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History (Ancient and Modern) (BA) (three-year course) 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 Ancient and Modern History course enables students to study Afroeurasian history from the Bronze Age Mediterranean, through the Greco-Roman period, late antiquity, the Middle Ages and the early modern period, right up to British, European and World history in the present day. Fruitful comparisons between societies abound, and the methods by which we study them are mutually illuminating. You do not need to have a qualification in Latin or Greek to do this course and can learn either from scratch if you want to while here.

The extraordinary range of choices (more than 90 options) for this course reflects the breadth of interests of those who teach here. The Oxford Classics and History Faculties are world-famous for teaching and research. The people who will teach you here will often be leading researchers in their field, with lecturers encouraged to put on new courses which reflect their own interests.

Oxford also possesses exceptional library provision for History in:

- the [Bodleian Library](#)
- the [History Faculty Library](#)
- the [Bodleian Art, Archaeology and Ancient World Library](#) and the [Weston Library's](#) special collections
- as well as a dedicated Classics Centre.

A typical week

During the first year, you will be expected to:

- attend around four lectures each week
- participate in regular meetings with tutors to discuss work
- conduct independent research
- and write at least one essay a week.

In the second and third years you will have the opportunity to choose from an enormous variety of lectures. Your regular tutorials will be supplemented by faculty classes where you will discuss work with a larger number of students. The third-year thesis will give you the opportunity to engage in a piece of independent research.

Generally, students are very much in charge of their own timetable throughout their courses.

Tutorials are usually 2-4 students and a tutor. Class sizes may vary depending on the options you choose. There would usually be no more than around 12 students.

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 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](#) information. 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

Four courses are taken:

- One period of *either* Greek or Roman history
- One of the periods of European/world history offered
- The world of Homer and Hesiod; *or* Augustan Rome; *or* one of the History optional subjects
- A text-based paper on Herodotus; *or* Sallust; *or* Approaches to history; *or* Historiography: Tacitus to Weber from the History syllabus *or* a Greek/Latin language paper

ASSESSMENT

First University examinations: four timed written exams

YEARS 2 AND 3

COURSES

Six courses are taken:

- A period of Greek or Roman history
- A period of European/world history *or* one of the periods of the history of the British Isles
- A choice of further subjects including work on primary sources, textual or archaeological (at least one of the further or the special subjects must be ancient) from the History syllabus; *or* an ancient further subject, including:

ASSESSMENT

Final University examinations: six timed written exams and one thesis; *or* five timed written exams, one extended essay and one thesis; optional additional language paper.

YEARS 2 AND 3

- Athenian democracy in the classical age
- Politics, society and culture from Nero to Hadrian
- Religions in the Greek and Roman world c31 BC–AD 312
- The Greeks and the Mediterranean world 950–500 BC
- Art under the Roman Empire AD 14–337
- Etruscan Italy
- The Hellenistic world: societies and cultures, c300 BC–100 BC
- The Achaemenid Empire, 550–330 BC
- Special subjects (at least one of the further or the special subjects must be ancient) including work on primary sources, textual or archaeological. A choice of about 30 special subjects from the History syllabus *or* an ancient special subject, including:
 - Alexander the Great and his early successors
 - Cicero: politics and thought in the late Republic
 - The Greek city in the Roman world from Dio Chrysostom to John Chrysostom
- Disciplines of history
- Thesis
- Optional Greek/Latin language paper

(Not all options may be available every year – these are subject to change, as explained in the [Terms & Conditions](#) and for reasons of staff availability and student demand. The department may add extra options.)

Visit the [History website](#) and [Classics website](#) for the latest information on all course details and 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](#).

Fee 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.

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 History \(Ancient and Modern\)](#)

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

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.