

Course Information Sheet for entry in 2025–26

Undergraduate Diploma in English Social and Local History

About the course

This two-year part-time course provides a stimulating introductory survey of the social history of England and the development of English local communities from the early medieval period to the late twentieth century. You will have the chance to study two topics in depth, either relating to a specific period or to one theme over a long period of time.

The wide historical span of the course gives you scope to engage with periods in local and social history that you may not yet be familiar with. We will also guide you through some of the major sources you are likely to encounter, helping build your skills of critical interpretation and your ability and confidence in undertaking independent research.

Taught mainly through residential weekends, the course makes excellent use of Oxford's historical resources, with activities usually including a guided visit to the Bodleian Library and tours of the city's pre-Reformation college chapels and of historically poorer working areas of west Oxford.

Each year there are expected to be 6 residential weekends of approximately 12 hours each, including a field trip. Accommodation may be available at Rewley House during the residential weekends at an additional charge.

The Diploma has two modules, which divide into pre-1660 (Module One) and post-1660 (Module Two). You can take the modules in either order. Students starting the course in 2025 will study Module 2 first, followed by Module 1 in 2026-27.

Module 1: English Social and Local History to c.1660

This module covers the period from the later Anglo-Saxons (roughly c.800CE) to the Restoration of the monarchy following the Civil Wars and Republic (1640-60). Its emphasis is on the lives, occupations, beliefs and environments of people, and the communities they lived in. It covers such diverse topics as Church and religion, monasteries, the changing nature of towns and rural communities, the worlds of work and leisure, migration and population change, and the Black Death. Later parts cover the Reformation, social change under the Tudors and early Stuarts, and the breakdown of English society leading up to and during the Civil Wars. Additional activities usually include a field trip to Winchester, a workshop on early modern documents, and a tour of the pre-Reformation chapels of the Oxford colleges. Special subjects expected to be offered in Module 1: 'English Landscape History, 1100-1650', 'Riot and Rebellion, 1381-1607', and 'Civil War, Revolution, and Republic, 1640-60'.

Module 2: English Social and Local History from c.1660

This module covers the period after the Restoration and up to the late twentieth century. It looks at how the dramatic social changes of modernity have altered the lives of English people and their communities. Topics span from the vibrancy of Restoration society – the age of Samuel Pepys, the

Great Fire of London, coffee houses, William Hogarth, and the East India Company – through the Georgian and Victorian worlds. It covers the impact of enclosure, industrialization, and the growth of empire, as well as the wealth and poverty of Victorian England. Later topics include the impact of the World Wars, and the drastic social changes brought by the twentieth century. Additional activities usually include a field trip to Georgian Bath, work on sources about the poor law, and a workshop on oral history. Special subjects expected to be offered in Module 2: 'The Restoration: Society and Politics in England, 1660-1700', 'Family and Community in Rural England, 1650-1900', and 'Social Unrest and Popular Politics, 1840-1940'.

Assessment

For each module, students will be required to complete three coursework assignments; one extended essay based on material taught during the course; and one source work exercise, commenting on selected primary sources.

Attendance

In each module candidates are expected to attend a minimum of 80% of the sessions.

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 31 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

Students are expected to make their own travel arrangements and cover their costs for field trips and visits. Any entry fees are paid individually by the students. Accommodation may be available at Rewley House during the residential weekends at an additional charge.

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
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