

Modern Languages Information Sheet for entry in 2016

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

What is Modern Languages?

Studying Modern Languages provides both practical training in written and spoken language and also an extensive introduction to European literature and thought. You will learn to write and speak the language(s) fluently, and will be able to choose from a broad range of options including linguistics, film studies and advanced translation.

Modern Languages at Oxford

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 can use the Taylor Institution Library, the biggest research library in Britain devoted to modern languages.

The University's excellently equipped Language Centre received special praise in the last Teaching Quality Assessment. Some of its resources are specifically tailored to the needs of Modern Languages 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, 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.

The course also focuses on the study of literature. This gives you an understanding of other cultures that cannot be acquired solely through learning the language, and it leads you into areas such as gender issues, popular culture, theatre studies, aesthetics, anthropology, art history, ethics, history, philosophy, politics, psychology and theology. You can study a broad range of literature, or focus your studies on any period from the medieval to the present day.

There are also a wide range of options in non-literary subjects including linguistics, philology, advanced translation and film studies.

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 introductory lecture courses and participate in seminars and/or tutorials on literature. If you study either French or German as a single language, you will take a range of additional options in that language in the first year, such as literary theory and film studies. If you study any other language by itself then you must also take Linguistics in the first year.

Your other years of study give you more freedom to choose the areas on which you wish to focus, from a range of options. You will have tutorials and language classes each week in each of the



languages being studied. Students studying courses with Polish take this 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.

Year abroad

Modern Languages students usually spend the third year of their course abroad. This is often as a paid language assistant in a foreign school, though you may also undertake other work abroad or study at a foreign university. (The exception to this is for those students taking Beginners' Russian, who are required to spend the second year – as opposed to the third year – of their studies on a specially designed eight-month language course in the city of Yaroslavl.) Students are encouraged to spend as much as possible of their vacations in the countries whose languages they are studying. In addition to the possibility of Erasmus funding, extra financial support, including travel scholarships, may be available from your college and/or the faculty.

A typical weekly timetable

Your week's work will include a tutorial in, or organised by, your college, language classes on different skills relating to the language(s) you study, and probably three to four hours of lectures for each subject.

1st year	
<p>Courses</p> <p>Two-language course</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • practical language work • study of important works and/or topics in the literature of each language <p>One-language course: as above, plus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • for French or German, additional options: introduction to film studies; literary theory (French only); medieval studies (German only); key texts in French or German thought • for other sole languages, linguistics options (general linguistics; phonetics and phonology; grammatical analysis) 	<p>Assessment</p> <p>First University examinations: Seven or eight written papers, including translation and literature (language only for Beginners' Russian)</p>

2nd year

Courses

Two-language course

- Practical language work
- a period of literature in each language
- optional subjects, including linguistics; medieval literature; authors prescribed for detailed study

One-language course

- as above, but including a greater range of optional subjects

3rd and 4th years

Year 3

Spent abroad

Beginners' Russian: Year 3 as Year 2 for other courses

Year 4

Continues the course from year 2, plus special subjects across a wide range of options

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 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 2016.

Fee Status	Tuition fee	College fee	Total annual fees
Home/EU	£9,000	£0	£9,000
Islands (Channel Islands & Isle of Man)	£9,000	£0	£9,000
Overseas	£15,295	£7,135	£22,430

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

Additional Fees and Charges Information for Modern Languages

During the year abroad, students pay significantly reduced fees. For students who started an undergraduate course from 2012, who are going on their year abroad in 2015, the tuition fees are:

- Home/EU/Islands students, studying their first degree: £1,350 for the year.
- International students: £7,425 for the year.

These fees are subject to annual increases, so the tuition fees for students going abroad in later years may be higher. Please note that International students do not pay a college fee during their year abroad. (Home/EU and Islands students do not pay the college fee in any year of their course.) Living costs will vary according to the destination.

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. You may choose to work or study during your year abroad, or you may do both. Students undertake a range of activities while on their year abroad, some activities may receive a salary and thus - depending on individual choices - it is possible for the year abroad to be cost neutral. Actual costs (such as course fees) and living costs will vary depending on the destination and the activity undertaken.

You will need to pay for living costs during the year abroad, including accommodation and travel expenses. Students taking part in Erasmus study exchanges will not need to pay tuition fees to other institutions. However, if you decide to study outside Erasmus you will be liable to pay tuition fees to the relevant institution.

You may receive salary payments or grants to offset some or all of these costs. Also, if you receive government funding for the rest of your course, you will still be entitled to government support during your year abroad. Hardship funds are available from the Faculty of Medieval & Modern Languages for students who can demonstrate particular difficulties related to their year abroad. These are awarded through a termly application process.

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 an 8-month Russian Language Undergraduate Studies course in Yaroslavl (www.rlus.co.uk) during their second year. You will receive a grant of £670 towards the course fees. In 2015/6, these course fees are £2,641. Students also have to pay a £35 visa fee.

Living Costs

Your living costs will vary significantly dependent on your lifestyle. These are estimated to be between £970 and £1,433 per month in 2016-17. Undergraduate courses usually consist of three terms of eight weeks each, but 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	£265	£298	£2,384	£2,673
Accommodation (including utilities)	£469	£667	£4,221	£6,002
Personal items	£119	£244	£1,073	£2,187
Social activities	£60	£107	£539	£960
Study costs	£36	£73	£314	£661
Other	£19	£44	£197	£410
Total	£970	£1,433	£8,727	£12,894

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