

Course Information Sheet for entry in 2021-22: MSt in History of Art and Visual Culture



About the course

This nine-month programme offers a unique combination of methodological depth and access to excellent primary sources for students who wish to develop and extend their understanding of how visual styles at different times and in different places can be understood in relation to the aesthetic, intellectual and social facets of various cultures.

This course draws on the established strengths of the discipline of art history in formal, iconographic and contextual analysis in the Faculty of History's History of Art Department and links them to a rigorous approach to questions of theory and method.

The course will expose you to the ways in which the subjects of visual history are being redefined on a broad base to include a much wider range of artefacts and visual media, including images and objects produced in contexts ranging from the scientific to the popular.

Teaching comprises:

- a compulsory methodology paper, Theories and Methods in the History of Art, which is taught in class and lecture series during Michaelmas and Hilary terms. There is also an associated lecture series and object-handling sessions in Oxford collections.
- one option paper, normally taught in small classes during Michaelmas and Hilary terms. Prospective students should check on the availability of specific courses during the application process.

Some of the option papers will not be available every year, and new ones may be added. Full details of core and optional papers are available on the course webpage on the department's website.

You will also write a dissertation of up to 15,000 words, which will be submitted in Trinity term (see the Assessment section below for further details).

Supervision

The allocation of graduate supervision for this course is the responsibility of the Faculty of History's Department of History of Art and it is not always possible to accommodate the preferences of incoming graduate students to work with a particular member of staff. Under some circumstances a supervisor outside the Faculty of History's Department of History of Art may be nominated.

An Oxford academic's pre-application indication of willingness to supervise an enquiring applicant is not a guarantee that the applicant will be offered a place, or that the supervisor in question has capacity in that particular year.

Assessment

You will write dissertation of up to 15,000 words completed independently, under the guidance of an expert supervisor, on a topic of your choice and approved by the supervisor and the chair of examiners for the programme. The dissertation is submitted in Trinity term.

In addition to the dissertation, assessment will take the form of exams and assessed essays. For the compulsory methodology paper you will write three short essays in an examination at the start of Trinity term.

The option paper is assessed through one short methodological or historiographic essay of 2,500 words and one research project of 7,500 words. Students receive one-on-one supervision when preparing their essays.

If you wish to apply for a doctoral programme, at Oxford or elsewhere, you will be encouraged to develop your doctoral proposal during the first few months of the course so that you will be well placed to make doctoral applications during or soon after completing the course.

Changes to courses

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. These may include significant changes made necessary by a pandemic (including Covid-19), epidemic or local health emergency. For further information, please see the University's Terms and Conditions (<http://www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/terms>) and our page on changes to courses (<http://www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/coursechanges>).

Expected length of course

| | Full Time Only |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Expected length | 9 months |

Costs

Annual fees for entry in 2021-22

| Fee status | Annual Course fees |
|---|--------------------|
| Home (UK, Republic of Ireland, Channel Islands & Isle of Man) | £12,070 |
| Overseas (including EU) | £27,460 |

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

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 your accommodation, residential costs or other living costs. They also don't cover any additional costs and charges that are outlined in the additional cost information.

Additional cost information

There are no compulsory elements of this course that entail additional costs beyond fees and living costs. However, as part of your course requirements, you may need to choose a dissertation, a project or a thesis topic. Please note that, depending on your choice of topic and the research required to complete it, you may incur additional expenses, such as travel expenses, research expenses, and field trips. You will need to meet these additional costs, although you may be able to apply for small grants from your department and/or college to help you cover some of these expenses.

Living costs

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

The likely living costs for 2021-22 are published below. These costs are based on a single, full-time graduate student, with no dependants, living in Oxford. We provide the cost per month so you can multiply up by the number of months you expect to live in Oxford.

Likely living costs for 2021-22

| | Likely living costs for 1 month | | Likely living costs for 9 months | | Likely living costs for 12 months | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------|----------------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| | Lower range | Upper range | Lower range | Upper range | Lower range | Upper range |
| Food | £280 | £400 | £2,520 | £3,600 | £3,360 | £4,800 |
| Accommodation | £655 | £790 | £5,895 | £7,110 | £7,860 | £9,480 |
| Personal items | £130 | £250 | £1,170 | £2,250 | £1,560 | £3,000 |
| Social activities | £45 | £115 | £405 | £1,035 | £540 | £1,380 |
| Study costs | £45 | £100 | £405 | £900 | £540 | £1,200 |
| Other | £20 | £55 | £180 | £495 | £240 | £660 |
| Total | £1,175 | £1,710 | £10,575 | £15,390 | £14,100 | £20,520 |

When planning your finances for any future years of study at Oxford beyond 2021-22, you should allow for an estimated increase in living expenses of 3% each year.

More information about how these figures have been calculated is available at www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/livingcosts.

Document accessibility

If you require an accessible version of the document please contact Graduate Admissions and Recruitment by email (graduate.admissions@admin.ox.ac.uk) or via the online form (<http://www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/ask>).