

Oriental Studies Information Sheet for entry in 2020

Arabic, Chinese, Egyptology and Ancient Near Eastern Studies, Hebrew, Japanese, Jewish Studies, Persian, Sanskrit, Turkish.

Oriental Studies is unique in its sole focus on introducing students to civilisations that are different from the Western ones upon which the curriculum in most British schools and colleges is based. The courses present both the major traditions and cultural trends of the regions studied and, in most cases, their modern developments. All courses include a combination of linguistic, literary, historic and cultural studies and there is a wide range of options in fields such as art and archaeology, history, literature, philosophy, religion and modern social studies.

Oriental Studies has a long history in Oxford. The Bodleian and other libraries have acquired extensive collections. The Oriental Institute, the China Centre, the Bodleian Japanese and Indian Institute Libraries are all specialists in their respective fields. Around the corner from the Oriental Institute is the [Ashmolean Museum](#), which houses superb collections, and the [Sackler Library](#) which contains the renowned Griffith Library, one of the finest libraries in the world for the study of ancient Egypt and the Ancient Near East.

Fieldwork/work placements/international opportunities

Most courses offer the opportunity to spend time in the region being studied. The Arabic course includes a year in the Middle East, the Turkish course a year in Turkey and the Hebrew course an optional year in Israel. The Chinese and Japanese courses also include a year in China and Japan respectively. For Persian, the faculty decides each year whether it is advisable for its students to spend their year abroad in Iran. In years when Iran is not possible, they study in Tajikistan instead.

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 time will be divided between lectures, tutorials (up to three students and a tutor) and language classes that will develop your writing, speaking and comprehension skills. The rest of your time will be dedicated to independent study, working on regular assignments in reading, writing and translation. 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 10 students and often fewer, while lectures are normally around 15-25 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

Arabic and Islamic Studies T601 Arabic with subsidiary language T6T9 Persian T613		Persian with subsidiary language T6TX Turkish T600 Turkish with subsidiary language T6TY
YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEARS 3 AND 4
COURSES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elementary language Islamic history and culture 	COURSES Year abroad: approved course of language instruction	PROJECT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Core work on language and literature History Specialisation or subsidiary language.
ASSESSMENT First University examinations after term 3: three written papers; an oral exam (Arabic only)	ASSESSMENT Qualifying examination at the end of the course	ASSESSMENT Final University examinations at the end of Year 4: oral exam and eight or nine written papers (one of which may be a dissertation – if you are studying Arabic or Arabic with a subsidiary language the dissertation is compulsory)
<i>Options listed are only illustrative of what is available. A full list of current options is available on the Oriental Studies website.</i>		
Chinese T101		
YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEARS 3 AND 4
COURSES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elementary language in classical and modern Chinese History and culture 	COURSES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year abroad at Peking University 	COURSES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extended language classes and historical study Options: Ancient history; Literature; Modern society and politics; or subsidiary languages: Tibetan, Japanese or Korean <i>Options listed are only illustrative of what is available. A full list of current options is available on the Oriental Studies website.</i>

ASSESSMENT First University examinations: three written papers; an oral exam		ASSESSMENT Final University examinations: oral examination; eight written papers; dissertation
<i>Options listed are only illustrative of what is available. A full list of current options is available on the Oriental Studies website.</i>		
Egyptology and Ancient Near Eastern Studies Q401 Egyptology Q400 Ancient Near Eastern Studies Q402		
YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3
COURSES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Broad survey of civilisations of Egypt and the Ancient Near East Language teaching in Egyptian or Akkadian 	COURSES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Addition of second language, or Archaeology and Anthropology Language options: Akkadian, Egyptian, Arabic, Aramaic and Syriac, Coptic, Hebrew (Biblical and Mishnaic), Old Iranian, Sumerian or Hittite (if available) Literary and historical topics through study of texts and essay writing Intensive class work Artefact classes <p><i>Subject to acceptance, students may also have the option of Classical Greek or Latin from the Classics with Oriental Studies degree.</i></p>	COURSES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Essay writing and dissertation work Intensive classes in the first and second terms Artefact classes Field of concentration
ASSESSMENT First University examinations: four written papers		ASSESSMENT Final University examinations: ten units
<i>Options listed are only illustrative of what is available. A full list of current options is available on the Oriental Studies website.</i>		
Hebrew Q480 (primarily languages, literature, culture and history)		
YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEARS 3 AND 4

COURSES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intensive study in Hebrew language in all periods Introduction to Jewish history and culture 	COURSES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intensive language study Study of history and culture through texts Choice of options from Jewish Studies 	COURSES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued language study Tutorials in history, culture and society <p><i>Year 3 is a compulsory year abroad for students on the four-year track.</i></p>
ASSESSMENT First University examinations: four written papers		ASSESSMENT Final University examinations: seven written papers; dissertation 4-year course only: oral examination

Options listed are only illustrative of what is available. A full list of current options is available on the [Oriental Studies website](#).

Japanese T201

YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEARS 3 AND 4
COURSES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elementary Japanese language History and culture 	COURSES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year abroad at Kobe University 	COURSES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extended language classes Options (five subjects to be chosen): Classical literature; Modern literature; Linguistics; History; Politics; Economics; Subsidiary language (counts as three subjects); either Chinese, Korean or Tibetan <p><i>Options listed are only illustrative of what is available. A full list of current options is available on the Oriental Studies website.</i></p>
ASSESSMENT First University examinations: three written papers	ASSESSMENT Test at end of course	ASSESSMENT Final University examinations: oral examination; eight written papers; dissertation

Options listed are only illustrative of what is available. A full list of current options is available on the [Oriental Studies website](#).

Jewish Studies QV91 (primarily focused on the history, religion and culture of the Jews from biblical to modern times)

YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3
COURSES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intensive study in Hebrew language in all periods Introduction to Jewish history and culture 	COURSES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intensive language study Options (three subjects to be chosen) 	COURSES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Options (two subjects to be chosen) Tutorials in history, culture and society <p><i>A full list of current options is available on the Oriental Studies website.</i></p>
ASSESSMENT First University examinations: four written papers		ASSESSMENT Final University examinations: seven written papers; dissertation
Sanskrit Q450		
YEAR 1	YEAR 2	YEAR 3
COURSES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intensive language teaching 	COURSES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preparation for Final University examinations in third year Study of Sanskrit grammar Subsidiary language options: Hindi, Old Iranian, Pali, Prakrit and Tibetan 	COURSES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sanskrit literature Special subject <p><i>Options listed are only illustrative of what is available. A full list of current options is available on the Oriental Studies website.</i></p>
ASSESSMENT First University examinations: three written papers		ASSESSMENT Final University examinations: nine papers (seven in Sanskrit and two in subsidiary languages)

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 Oriental Studies

During the year abroad, students currently pay significantly reduced fees to the University. For example, for students going on their year abroad in 2020, who started an undergraduate course from 2019, the course fees are:

- Home/EU/Islands students: £1,385 for the year
- International students: £8,750 for the year

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.

Actual costs (such as course fees) and living costs will vary depending on the destination and the activity undertaken.

The Oriental Institute covers the cost of language tuition abroad, but not living costs and flights. Students who are eligible for government maintenance support will also be assessed for an Oxford Bursary during their year abroad. Some bursaries and scholarships are currently available for students of Chinese and Japanese, and a number of colleges have funds to support their students' period of study abroad.

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.