

Course Information Sheet for entry in 2017-18

Foundation Certificate in History

About the course

The two-year part-time Foundation Certificate in History is equivalent to the first year of the full-time degree in History at Oxford University. Students who successfully complete the course are eligible to apply for second-year entry to undergraduate history courses at the University of Oxford and other institutions.

Students are introduced to the study of history through extended surveys of periods of modern British and European history. Source-based optional subjects provide an opportunity to explore major topics in greater depth and to develop and refine the skills needed by the historian. Students are also encouraged to reflect upon the nature and purpose of history by tracing the development of historical writing and exploring cross-fertilisations between history and other academic disciplines.

Assessment is based both on coursework (essays submitted during the period of study) and on written examinations, held at the end of each of the two years. Full attendance is required at a minimum of 75% of the total number of the weekly seminars, and during the study week.

Coursework

This will account for 30% of the total marks; 15% for each year. Students are required to write six essays of up to 2,000 words each in Year 1, of which the five highest marks are taken into account. In Year 2, students are required to write a further 5 essays, of which the four highest marks are taken into account. In addition, students write an extended essay of up to 4,000 words for the Optional Subject, and its grade is given double weight in the coursework assessment for the second year.

Examinations

At the end of each year there will be two three-hour written examinations. Students are required to answer three questions on each paper. The examinations set at the conclusion of Year One account for 35% of the total marks for the course; the examinations set at the end of Year Two account for a further 35%.

The history course is taught through a programme of weekly seminars, supplemented by individual and paired tutorials. A variety of teaching methods will be used. In addition to lectures by the tutors, there will be the opportunity to work in small discussion groups and to give short presentations on prepared topics to the class.

In addition to attending the Foundation Certificate's own weekly seminar programme, students are also entitled, for no extra payment, to attend the wide range of lectures and seminars organised by the University's Faculty of History.

The Foundation Certificate in History course consists of five elements:

1 British History 1485-1603

From the usurpation of the crown by Henry VII, following his victory at Bosworth Field, to the lonely death of Elizabeth I, without a named successor, Tudor Britain saw far-reaching changes in government, church, economy and society. The achievements of the Tudor dynasty were considerable but their years of power were also plagued by turmoil and uncertainty. Students examine the successes and failures of the reigns of individual Tudor monarchs with particular emphasis upon the development of government; religious reformation; relations with other European states and social and economic policy. The course also explores broad themes spanning the 'long sixteenth century'. These will include: political opposition and rebellion; changing attitudes towards family and women; town and city; population growth and the relief of poverty; and the use of culture to buttress the image of monarchy.

2 British History 1900-1979

During this period Britain experienced profound political and social change: the impact of two world wars, the introduction of universal suffrage, the sudden arrival of the Labour Party as a governing force, the creation of the Welfare State, and the retreat from Empire after 1945. The course examines the nature of these changes, as well as examining the significant elements of continuity, such as the dominance of the Conservative Party in the inter-war years and in the 1950s. There is also an opportunity to assess the role of leading politicians such as David Lloyd George, Stanley Baldwin, Winston Churchill, Harold Wilson and Margaret Thatcher.

3 European History 1815-1914

The nineteenth century saw the development of the European nation states amid other changes wrought by industrialisation, urbanisation and growing consciousness of class, gender and national identity. Beginning with the Napoleonic Wars, the course also encompasses the "long peace" of the 1820s and 1830s, the Revolutions of 1848, the unification of Germany and Italy, and the struggle for stability in the years before the First World War. Students are provided with a chronological framework for the period, but the main focus is on themes which span many decades and countries. The themes include Liberalism and the middle classes, Socialism and the working classes, and patterns of industrial and urban development.

4 Approaches to History

The study of history has evolved over time. In Year 1, the course examines the evolution of historical writing from early times to the modern day, with particular emphasis upon the development of history as a systematic academic discipline. Students consider the purpose of the study of history, receive an introduction to some aspects of research methodology, and learn how to evaluate the reliability of both the historical record and historical writing.

