

European and Middle Eastern Languages Information Sheet for entry in 2020

The European and Middle Eastern Languages (EMEL) course enables students to combine papers in one of the languages taught in the Faculty of Modern Languages with papers in Arabic, Hebrew, Persian or Turkish, providing opportunities to take advantage of the cultural links which exist between a number of European and Middle Eastern languages. For example, appropriate combinations might well be French and Arabic, German and Turkish, or Hebrew and Russian, but even some of the less obvious pairings would provide similar cultural and historical linkage. For example, Spanish and Turkish would be an interesting combination for the history of Sephardi Judaism, while Persian and Portuguese are important for the study of early colonial expansion.

Through its long-standing traditions and connections Oxford has outstanding resources for the study of Middle Eastern and modern European languages. [The Bodleian Library](#) and [Taylor Institution Library](#) have an extensive collection of books and manuscripts. The Taylor Institution is one of the biggest research and lending libraries devoted to modern European languages in the world. Associated with the University is the [Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies](#), which houses the Leopold Muller Library with more than 35,000 volumes in Hebrew and more than 7,000 volumes in Western languages.

Middle East: year abroad arrangements and funding

You will normally spend your second year on an approved course of study in the Middle East. There are arrangements in place with partner universities to help you make the most of your time abroad. In addition to undertaking a study placement, students may also choose to undertake further language study or participate in internships.

Staś, who studied Russian with Arabic, says: 'Aside from the intensive language tuition, our time in Jordan was filled with visits to natural and historical wonders – the Dead Sea, Jerash, Wadi Rum, and Petra. By the end of our year we had reached an advanced level of Arabic and fully immersed ourselves in contemporary Jordanian culture.'

Some year abroad activities provide a salary towards living costs. Currently, eligible UK students can continue to access living costs funding from the UK government (Student Finance agencies) during their year abroad. UK students from lower-income households with means-tested assessments will remain eligible for Oxford's generous bursary provision. Travel grants may be available through your college and/or the Faculty. For students who experience particular difficulties related to their year abroad, some hardship funds are also available from the Faculty, and, for UK students with a shortfall in their finances, the University's Student Support Fund can provide additional assistance.

Other year abroad activity and funding

You are strongly advised to spend the adjacent summers in a country where the European language of your choice is spoken. Past opportunities have typically included undertaking an internship or following a summer course for your chosen European language, which provides valuable experiences for improving language competence.

Staś (Russian with Arabic), goes on to say: 'For my Russian, I spent the first summer in Russia, partly on a language course at Perm University in the Urals. The following summer I worked as an intern in a great little translation firm. Saint Petersburg is Russia's coolest city, and my language quickly improved.'

For students choosing to undertake activity in Europe, please note that the types and nature of activities available may be subject to variation as arrangements relating to the UK's departure from the EU are progressed. For example, in the past, some students completed paid work placements in the EU, but it is no longer guaranteed that it will be possible for students on placements to undertake paid employment, and the types or terms of work, if available, may vary.

You may be eligible to apply for a living costs grant if undertaking a work placement of more than 2 months in duration within the EU, subject to the UK's continued participation in the Erasmus+ programme or an equivalent framework. In the event that agency funding is not made available for Erasmus+ activity following the UK's departure from the EU, the University has committed to providing living costs grants on a similar basis to current Erasmus+ grants. However, some costs related to year abroad activity in the EU may increase following the UK's departure from the EU.

For the latest information visit ox.ac.uk/students/oxford-and-the-eu. Students will be kept informed of any developments relating to year abroad arrangements in the EU as these become clearer.

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 a course's requirements for international study. Students who consider that they may be affected are asked to contact their department for advice.

A typical week

Your work will be divided between language classes, lectures and tutorials (one or two a week). In the first year, the emphasis will be on intensive learning of the Middle Eastern language. Throughout your course, you will prepare essays for your weekly tutorials and classes, some of which will take place in the Faculties of Oriental Studies and Medieval and Modern Languages, while others will be held in your college.

