

Course Information Sheet for entry in 2021-22: MSt in World Literatures in English



About the course

The English master's programmes are designed to serve both as an autonomous degree for students wishing to pursue more advanced studies in English literature, and as a solid foundation for doctoral research.

Course structure

In line with the other MSt strands in the English Faculty, the MSt is made up of four elements:

- the 'A' course, intended as an introduction to key themes and debates in postcolonial and world literatures;
- a 'B' course on book history, including postcolonial and world literature approaches to book history;
- two 'C' or option courses, one in Michaelmas term and one in Hilary term; and
- a 'D' element, the dissertation, which is handed in at the end of the final term, Trinity (June).

The descriptions below supply more detail on the A, B and C courses.

A. Core course: The Colonial, the Postcolonial, the World – Literature, Contexts and Approaches

The 'A' course, which runs in Michaelmas term, comprises eight seminars and is intended to provide a range of perspectives on some of the core debates, themes and issues shaping the study of world and postcolonial literatures in English. Each seminar will be led by a member of the Faculty of English or other relevant faculty and will include one or more short presentations from students on the week's topic. There is no assessed A course work, but students are asked to give at least one presentation on the course, and to attend all the seminars. The methodologies you will encounter on this course are intended to prepare you for situating your dissertation in a chosen field of research. You should read as much as possible of the bibliography over the summer – certainly the primary literary texts listed in the seminar reading for each week.

B. Core course: Bibliography, theories of text, history of the book, manuscript studies

This is a compulsory, assessed course, taught via a range of lectures and seminars in each of the first two terms. The B-course for the MSt in World Literature strand introduces students to the methodologies and theories of bibliography, manuscript studies, textual scholarship, and book history framed within the broad concerns and methodologies of world literature book history and the emergence and institutionalisation of the categories of world and postcolonial literature within global and local literary spaces and the publishing industry.

The course begins in Michaelmas with a general introduction to theories and methodologies of material textual scholarship alongside an introduction to manuscript study and archive use in world literature. In late Michaelmas and Hilary it moves on to specific discussion of the institutions of world literature, culminating in student presentations and feedback on the B course essay project in Hilary term.

C. Special options

Students are able to choose from 'C' course options concerned specifically with World Literatures, as well as from any other 'C' course options on offer in the English MSt. Options taken by MSt students in this strand have, in recent years, included:

- 'African Literature', engaging with some of the important cultural and political dynamics shaping the work of renowned authors such as Wole Soyinka, Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o, Athol Fugard, Ama Ata Aidoo, Ken Saro-Wiwa and Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie;
- 'Humanitarian Fictions', looking at the revived idea of Humanitarianism in English, Anglophone, and World literary studies and raising specific questions about how the novel in particular embraces the discourse of human rights and humanitarianism to address global modernity's emergences and discontents;
- 'Literatures of Empire and Nation', investigating the literary and cultural perceptions, misapprehensions, and evasions that accompanied empire, and the literary forms that negotiated it; and
- 'Prison Writing and the Literary World', mapping prison writing from the UK, the US, Ireland, Kenya, Nigeria, and South Africa as a distinctive form.

D. Dissertation

You will write a 10,000 to 11,000-word dissertation on a subject of your choice, but related to the work you have been doing over the year. You will be assigned to a member of academic staff who will act as your supervisor.

Assessment

The MSt programme is assessed via the submission of four pieces of coursework. In addition to the dissertation, you will submit three essays of 5,000 to 6,000 words - one at the end of the first term, and two at the end of the second term - relating to the B and C courses that have been taken.

Supervision

The allocation of graduate supervision for this course is the responsibility of the Faculty of English and it is not always possible to accommodate the preferences of incoming graduate students to work with a particular member of staff. Under exceptional circumstances a supervisor may be found outside the Faculty of English.

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)	£12,830
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>).