In year two, students will examine recent developments in historical writing and explore the inter-relationship between history and other disciplines such as archaeology, local history, art history, architectural history and gender studies. Material will be drawn largely, though not exclusively, from the social, political and religious life of the nineteenth century.

5 Optional subject

The optional subjects offer the opportunity for more detailed study of a specific topic. Students work primarily from original source material, where necessary in translation or modern transcription, and learn to evaluate historical evidence in a practical setting.

Option One: The Nobility and Gentry in England, 1560-1640

The sixteenth and seventeenth centuries saw considerable fluctuations in the fortunes of many noble and gentry families as they struggled to adapt to changing political, economic and social conditions. Whilst some members of the landed elite found the attractions of court life or public service irresistible, others preferred to concentrate upon estate management and family responsibilities. Students use a range of contemporary sources, including diaries, autobiographies, commonplace books, and letters, together with case studies and visual sources such as portraits, to gain an insight into the position, ambitions and lifestyles of the nobility and gentry. Topics covered include: the contemporary preoccupation with status and lineage, political careers at court and in the localities, the chivalric ideal, marital alliances and family relationships, religious nonconformity, and the role of art and architecture in promoting the self-image of the nobility and gentry.

Option Two: The Spanish Civil War, 1936-1939

The Spanish Civil War, which came to be seen as a struggle between Fascism and Democracy, divided not only the Spanish people, but also European and world opinion. Studying the Civil War allows one to understand the ideologies and passions that animated Europe in the 1930s. This course examines the origins of the Civil War within Spanish history, and assesses the reasons for Franco's eventual victory, as well as examining the Civil War's international political and cultural impact. Students work from primary sources, including eye-witness accounts such as George Orwell's *Homage to Catalonia*, extracts from Spanish documents in translation and propaganda posters from the period.

Changes to courses

The University will seek to deliver each course in accordance with the descriptions 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.

Expected length of course

2 years

Annual fees for entry in 2016-2017

Fee Status	Tuition fee	College Fee	Total annual fees
Home/EU(including islands)	£2,535	N/A	£2,535
Overseas	£4,335	N/A	£4,335

The fees shown above are the annual tuition fees for this course for entry in the 2017-18 academic year; for courses lasting longer than one year, please be aware that fees will usually increase annually. For details, please see our guidance on likely increases to fees and charges. College fees are not generally payable for non-matriculated courses although a small number of courses may permit college affiliation for which a charge will be made.

Tuition fees are payable each year for the duration of your fee liability (your fee liability is the length of time for which you are required to pay tuition fees).

Additional cost information

This course has a study week in Oxford so you will need to meet any travel and accommodation costs you may incur in attending this week.

Living costs

In addition to your fees, you will need to ensure that you have adequate funds to support your living costs for the duration of your course.

The likely living costs for 2017-18 are published below. These costs are based on a single, full-time graduate student, with no dependants, living in Oxford. We provide the cost per month so you can multiply up by the number of months you expect to live in Oxford.

	Likely living costs for 1 month		Likely living costs for 9 months		Likely living costs for 12 months	
	Lower range	Upper range	Lower range	Upper range	Lower range	Upper range
Food	£250	£350	£2,250	£3,150	£3,000	£4,000
Accommodation	£538	£619	£4,844	£5,569	£6,459	£7,425
Personal items	£115	£255	£1,035	£2,295	£1,380	£3,060
Social activities	£40	£119	£358	£1,073	£477	£1,431
Study costs	£38	£83	£338	£743	£451	£991
Other	£22	£45	£196	£407	£261	£543
TOTAL	£1,002	£1,471	£9,021	£13,237	£12,028	£17,649

When planning your finances for any future years of study in Oxford beyond 2017-18, you should allow for an estimated increase in living expenses of 2% each year.

More information about how these figures have been calculated is available at www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/graduate/fees-and-funding/living-costs.

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