

Modern Languages Information Sheet for entry in 2020

[Czech \(with Slovak\)](#), [French](#), [German](#), [Modern Greek](#), [Italian](#), [Polish](#), [Portuguese](#), [Russian](#) and [Spanish](#).

Studying Modern Languages provides both practical training in written and spoken language and an extensive introduction to literature and thought written in European languages. As well as learning to write and speak the language(s) fluently, you can study a broad range of literature, or focus your studies on any period from the medieval to the present day. A wide range of other options allow you to explore subjects including linguistics, philology, film or gender studies or (in French and German) advanced translation.

Modern Languages have been taught in Oxford since 1724. The faculty is one of the largest in the country, with a total intake of more than 250 students a year (including joint courses). Undergraduate students have access to the [Taylor Institution Library](#), the biggest research library in Britain devoted to modern languages, and the University's central library the [Bodleian](#), as well as many online resources. The University's well-equipped [Language Centre](#) has resources specifically tailored to the needs of Modern Language students.

Language is at the centre of the Oxford course, making up around 50% of both first-year and final examinations. The course aims to teach spoken fluency in colloquial and more formal situations, as well as the ability to write essays in the foreign language, and the ability to translate into and out of the foreign language with accuracy and sensitivity to a range of vocabulary, styles and registers. You will also develop your reading skills to a high level.

The study of literature gives you an understanding of other cultures that cannot be acquired solely through learning the language. It leads you into areas such as gender studies, popular culture, theatre, aesthetics, anthropology, art history, ethics, history, philosophy, politics, psychology and theology, developing your skills as a critical reader, writer and thinker.

Fieldwork/work placements/international opportunities

Modern Languages students spend a compulsory year abroad, usually in the third year. Past opportunities abroad have typically included working as a paid language assistant in a school, undertaking an internship and/or studying at a University, all of which provide valuable experiences for improving language competence. However, 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. The University is working with European partners to seek to maintain the opportunities available to its students on the same terms as previously, and is committed to ensuring that funding arrangements remain similar to those for previous years, as far as reasonably possible. As negotiations relating to the UK's departure from the EU advance, the availability of paid work in the EU, and the types or terms of work available for students undertaking their year abroad, may vary. 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 as these become clearer.

Students are encouraged to spend as much of their vacations as possible in the countries whose languages they are studying.

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.

Funding during the year abroad

Some year abroad activities may provide a salary. Students can apply for a living costs grant, 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 may increase following the UK's departure from the EU. For further information visit ox.ac.uk/students/oxford-and-the-eu.

Currently, eligible UK students can continue to access living costs funding from the UK government (Student Finance agencies) during their year abroad. However, the level of government funding available to UK students on a year abroad may vary as a result of the UK's departure from the EU. 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 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.

College choice

Please see our guidance [on choosing a college](#), and [which language combinations are available at each college](#).

A typical week

Your week's work will include a tutorial in, or organised by, your college, language classes in the language(s) you study, and typically three to four hours of lectures for each subject. 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 classes 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

Your first year is closely structured. You will attend oral classes and courses on the grammatical structure of your language(s), translation into and out of the language(s) and, in some of the languages, comprehension. You will also attend typically three to four hours of introductory lectures and participate in seminars and/or tutorials on literature. If you study French, German, Spanish or Russian as a single language you will take a range of additional options in that language in the first year (see below). All other languages must be studied in combination with another language or another subject.

Your other years of study give you more freedom to choose the areas on which you wish to focus, from a very wide range of options. Students may take Polish as a subsidiary language, beginning in the second year. Catalan, Galician, Provençal, Yiddish and most of the Slavonic languages may also be taken as additional options. Deferred entry Students are welcome to apply for deferred entry for any language courses except those including Beginners' Russian.

YEAR 1	
<p>COURSES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two-language course <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Practical language work ○ Study of important works and/or topics in the literature of each language • One-language course, as above, plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ For French, German, Russian and Spanish, additional options: film studies; literary theory (French); medieval studies (German/Spanish); key texts in French or German thought; short fiction (Spanish); Polish and Church Slavonic (Russian) <p>(Other languages must be studied in combination with another language or joint school.)</p>	<p>ASSESSMENT</p> <p>First University examinations: seven or eight written papers, including translation and literature (language only for Beginners' Russian)</p>
YEAR 2	
<p>COURSES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two-language course <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Practical language work ○ A period of literature in each language ○ Optional subjects, including linguistics; medieval literature; detailed study of individual authors • One-language course <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ As above, but including a greater range of optional subjects 	

YEARS 3 AND 4

Year 3: typically spent abroad (Beginners' Russian: students spend the second year in Russia, and the third year in Oxford).
Year 4: continues the course from Year 2, plus special subjects across a wide range of options including film studies.

ASSESSMENT

Final University examinations: nine or ten written papers and an oral examination are taken, including unprepared translations, literature subjects, special subjects and linguistics. Some special subjects are examined by submitting a portfolio of essays.

The options listed above are illustrative and may change. More information about current options is available on the [Modern Languages website](#).

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 Modern 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. Some of the costs relating to year abroad activity 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.

You will need to pay for living costs during the year abroad, including accommodation and travel expenses. At present, students taking part in Erasmus+ study exchanges do not pay tuition fees to other institutions, though for some destinations, additional charges, which apply to all students at that institution, may be payable. Following the UK's departure from the EU, the University's participation in the Erasmus+ programme or equivalent framework is not guaranteed. The University is committed to working with partner institutions to seek to maintain arrangements relating to fees and charges on the same terms as previously, as far as possible. If you study outside Erasmus+ (or equivalent framework) you will be liable to



pay course fees and any other applicable charges to the relevant institution, as is currently the case.

For the latest information about the Erasmus+ programme at Oxford, please visit ox.ac.uk/erasmus.

Beginners' Russian

Courses including beginners' Russian are slightly different, as they are the only courses with a prescribed year abroad option. Students have to take an 8-month Russian Language Undergraduate Studies course in Yaroslavl (www.rlus.co.uk) during their second year. Students will not incur an additional course fee, however, they will be liable for additional administration and visa fees. For students starting their year abroad in 2018 these fees are £145 and £45 respectively.

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 University 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.