

## Course Information Sheet for entry in 2025–26

### Undergraduate Certificate in the History of Art

#### About the course

Taught at first-year undergraduate level, the part-time Certificate in the History of Art teaches students about the production and provenance of works of art, as well as key skills such as how to view and describe works of art. Students are introduced to issues of display, value, collections, categories of art and its institutions. You learn about the different approaches to understand and interpret works of art, including key theories, methods and concepts.

The Certificate also provides a historical grounding, exploring the History of Art from c. 500 CE to the present, engaging with art in its global contexts. While the overall structure is historically linear, the thematic approach enables students to engage with themes and issues that build on each other and cut across space and time.

Taught through a combination of online digital learning and in-person teaching, this course supports a student-focused and transformative learning environment. Online asynchronous (self-paced) instruction will include reading materials (materials in the Virtual Learning Environment and set texts from journal articles, textbooks, exhibition catalogues, and books), videos, forum activities, and online exercises, as well as independent study such as essay preparation and research. Some online units will take the form of case studies, allowing students to study in-depth around a particular topic, while others will offer theoretical or methodological approaches that can be employed across periods and regions.

Students will also meet regularly for Friday Residences in Oxford. These take place on specific dates three times per term for a total of nine Fridays per year. The days are expected to run from 10am–5.30pm, usually consisting of two classroom sessions and a visit to an art collection or site in Oxford. Additionally, there are two Saturday visits to London museums, provisionally scheduled for week 8 of Michaelmas and Hilary terms.

The Friday Residences are usually held in-person, but may be moved online, rescheduled or revised if necessary e.g. as a result of a pandemic.

#### Course structure

##### Year 1

1. The first term (Michaelmas) covers *Looking at Art: Ways of Seeing*;
2. The second term (Hilary) covers *What is Art?*;
3. The final term (Trinity) covers *Art in the World*.

The first year of the Certificate will introduce students to the key skills in the History of Art.

The first term addresses visual literacy skills, teaching students how to look at works of art, the critical vocabulary they will need to conduct visual analyses, and how works of art are made.

The second term considers what makes a work of art, addressing issues of display, value, collections, and categories of art and its institutions.

The final term considers the interpretive models to understand and interpret works of art, including key theories, methods and concepts, with case studies drawn from the Italian Renaissance and French Impressionism.

## **Year 2**

1. The first term (Michaelmas) covers *Classical and Medieval Worlds*;
2. The second term (Hilary) covers *Renaissances*;
3. The final term (Trinity) covers *Modernities*.

The second year of the Certificate in History of Art will provide students with an historical survey of the History of Art c. 500CE to the present. Although predominantly focused on Western Art History the course also engages with art in its global contexts. Students will begin by studying the late Classical and Medieval Worlds, then proceed to study the early modern world and finally end the course with the Modern and Contemporary period.

## **Assessment**

### **Year 1**

Formative:

- Task 1: Formative Visual Analysis (500 words)
- Task 2: Formative Primary Source Analysis (500 words)
- Task 3: Formative Writing Labels (700 words)

Summative:

- Assignment 1: Summative 1,500-word essay
- Assignment 2: Summative 1,500-word essay
- Assignment 3: Summative Object Biographies, 1,500 words
- Assignment 4: Summative 2,500-word essay

### **Year 2**

Formative:

- Task 1: Formative Medieval materiality critical analysis and presentation. 700 words.
- Task 2: Formative Research proforma.

Summative:

- Assignment 1: Summative Medieval essay. 2,500 words.
- Assignment 2: Summative early modern essay. 2,500 words.
- Assignment 3: Summative Contemporary/modern reflection, 750 words.
- Assignment 4: Summative 4,500 essay research project. Title to be selected from a list of questions or agreed with the course director.

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 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**

<b>Fee Status</b>	<b>Annual Course Fees</b>
Home (UK/Republic of Ireland/ Channel Islands & Isle of Man)	£3,515
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**

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 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).