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Modern Languages Course Information Sheet for entry in 2023

Czech (with Slovak), French, German, Modern Greek, Italian, Polish, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish.

Studying Modern Languages provides both practical training in written and spoken language and an extensive introduction to literature and thought written in European languages. As well as learning to write and speak the language(s) fluently, you can study a broad range of literature, or focus your studies on any period from the medieval to the present day. A wide range of other options allow you to explore subjects including linguistics, philology, film or gender studies or (in French and German) advanced translation.

Modern Languages have been taught in Oxford since 1724. The faculty is one of the largest in the country, with a total intake of more than 250 students a year (including joint courses). Undergraduate students have access to the Taylor Institution Library, the biggest research library in Britain devoted to modern languages, and the University's central library the Bodleian, as well as many online resources. The University's well-equipped Language Centre has resources specifically tailored to the needs of Modern Language students.

Language is at the centre of the Oxford course, making up around 50% of both first-year and final examinations. The course aims to teach spoken fluency in colloquial and more formal situations, as well as the ability to write essays in the foreign language, and the ability to translate into and out of the foreign language with accuracy and sensitivity to a range of vocabulary, styles and registers. You will also develop your reading skills to a high level.

The study of literature gives you an understanding of other cultures that cannot be acquired solely through learning the language. It leads you into areas such as gender studies, popular culture, theatre, aesthetics, anthropology, art history, ethics, history, philosophy, politics, psychology and theology, developing your skills as a critical reader, writer and thinker.

International opportunities

Modern Languages students spend a compulsory year abroad, usually in the third year. Opportunities abroad include working as a paid language assistant in a school, undertaking an internship and/or studying at a University, all of which provide valuable experiences for improving language competence.

Students are also encouraged to spend as much of their vacations as possible in the countries whose languages they are studying.

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 week's work will include a tutorial in, or organised by, your college, language classes in the language(s) you study, and typically three to four hours of lectures for each subject. Tutorials are usually up to four 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 around 20 students and classes 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 doctorate level. To find out more about how our teaching year is structured, visit our [Academic Year](#) page.

Course structure

Your first year is closely structured. You will attend oral classes and courses on the grammatical structure of your language(s), translation into and out of the language(s) and, in some of the languages, comprehension. You will also attend typically three to four hours of introductory lectures and participate in seminars and/or tutorials on literature. If you study French, German, Spanish or Russian as a single language you will take a range of additional options in that language in the first year (see below). All other languages must be studied in combination with another language or another subject.

Your other years of study give you more freedom to choose the areas on which you wish to focus, from a very wide range of options. Students may take Polish as a subsidiary language, beginning in the second year. Catalan, Galician, Provençal, Yiddish and most of the Slavonic languages may also be taken as additional options. Deferred entry Students are welcome to apply for deferred entry for any language courses except those including Beginners' Russian.

YEAR 1	
COURSES <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Two-language course Practical language work Study of important works and/or topics in the literature of each language• One-language course, as above, plus: For French, German, Russian and Spanish, additional options: film studies; literary theory (French); medieval studies (German/Spanish); key texts in French or German	ASSESSMENT First University examinations: seven or eight written papers, including translation and literature (language only for Beginners' Russian)

thought; short fiction (Spanish); Polish and Church Slavonic (Russian)

(Other languages must be studied in combination with another language or joint school.)

YEAR 2

COURSES

- **Two-language course**

Practical language work

A period of literature in each language

Optional subjects, including linguistics; medieval literature; detailed study of individual authors

- **One-language course**

As above, but including a greater range of optional subjects

YEARS 3 AND 4

Year 3: typically spent abroad (Beginners' Russian: students spend the second year in Russia, and the third year in Oxford).

Year 4: continues the course from Year 2, plus special subjects across a wide range of options including film studies.

ASSESSMENT

Final University examinations: nine or ten written papers and an oral examination are taken, including unprepared translations, literature subjects, special subjects and linguistics. Some special subjects are examined by submitting a portfolio of essays.

The options listed above are illustrative and may change. More information about current options is available on the [Modern Languages website](#).

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](#).

Fees

These annual fees are for full-time students who begin this undergraduate course here in 2023.

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

Please note that while the University sets out its annual fees as a single figure, this is a combined figure for both your University and college fees. More information is provided in your [Terms and Conditions](#).

