

## Course Information Sheet for entry in 2025–26

### Undergraduate Certificate in English Literature – Option 2

#### About the course

*Please note: this course was previously called the Foundation Certificate in English Literature.*

Covering a range of writing from Shakespeare to the twentieth century, the Undergraduate Certificate in English Literature teaches skills in the analysis of literature, including the ability to read closely and to recognise and apply approaches in contemporary literary theory.

Taught part-time over two years, it is equivalent to the first year of a full-time undergraduate English degree. It is modelled on Oxford University's first year programme in English Language and Literature, and is taught mainly by members of the University's English Faculty.

As well as taking part in the tutorials, seminars, and day schools at Oxford University's Department for Continuing Education, you will have free access to English Faculty lectures and the excellent resources of the Bodleian Library.

The course covers a range of English literature from the Early Modern to the twentieth century. Among the authors usually studied will be Shakespeare, Marlowe, Donne, Dickens, Tennyson, the Brontës, Seacole, Mansfield, Joyce and Woolf. Close analysis of works by these and other authors, reinforced by general discussion of modern critical theory and practice, will provide the basis for an enhanced appreciation of the pleasures and problems associated with the serious reading of literature. In addition, during year two of the course, students are introduced to the history and varieties of the English language.

The course will consist of three principal elements, each subdivided, to offer a total of six sections over its two-year span. The three elements are:

- i) Approaches to Language and Literature
- ii) Victorian and Modernist Literature
- iii) Early Modern Literature

The course structure can be represented as follows:

|                            | YEAR ONE  | YEAR TWO   |
|----------------------------|---|--|
| TERM                       |   |  |
| <b>Michaelmas</b> (Autumn) | <i>Section 1:</i> Approaches to Language and Literature I | <i>Section 4:</i> Approaches to Language and Literature II   |
| <b>Hilary</b> (Spring)     | <i>Section 2:</i> Victorian Literature                    | <i>Section 5:</i> Modernist Literature                       |
| <b>Trinity</b> (Summer)    | <i>Section 3:</i> Early Modern Poetry                     | <i>Section 6:</i> Early Modern Drama (excluding Shakespeare) |
| <b>September</b>           | Shakespeare Summer School                                 |  |

Teaching will be delivered online, usually across 10 weeks each term, and will consist of a mixture of live real-time seminars enhanced by recorded lectures and other materials. You will typically have two tutorials per term, with generally no more than two students in each tutorial group.

Additionally, there is a five-day in-person summer school held in Oxford between year one and year two. There are also six day schools, typically one per term. Each day school will be connected to the syllabus, generally by its subject matter, with the third day school of each year focusing on exam preparation.

As well as the time spent in teaching sessions, you will need to spend around 12-15 hours a week studying in term-time. This might include reading, preparing course work, and using libraries. The summer school is usually held in-person, but may be moved online, rescheduled or revised if necessary e.g. as a result of a pandemic.

### **Assessment**

Assessment for the award is through coursework, portfolios and examinations. Candidates are required to submit each of the assessment items below:

#### **Year 1**

- Two formative assignments, each of not more than 2000 words. Marks for these do not count to the final award.
- Four coursework assignments, each of not more than 2000 words.
- One portfolio of written work demonstrating critical approaches to language and literature, of not more than 3,000 words.
- Two written examinations.

#### **Year 2**

- Seven coursework assignments, each of not more than 2000 words.
- One portfolio of written work demonstrating critical approaches to language and literature, of not more than 5,000 words.
- Two written examinations.

### **Attendance**

Candidates are expected to attend a minimum of:

- 80% of the teaching sessions each year;
- Four of the six one-hour tutorials each year; and
- 80% of the summer school at the end of the first 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 30 to 39) in the [Terms and Conditions](https://www.conted.ox.ac.uk/mnt/attachments/terms-and-conditions-non-matriculated-2025-2026.pdf) for this course (<https://www.conted.ox.ac.uk/mnt/attachments/terms-and-conditions-non-matriculated-2025-2026.pdf> )

### **Expected length of course**

2 years

### **Annual fees for entry in 2025–26**

| Fee Status   | Annual Course Fees |
|--|--------------------|
| Home (UK/Republic of Ireland/ Channel Islands & Isle of Man) | £3,865             |
| Overseas   | £6,625             |

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.

### **Fee status**

Broadly speaking, your fee status depends on your nationality, your immigration status in the UK, where you have been living and what you have been doing for the three years prior to the start of your course. Please refer to the [Undergraduate fee status](#) pages for more 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 2025–26, 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**

This course has a study week in Oxford so you will need to meet any travel, accommodation and other costs you may incur in attending this week.

You will also 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 2025–26 academic year, the range of likely living costs for full-time study is between c. £1,425 and £2,035 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 2025–26, 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](mailto:undergraduate@conted.ox.ac.uk).