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English and Modern Languages (BA) (four-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

The English side of the course offers you a choice of options covering a comprehensive span of literature written in the English language from its origins in Anglo-Saxon through to works produced in English-speaking countries across the world in the present day.

The Modern Language study will give you practical linguistic training, encourage you to think coherently about language as a subject of study and introduce you to the extensive and fascinating literatures and thought written in European Languages.

The English and Modern Languages Faculties are both the largest of their kind in the UK, with teaching staff including major scholars in all areas of the respective subjects.

Library provision at Oxford is excellent. All students have access to:

- the [English Faculty Library](#)
- the [Taylor Institution Library](#) (for languages)
- the [Bodleian Library](#), including the Weston Library's collection of manuscripts and rare editions
- their own college libraries
- as well as many online resources.

The course is extremely flexible. In the first year, you will do practical work in your chosen language and study a selection of important texts from its literature. On the English side, you will be introduced to the conceptual and technical tools used in the study of language and literature, and to a range of different critical assumptions and approaches. You will also do tutorial work on either early medieval, Victorian or modern literature originally written in English.

In the second year, a variety of options will be available. Work in your modern language will continue alongside the study of literature from a wide range of periods in English and in your language.

The third year of this four-year course is spent abroad. On your return, you will choose from a range of special option papers in both English and Modern Languages, and in comparative literature. The final-year dissertation provides an opportunity to write an extended research piece either on a chosen topic in English language or literature, or a comparative topic bringing together studies in both English and your chosen language.

Fieldwork/work placements/ international opportunities

English and Modern Languages students spend a compulsory year abroad, usually in the third year. Opportunities for the year abroad include (but are not 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

Most students will have one or two tutorials a week, as well as compulsory language classes. Typically, you will also attend three to four lecture courses per subject. These tutorials may cover different approaches to literary analysis, introductions to some of the texts or other content you are studying, or general cultural and historical content related to your degree.

Tutorials usually involve two to three 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 no more than 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

YEAR 1

| COURSES | ASSESSMENT |
|-----------------------|---|
| Six papers are taken: | Six written papers form the Year 1 examinations including a submitted portfolio of two essays for |

| | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction to English language and literature• One period paper from single honours English Language and Literature• Two practical language papers• Two literature papers in the modern language | Introduction to English language and literature. All exams must be passed, but marks do not count towards the final degree. |
|---|---|

YEARS 2 AND 4 (YEAR 3 SPENT ABROAD)

COURSES

- Three papers from single honours English Language and Literature
- Dissertation
- Modern Language (four papers) including: practical language work (two written papers plus oral examination), a period of literature and options (prescribed authors and texts from the 12th to 21st centuries, a special subject or a linguistics paper)

The options listed above 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 [Faculty of English website](#) and [Modern Languages website](#).

Papers will be examined by extended essays over the course of the second and fourth years, and by practical and written examinations at the end of your fourth year.

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 |
| 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 English 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.

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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 \(www.gov.uk\)](https://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.