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## European and Middle Eastern Languages (BA) (four-year course with 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 European and Middle Eastern Languages (EMEL) course enables students to combine papers in one of the languages taught in the Faculty of Medieval and Modern Languages with papers in Arabic, Hebrew, Persian or Turkish taught in the Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies. This provides opportunities to take advantage of the cultural links which exist between a number of European and Middle Eastern languages.

For example, appropriate combinations might well be French and Arabic, German and Turkish, or Hebrew and Russian. However, even some of the less obvious pairings would provide similar cultural and historical linkage. For example, Spanish and Turkish would be an interesting combination for the history of Sephardi Judaism, while Persian and Portuguese are important for the study of early colonial expansion.

Through its long-standing traditions and connections, Oxford has outstanding resources for the study of Middle Eastern and modern European languages. [The Bodleian Libraries](#), including the [Taylor Institution Library](#), have an extensive collection of books and manuscripts. The Taylor Institution is one of the biggest research and lending libraries devoted to modern European languages in the world.

Associated with the University is the [Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies](#), which houses the Leopold Muller Library with more than 35,000 volumes in Hebrew and more than 7,000 volumes in Western languages.

### Middle East: year abroad arrangements

You will normally spend your second year on an approved course of study in the Middle East. There are arrangements in place with partner universities and institutions to help you make the most of your time abroad. In addition to undertaking a study placement, students may also choose to undertake further language study or participate in internships.

Elisa (who studied French and Arabic) says: 'I did my entire year abroad in Amman, Jordan. I studied Arabic at a French language and research institute called IFPO which I thoroughly enjoyed and was where my Arabic drastically improved. Amman is an exciting city with character and Jordan is a beautiful country with many places to visit and sights to see.'

## Other year abroad activity and funding

You are strongly advised to spend the adjacent summers in a country where the European language of your choice is spoken. Past opportunities have typically included undertaking an internship or following a summer course for your chosen European language, which provides valuable experiences for improving language competence.

Some year abroad activities provide a salary, and other year-abroad funding is available from a variety of sources. Actual costs (such as course fees) and living costs will vary depending on the destination and the activity undertaken.

Some of the costs relating to year abroad activity may be subject to variation in the post-Brexit era. Visit the dedicated [Study Abroad webpage](#) for the latest information. You will need to pay for living costs during the year abroad, including accommodation and travel expenses, and there may be costs relating to visa requirements for travel.

UK students from lower-income households with means-tested assessments will remain eligible for Oxford's generous bursary provision. Travel grants may be available through your college and/or the Faculty. For students who experience particular difficulties related to their year abroad, some hardship funds are also available from the Faculty. For UK students with a shortfall in their finances, the University's Student Support Fund may also provide additional assistance.

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 work will be divided between language classes, lectures and tutorials (one or two a week). In the first year, the emphasis will be on intensive learning of the Middle Eastern language. Throughout your course, you will prepare essays for your weekly tutorials and classes, some of which will take place in the Faculties of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies and Medieval and Modern Languages, while others will be held in your college.

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 these 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 who are usually studying at doctoral level.

Visit our [Academic Year](#) page to find out more about how our teaching year is structured.

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

- **European languages:**
  - Two language papers
  - One literature paper
- **Middle Eastern language:**
  - Intensive language learning

#### ASSESSMENT

First University examinations: five written papers; plus oral/aural examination (Arabic only)

### YEAR 2 (Year abroad)

#### COURSES

##### Middle Eastern Language

- Students attend an approved course of language instruction in the Middle East

##### European Language

- Students are encouraged to spend as much of their vacation time as possible in a relevant country

Refer to sections on the [Asian and Middle Eastern Studies](#) and [Modern Languages](#) pages.

### YEARS 3 and 4

#### COURSES

- Practical language work in the European language
- Period of literature and further paper chosen from a wide range of options in the European language
- Practical language work in the Middle Eastern language
- Three papers including literature and a range of options in the Middle Eastern language

Final University examinations: nine written papers are taken including a bridging extended essay; oral exam (both languages, but not Hebrew on the Middle Eastern side)

- Extended essay on a topic bridging the European and the Middle Eastern language

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.

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
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1,405</b>	<b>£2,105</b>	<b>£12,645</b>	<b>£18,945</b>

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 European and Middle Eastern 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](http://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.