

Philosophy and Modern Languages Information Sheet for entry in 2020

Philosophy and Modern Languages brings together some of the most important approaches to understanding language, literature and ideas.

The study of philosophy develops analytical rigour and the ability to criticise and reason logically. It allows you to apply these skills to questions ranging from how we acquire knowledge and form moral judgements to the nature of language, art and literature. Since many works of literature are shaped by the dominant philosophical ideas of their epoch, study of philosophy can illuminate that intellectual background.

The study of a modern European language develops analytical and critical abilities as well as highly competent linguistic skills. Studying the literature written in that language contributes to an understanding of many aspects of European culture, enabling students to develop attention to stylistic and terminological detail and rhetorical strategies, and sensitivity to cultural and historical context, all of which are of great value to the study of philosophy.

Studying these two disciplines in parallel has numerous advantages and affords students greater insights into each. The Philosophy Faculty is the largest philosophy department in the UK, and one of the largest in the world, admitting around 450 undergraduates annually to read the various degrees involving Philosophy. Many faculty members have a worldwide reputation and our library and other facilities are acknowledged as among the best in the country.

Oxford's Modern Languages Faculty is one of the largest in the country, with a total intake of more than 250 students a year, including those reading joint degrees. The [Taylor Institution](#) is the biggest modern languages research library in the UK. The Modern Languages Faculty also has an undergraduate lending library, and students are able to take advantage of the well-equipped [Language Centre](#).

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 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.

A typical week

Your work will be divided between one or two tutorials and about six hours of lectures each week, in addition to about two or three hours of classes (first-year logic, language classes throughout the course). The rest of your week will be spent in independent study to prepare essays for tutorials and improve your command of your language.

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"> • Philosophy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ General philosophy ○ Moral philosophy ○ Logic • Modern Languages <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Practical language work (two papers) ○ Study of important literary works and/or topics (two papers) 	ASSESSMENT First University examinations: six written papers (two in Philosophy, four in Modern Languages)
YEARS 2 AND 4 (YEAR 3 SPENT ABROAD)	
COURSES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Philosophy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Either</i> Early Modern philosophy ○ <i>Or</i> Plato's <i>Republic</i> ○ <i>Or</i> Aristotle's <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> • Modern Languages <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ One literature paper ○ Practical language work (two papers and an oral examination) • Further options <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Either</i> four further papers in Philosophy (many options, including a thesis) and one further paper in Modern Languages from a range of options, which may include prescribed authors from the 12th to 20th centuries, options in linguistics, or special subjects ○ <i>Or</i> three further papers in Philosophy and two further papers in Modern Languages as above (one of which may be an extended essay) ○ <i>Or</i> two further papers in Philosophy (many options, including a thesis) and three further papers in Modern Languages as above (one of which may be an extended essay) <p><i>The options listed above are illustrative and may change. More information about current options is available on both Philosophy and Modern Languages websites.</i></p>	ASSESSMENT Final University examinations: nine written papers (with a minimum of three in Philosophy and four in Modern Languages; one Philosophy paper may be replaced by a thesis; some Modern Languages papers may be replaced by a thesis or a portfolio of essays); Modern Languages oral examination

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 Philosophy and 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

UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS AND OUTREACH

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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.

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.