Fee status	Annual Course fees
Home (UK, Republic of Ireland, Channel Islands & Isle of Man)	£9,250
Overseas (including most EU students– see Note below)	£35,080

Note: Irish nationals living in the UK or Ireland, EU, other EEA, and Swiss nationals who have been granted settled or pre-settled status in the UK under the EU settlement scheme are eligible for 'Home fee' status and student loan support, subject to meeting residency requirements. We will contact you directly if we need further information from you to determine your fee status.

Please refer to the [Undergraduate fee status](#) pages for more information.

Oxford living costs

Living costs for the academic year starting in 2023 are estimated to be between £1,290 and £1,840 for each month you are in Oxford. 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.

Living costs breakdown

	Per month		Total for 9 months	
	Lower range	Upper range	Lower range	Upper range
Food	£300	£470	£2,700	£4,230
Accommodation (including utilities)	£715	£860	£6,435	£7,740
Personal items	£180	£305	£1,620	£2,745
Social activities	£40	£90	£360	£810
Study costs	£35	£80	£315	£720
Other	£20	£35	£180	£315
Total	£1,290	£1,840	£11,610	£16,560

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In order to provide these likely living costs (which are rounded to the nearest £5), the University and the Oxford SU 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 current economic climate and high national rate of inflation make it very hard 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 2023-24, it is suggested that you allow for potential increases in living expenses of 5% or more each year – although this rate may vary significantly depending on how the national economic situation develops. UK inflationary increases will be kept under review and this page on [Living costs for 2023-entry](#) will be kept updated. During March to September last year (2022) inflation in the UK was between 7% and 10%.

Additional Fees and Charges Information for Modern 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 2023 would equate to:

- Home students: £1,385 for the year.
- Overseas students: £11,925 for the year (please note this is an illustrative example for 23/24)

We recommend that students begin to research their year abroad options – including the financial implications – 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, living costs (such as accommodation) and travel expenses will vary depending on the destination and the activity undertaken. You will have to make your own enquiries into such costs and should be aware that some of the costs relating to year abroad activity, such as visa costs, may change over time, for example changes to visa costs following the UK's departure from the EU. At present, students taking part in approved study exchanges 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. If you study outside this approved exchange scheme, you will be liable to pay course fees and any other applicable charges to the relevant institution, as is currently the case.

Please refer to the 'Living costs support during the year abroad' section below for information about available sources of funding.

Beginners' Russian

Courses including beginners' Russian are slightly different, as they are the only courses with a prescribed year abroad option. Students have to take a 7-month Russian Language Undergraduate Studies course, which currently take place in Tallinn, Estonia (www.rlus.co.uk) during their second year. Students will not incur an additional course fee, however, they will be liable for

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additional administration and visa fees. For students starting their year abroad in 2022 the combined fee for these is approximately £200.

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 Turing scheme funding to support year abroad activity in future academic years. In the event that the University is not successful in securing Turing scheme funding, it will provide grants towards living costs at a similar level to Turing grants to support undergraduates undertaking study or work placements required for their course.

Living costs support during the year abroad

There are a number of sources of funding which you may be eligible for to contribute to your living costs on your year abroad and these are detailed below. Some year abroad activities may provide a salary, depending on placement type and terms. Please note that dependent on your placement(s) and country, it is possible that the combination of available sources of funding will not cover your living costs in full. You should therefore carefully research the likely living costs in your host country and consider your own expected outgoings to identify whether you may need to explore alternative sources of funding through your college, the University or other means.

Some funding towards year abroad placements is currently available through the Turing scheme, which provides living costs grants to all students on eligible placements, with enhanced support available for disadvantaged students. The University plans to bid for Turing scheme funding to support year abroad activity in future academic years. [This page](#) will be updated as information becomes available and on-course students will be kept informed of developments.

In the event that the University is not successful in securing Turing scheme funding, it will provide grants towards living costs at a similar level to Turing grants to support undergraduates undertaking approved study exchanges or work placements required for their course.

All UK students can continue to access living costs funding from the UK government (Student Finance agencies) during their year abroad in conjunction with any Turing scheme funding available. 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 generous [bursary provision](#), which is separate to the living costs support mentioned above. For UK students who are struggling financially, the University's Student Support Fund may be able to provide additional assistance.

Travel grants may be available through your college and/or the Faculty and some hardship funds are also available from the Faculty.

Please note, at the time of publishing the CIS, full details about Turing scheme funding arrangements for living costs support during the year abroad were outstanding. [This page](#) will be updated as information becomes available and on-course students will be kept informed of developments.