

Course Information Sheet for entry in 2023~24

Undergraduate Certificate in the History of Art

About the course

Taught at first-year undergraduate level, the Undergraduate Certificate in the History of Art offers an excellent introduction for students who want to develop their knowledge of the discipline of art history through structured study. You will learn about how artworks are made, and receive an overview of the development of Western art in its global context from the classical period to the present. The visual practices studied on the course are wide ranging, from the traditional 'fine arts' to wider forms of visual and material culture. You do not need to have any formal qualification or previous study in the subject area.

This is a two-year part-time course, with three terms per year. You will usually attend weekly classes during term-time. Students are expected to read set texts in preparation for class and to come ready to discuss ideas.

Tutors will lead visits to museums and art galleries throughout the course, with trips to current exhibitions if possible. Oxford has many museums and gallery spaces, and you will be encouraged to visit these.

In the first year, you will gain an understanding of how to analyse a range of images and artefacts from different periods in history. You will become familiar with some of the methodologies and approaches that have been used by art historians to understand visual and material cultures, sometimes drawing from the scholarship of wider fields such as history and philosophy to help critically evaluate the role of art within society.

The second year is more chronologically focused, allowing you to apply the skills you have learnt in the first year to consider key developments and themes within the history of art from the medieval period to the contemporary era. The material cultures of the West will be considered within their broader global contexts and examined in terms of their aesthetic, social and political functions. The year encompasses a wide range of media, considering the 'fine arts' of painting, sculpture and architecture in relation to broader forms of visual culture, from illustrated manuscripts to photography.

As well as the time spent in teaching sessions, you will need to spend around 8-10 hours a week studying in term-time. This might include reading, preparing course work, and visiting museums, libraries and sites.

Most teaching events and visits are usually held in-person, but may be moved online, rescheduled or revised if necessary e.g. as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic.

OUTLINE PROGRAMME

Year 1 will centre on these themes:

- Visual analysis and its critical vocabulary

- Methodologies and theoretical perspectives used by art historians
- The materials and meanings of a range of historical art forms (usually including painting, sculpture, architecture and the decorative arts)
- The significance of context for viewing art, past and present
- The social and political functions of art and material culture
- Traditions and innovations within the history of the visual arts

Year 2 will continue to explore the above themes and issues in relation to the following:

- Medieval art and material culture
- Renaissance art and material culture
- Modern and Contemporary art and material culture

Assessment

- For Year 1, you must complete five assignments of not more than 1,500 words and one 3,000 word project.
- For Year 2, you must complete three assignments of not more than 2,000 words and one 5,000 word project.

There is no formal examination at the end of the Certificate course.

Attendance

Candidates are expected to attend a minimum of:

- 75% of the taught classes per module, and
- Three study visits per year.

Changes to courses

The University will seek to deliver this course in accordance with the description set out in this course information sheet. 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. The safety of students, staff and visitors is paramount and major changes to delivery or services may have to be made in circumstances of a pandemic (including Covid-19), epidemic or local health emergency. In addition, 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 course requirements for international study.

You can find full information under “Changes to Courses” (sections 29 to 40) in the [Terms and Conditions](https://www.conted.ox.ac.uk/mnt/attachments/cont-ed-non-matriculated-student-ts-and-cs-for-2023-24-entry_1.pdf) for this course (https://www.conted.ox.ac.uk/mnt/attachments/cont-ed-non-matriculated-student-ts-and-cs-for-2023-24-entry_1.pdf).

Expected length of course

2 years

Annual fees for entry in 2023-24

Fee Status

Course Fee

Home (UK/Republic of Ireland/ Channel Islands & Isle of Man)	£3,000
Overseas	£5,650

Course fees are payable each year, for the duration of your fee liability (your fee liability is the length of time for which you are required to pay course fees). For courses lasting longer than one year, please be aware that fees will usually increase annually. For details, please see our [guidance on likely increases to fees and charges](#).

Course fees cover your teaching as well as other academic services and facilities provided to support your studies. Unless specified in the additional cost information (below), course fees do not cover accommodation, residential costs or other living costs. They also do not cover any additional costs and charges that are outlined in the additional cost information.

Information for applicants from the EU, EEA and Switzerland

On 11 May 2021 the UK Council for International Student Affairs published [new regulations and guidance](#) to be used in assessing the fee status of students commencing courses in August 2021 and later. We will be using this guidance to carry out fee status assessments for students commencing courses in 2023~24, including students from the EU, EEA and Switzerland.

If you are an EU national and do not live in the UK then you are likely to be charged Overseas fees. Students with settled and pre-settled status in the UK and some other categories of students who work in the UK can qualify for Home fee status as long as they meet the residence criteria.

Additional cost information

Students are not required to buy books, but there may be a few recommended key texts which you may choose to buy. Transport for trips and visits is normally arranged on a car sharing basis by the students themselves. Entry fees to museums and galleries are paid individually by the students.

You will need a computer which meets our minimum specification, with access to the internet and various other software programmes. Please see the [system requirements webpage](#) for full details.

Living costs

In addition to your fees, you will need to ensure that you have adequate funds to support your living costs for the duration of your course.

For the 2023-24 academic year, the range of likely living costs for full-time study is between c. £1,290 and £1,840 for each month spent in Oxford. Full information, including a breakdown of likely living costs in Oxford for items such as food, accommodation and study costs, is available on our [living costs](#) page. When planning your finances for any future years of study in Oxford beyond 2023-24, you should allow for an estimated increase in living expenses of 5% or more each year, although this rate may vary significantly depending on how the national economic situation develops.

The living costs above are based on single, full-time students living in Oxford. While it may be the case that, as a part-time student, you will not be based in Oxford during your studies, you will still

need to cover your cost of living on a full-time basis. If this applies to you, you should calculate your living costs to be sure that you have sufficient funding to meet these costs for the duration of your course. In particular, part-time students who are not based in Oxford will need to calculate travel and accommodation costs carefully. Please note that living costs outside Oxford may be different from those shown above.

Document accessibility

If you require an accessible version of this document please contact undergraduate@conted.ox.ac.uk