

History and English Information Sheet for entry in 2020

A joint degree in History and English requires students to think critically about how we define ‘history’ and ‘literature’, and about how the two disciplines interrelate and, to a large extent, overlap. Close attention is given to changing methodologies, to the nature of evidence and to styles of argument. It is assumed that historical documents are just as much ‘texts’ as poems, plays or novels, and are therefore subject to interpretation as works of narrative, rhetoric and, fundamentally, language. In turn, it is assumed that poems, plays and novels represent historically-grounded ways of interpreting a culture. Interdisciplinary study has become a thriving area in its own right as scholars have moved away from what would once have been thought of as ‘purely’ historical or literary criticism to a more comparative way of thinking about the written records of the past (including, of course, the very recent past).

The History and English Faculties are among the largest in Britain, with long and distinguished traditions of teaching and research. Students are offered a great deal of choice in the course over their three years, and whether their interests are in the medieval period, the Renaissance, or the later periods, intellectually fruitful combinations are always possible.

The course structure at Oxford is intended to enable students to relate literary and historical ideas as effectively as possible in the investigation of their chosen historical periods, topics or authors, while recognising that some students will wish to opt for variety rather than close congruity between their historical and literary papers. An interdisciplinary approach is embedded in each year of the course, with dedicated classes in the first year as part of the Introduction to English Language and Literature paper, a bridge paper taken in the second year (examined by extended essay) and an interdisciplinary dissertation in the final year. All interdisciplinary elements of this course are co-taught or co-supervised by a historian and a literary scholar.

Oxford possesses exceptional library provision for both subjects in the [Bodleian Library](#), the [History Faculty](#) and [English Faculty](#) libraries, other faculty libraries and the college libraries.

A typical week

You will have up to two tutorials a week and will often, but not always, be working on two papers simultaneously. Most students attend three to four lectures a week. In the first and second years, you will also attend interdisciplinary classes with both English and History tutors present, in preparation for the bridge paper. For the final-year dissertation you will be allocated an adviser from each discipline.

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

Course structure

YEAR 1	
<p>COURSES</p> <p>Four courses are taken:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to English language and literature (interdisciplinary component) • One period paper from single honours English Language and Literature • One British history paper from single honours History • One of: Approaches to history; Historiography; optional subject (from single honours History) 	<p>ASSESSMENT</p> <p>Three written papers form the first University examination, together with a submitted portfolio of two exam essays of 2,000 words for Introduction to English language and literature. All exams must be passed, but marks do not count towards the final degree.</p>
YEARS 2 AND 3	
<p>COURSES</p> <p>Seven courses are taken:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One interdisciplinary bridge essay (6,000 words) • Two papers from single honours English Language and Literature • One British Isles paper from single honours History • <i>Either</i> one History special subject (counts as two papers) <i>or</i> two from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ European/World history paper from single honours History ○ Further subject from single honours History ○ British history period paper from single honours History ○ One of papers 1–6 from single honours English Language and Literature • Interdisciplinary dissertation (10,000 words) 	<p>ASSESSMENT</p> <p>Final University examinations: between two and four written papers will be examined at the end of the third year; plus a combination of one portfolio of submitted essays; one or two extended essays; one bridge essay; one interdisciplinary dissertation.</p>
<p><i>For the latest information on all course details and options see the History and English websites.</i></p>	

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.

Fees

These annual fees are for full-time students who begin this undergraduate course here in 2020.

Fee status	Annual Course fees
Home/EU	£9,250
Islands (Channel Islands & Isle of Man)	£9,250
Overseas	£27,285

Information about how much fees and other costs may increase is set out in the University's Terms and Conditions.

Please note that the course fees you pay include your fees for both University and college services and are divided between the University (including your department or faculty) and your college on a formula basis. More information is provided in your Terms and Conditions.

Additional Fees and Charges Information for History and English

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

Living costs

Your living costs will vary significantly dependent on your lifestyle. These are estimated to be between £1,135 and £1,650 per month in 2020-2021. Each year of an undergraduate course usually consists of three terms of eight weeks each but you may need to be in Oxford for longer. As a guide you may wish to budget over a nine-month period to ensure you also have sufficient funds during the holidays to meet essential costs.

Living costs breakdown

	Per month		Total for 9 months	
	Lower range	Upper range	Lower range	Upper range
Food	£270	£385	£2,430	£3,465
Accommodation (including utilities)	£630	£760	£5,670	£6,840
Personal items	£130	£245	£1,170	£2,205
Social activities	£45	£110	£405	£990
Study costs	£40	£95	£360	£855
Other	£20	£55	£180	£495
Total	£1,135	£1,650	£10,215	£14,850

In order to provide these likely living costs, the University and the Oxford University Students' Union conducted a living costs survey 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 likely lower and upper ranges above are based on a single student with no dependants living in college accommodation (including utility bills) and are provided for information only.

When planning your finances for future years of study at Oxford beyond 2020-21, you should allow for an estimated increase in living expenses of 3% each year.