Tutorials are usually up to four students and a tutor. Seminar and language class sizes may vary depending on the options you choose or the language you are studying, but there would usually be no more than around 20 students and would often be much smaller. Most tutorials, classes, and lectures are delivered by staff who are tutors in their subject. Many are world-leading experts with years of experience in teaching and research. Some teaching may also be delivered by postgraduate students who are usually studying at doctorate level. To find out more about how our teaching year is structured, visit our [Academic Year](#) page.

Course structure

YEAR 1	
COURSES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • European languages: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Two language papers ○ One literature paper • Middle Eastern language: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Intensive language learning 	ASSESSMENT First University examinations: five written papers; plus oral/aural examination (Arabic only)
YEAR 2	
YEAR ABROAD <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Middle Eastern Language <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Students attend an approved course of language instruction in the Middle East • European Language <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Students are encouraged to spend as much of their vacation time as possible in a relevant country <p>Refer to sections on Oriental Studies and Modern Languages</p>	ASSESSMENT Qualifying examination at the end of Year 2 (Middle Eastern language only)
YEARS 3 AND 4	
COURSES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practical language work in the European language • Period of literature and further paper chosen from a wide range of options in the European language • Practical language work in the Middle Eastern language • Three papers including literature and a range of options in the Middle Eastern language • Extended essay on a topic bridging the European and the Middle Eastern language 	ASSESSMENT Final University examinations: nine written papers are taken including a bridging extended essay; oral exam (both languages, but not Hebrew on the Middle Eastern side)
<p><i>The options listed above are illustrative and may change. More information about current options is available on the Oriental Studies website.</i></p>	

The University will seek to deliver each course in accordance with the descriptions 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. For further information, please see the University's Terms and Conditions.

Fees

These annual fees are for full-time students who begin this undergraduate course here in 2020.

Fee status	Annual Course fees
Home/EU	£9,250
Islands (Channel Islands & Isle of Man)	£9,250
Overseas	£27,285

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

Please note that the course fees you pay include your fees for both University and college services and are divided between the University (including your department or faculty) and your college on a formula basis. More information is provided in your Terms and Conditions.

Additional Fees and Charges Information for European and Middle Eastern Languages

During the year abroad, students currently pay significantly reduced fees to the University. For example, for students going on their year abroad in 2020, who started an undergraduate course from 2019, the course fees are:

- Home/EU/Islands students: £1,385 for the year.
- International students: £8,750 for the year.

We recommend that students begin to research their year abroad options – including the financial implications – as early as possible in the second year of the course. There is plenty of support, information and advice to help you. Actual costs (such as course fees) and living costs will vary depending on the destination and the activity undertaken.

Year abroad activity in the EU:

Some of the costs relating to year abroad activity in the EU may be subject to variation as arrangements relating to the UK's departure from the EU are progressed. For the latest information visit ox.ac.uk/students/oxford-and-the-eu.

Oxford living costs

Your living costs will vary significantly dependent on your lifestyle. These are estimated to be between £1,135 and £1,650 per month in 2020-2021. Each year of an undergraduate course usually consists of three terms of eight weeks each, but you may need to be in Oxford for longer. As a guide you may wish to budget over a nine-month period to ensure you also have sufficient funds during the holidays to meet essential costs.

Living costs breakdown

	Per month		Total for 9 months	
	Lower range	Upper range	Lower range	Upper range
Food	£270	£385	£2,430	£3,465
Accommodation (including utilities)	£630	£760	£5,670	£6,840
Personal items	£130	£245	£1,170	£2,205
Social activities	£45	£110	£405	£990
Study costs	£40	£95	£360	£855
Other	£20	£55	£180	£495
Total	£1,135	£1,650	£10,215	£14,850

In order to provide these likely living costs, the University and the Oxford Students' Union conducted a living costs survey to complement existing student expenditure data from a variety of sources including the UK government's Student Income and Expenditure Survey and the National Union of Students (NUS). The likely lower and upper ranges above are based on a single student with no dependants living in college accommodation (including utility bills) and are provided for information only.

When planning your finances for future years of study at Oxford beyond 2020-21, you should allow for an estimated increase in living expenses of 3% each year.