

History of Art Information Sheet for entry in 2020

Anything designed by human beings exhibits visual qualities that are specific to the place and period in which it originates. History of Art aims to arrive at a historical understanding of the origins, meaning and purpose of art and artefacts from a wide range of world cultures, asking about the circumstances of their making, their makers, the media used, the functions of the images and objects, their critical reception and – not least – their subsequent history. As well as educating students in the historical interpretation of art in its cultural contexts, a degree in History of Art provides skills in the critical analysis of objects through the cultivation of visual literacy. The acquired skills have broad applicability in a wide range of professional settings, as well as serving the needs of enduring personal enlightenment.

The University collections, including the famous Ashmolean and Pitt Rivers museums, provide subjects for first-hand study under the supervision of those entrusted with their care. The historic architecture of the city and its environs supplies a rich source of study in its own right. The Oxford degree is designed to provide innovative insights into a wide range of world art, drawing its expertise from various University faculties and the staff of University collections, as well as from the department itself. There is a strong emphasis upon how the primary visual and written sources from various periods and places can be analysed in different ways. Students are encouraged to enquire about the nature of reactions to what we call 'art'.

A typical week

Each week you will have around two lectures, and a weekly tutorial. Teaching usually takes place in the department or in a college, as well as in one of the Oxford museums and galleries where tutors often lecture in front of actual works of art. Visits to exhibitions or historical buildings will also be part of the course. Outside the classroom most of your time will be spent preparing essays for your tutorials and working in libraries, archives or museums on longer research papers.

Tutorials are usually up to three students and a tutor. Class sizes may vary depending on the options you choose, but there would usually be no more than around 16 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 doctorate level.

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

Course structure

YEAR 1	
<p>COURSES Four elements are taken:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Core course: Introduction to the history of art • Core course: European art, 1400–1900: meaning and interpretation • Core course: antiquity after Antiquity • Supervised extended essay on a building, object or image in Oxford. <p>Students also have the opportunity to undertake a French or Italian for Art Historians course through the University’s Language Centre. No previous experience or qualifications are required for these courses and they do not form part of the assessment.</p>	<p>ASSESSMENT First University examinations: three written papers and one extended essay</p>
YEARS 2 AND 3	
<p>COURSES Seven elements are taken:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Core Course: Approaches to the history of art • Further subject in art history, options include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Anglo-Saxon archaeology ○ The Carolingian Renaissance ○ Culture and society in Early Renaissance Italy ○ Northern European portraiture, 1400–1800 ○ Flanders and Italy in the Quattrocento ○ Court culture and art in early modern Europe ○ Intellect and culture in Victorian Britain • Two Year 2 options, regularly taught options include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Egyptian art and architecture ○ Greek art and archaeology ○ Art under the Roman Empire ○ Encountering South Asian sculpture ○ Gothic art through medieval eyes ○ Understanding museums and collections ○ Literature and the visual arts in France ○ European cinema ○ Modernism and after ○ The experience of modernity: visual culture, 1880–1925 ○ American art, 1560s–1960s 	<p>ASSESSMENT Final University examinations: four or five written papers, one or two extended essay(s) and one thesis</p>

- Special subject and extended essay in art history options include:
 - Art and culture in Renaissance Florence and Venice
 - Art and culture in the Dutch Golden Age
 - English architecture
 - Art and its public in France, 1815–67
 - The social life of photographs
 - Pop and the art of the Sixties: global perspectives
- Undergraduate thesis

Students also have the opportunity to undertake a collections placement in one of the University museums, libraries or colleges in their second year.

For the latest information on all course details and a full list of current options see the [History of Art](#) website.

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 of Art

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.