Route’
- Preliminary Examination at the end of first year (and second year in the case of students taking the five-year course)
- Four or five years in total (depending on whether or not you are starting your classical language as a beginner).

Option B

Option B begins with a focus on Classics. For the first five terms, students take all the same options available to students of [Classics](#):

- Greek and/or Latin language,
- literature,
- ancient history,
- archaeology,
- philology
- and ancient or modern philosophy

This option lasts five years, whether or not you have any prior experience in Latin or Greek. Option B is also known as the ‘Mods route’, because you will take Honour Moderations (first exams) in Classics, which are identical to those taken by Classics students.

Summary of key features of Option B route

- ‘Mods Route’
- Honour Moderations Examinations in the second year (Easter time)
- more focus on Classics in the first five terms
- five years in total.

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

Option A Year 1 (Classics and Modern Languages) or Years 1 and 2 (Classics and Modern Languages with Beginners' Latin or Greek)

COURSES

Students taking Classics and Modern Languages with Beginners' Latin or Greek spend a preliminary year learning Latin or Greek, alongside some study of classical literature. Then they follow the same programme as other Option A students.

- Translation from the ancient language(s) into English (one paper)

ASSESSMENT

First University examinations: three papers in the ancient language; four papers in the modern language

- Literature in the ancient language or languages (two papers)
- Practical language work for the modern language (two papers)
- Literature in the modern language (two papers)

Option B Years 1 and 2 (Terms 1-5)

COURSES

As for [Classics](#) for the first five terms.

In addition, undergraduates normally maintain their modern language through language classes.

ASSESSMENT

First University examinations in Classics:
six/nine papers

Options A and B (plus intercalated year abroad) Terms 4-9 (Option A Classics and Modern Languages), Terms 6-12 (Option B), or Terms 7-12 (Option A, Classics and Modern Languages with Beginners' Latin or Greek)

COURSES

- Classics (three/four papers)
- Modern Language (four/five papers)
- Possibility of a paper or a long essay exploring the links between ancient and modern literatures

ASSESSMENT

Final University examinations: nine papers in total (eight compulsory, one optional) plus oral exam in the modern language.

A thesis may be offered in place of one of the Classics papers.

The options listed on this page 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 [Modern Languages](#) 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 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

	Per month		Total for 9 months	
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 and Modern Languages](#)

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.

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.

Work placement costs, study costs, visa costs and living costs (such as accommodation) and travel expenses will vary depending on the destination and the activity undertaken.

Certain year abroad activities may provide a salary, depending on placement type and terms. 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. UK students can continue to access government funding for living costs, and those from lower-income households who are means-tested will remain eligible for generous bursaries from Oxford. Travel grants and financial assistance for those with insufficient funds may also be available through your college, the faculty and the University.

At present, students taking part in approved study exchanges supported by the Turing scheme do not pay tuition fees to other institutions. However, for some destinations, additional charges, which apply to all students at that institution, may be payable. Students who study outside the Turing

scheme framework currently are liable to pay course fees and any other applicable charges to the relevant institution.

You can find the latest information about the Turing scheme at Oxford, on our [dedicated webpage](#).

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.