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Religion and Asian and Middle Eastern Studies Course Information Sheet for entry in 2023

Please note that the Faculty of Oriental Studies has recently been renamed as the Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies.

The course in Religion and Asian and Middle Eastern Studies offers students an in-depth understanding of a number of the world's great religious traditions including Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam and Judaism. To engage with all the different aspects of the course, you will have to become something of a historian and a philosopher, a textual and literary critic, as well as an accomplished linguist. These disciplines together, not only enable students to appreciate the qualities of religions that can be radically different from those in Western societies, but also equip graduates with the analytical and critical abilities to embark on a wide range of careers.

Religion and Asian and Middle Eastern Studies enables students to study the major world religions and their primary languages. It provides them with an understanding of the intellectual underpinning of religious traditions, and of the social and cultural contexts for religious beliefs and practices. Students can also explore topics such as the relationship between religions and science, and the place of religious ethics in public life.

Between them, the Faculties of Theology and Religion and Asian and Middle Eastern Studies include more than 270 academics, ranging from experts in the ancient languages and literature of the world's religions to church historians and systematic theologians. The reputations of both faculties, together with Oxford's excellent library facilities, attract scholars from all over the world.

A typical week

Your typical weekly timetable will be divided between one or two tutorials, which may take place at your college or at the college of a specialist tutor. In addition you will attend up to six lectures each week. Throughout the course and particularly in your first year, you will attend at least three (and often more) language classes each week. A large part of your week will be spent in independent study to prepare for language classes and for tutorials.

Tutorials usually involve two students and a tutor. Class sizes may vary depending on the options you choose or the language you are studying, but would normally have no more than around 10 students. Most tutorials, classes, and lectures are delivered by academics who are specialists 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

COURSES

- Religion and religions
- One of the following languages, each of which have three assessment components each:
 - Arabic
 - Hebrew
 - Pali
 - Sanskrit
 - Tibetan

ASSESSMENT

First University examinations: four papers assessed by written and (depending on the option) oral examination

YEARS 2 AND 3

COURSES

Students specialise in the study of a religion, particularly through the study of its texts in their original languages. Students specialising in Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam or Judaism usually continue studying in the language they began to learn in their first year. Students specialising in Eastern Christianity may take up either Syriac or Armenian in their second year. Students specialising in Hinduism may take up Hindi in their second year.

Students take seven papers, three in Oriental Studies and three from those taught by the Faculty of Theology and Religion; the seventh may be chosen from either Oriental Studies or Theology and Religion.

In addition, all students must prepare a 12,000-word thesis on a topic of their choice, which may be chosen from either Oriental Studies or Theology and Religion.

ASSESSMENT

Final University examinations: seven papers (assessed either by written examination or by submitted coursework, depending upon the option), plus a thesis

YEARS 2 AND 3

The options listed above are illustrative and may change; not all languages are available every year. More information about current options is available on the [Faculty of Theology and Religion website](#) and the [Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies 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.

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.

UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS AND OUTREACH

University Offices, Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JD



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

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 the [Living costs webpage](#) updated.

[Additional Fees and Charges Information for Archaeology and Anthropology](#)

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