



Programme Handbook for:

MSt in Yiddish Studies

2026-2027

Applies to students commencing their studies in 2026-27

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Version 1.0

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WELCOME

Welcome to postgraduate study in the Faculty of Medieval and Modern Languages, which belongs to the Humanities Division at the University of Oxford - we hope you will enjoy your studies with us!

This handbook applies if you are commencing the MSt in Yiddish Studies in 2026-27 and the information may be different for students starting in other years. This handbook provides an overview of the teaching and assessment on your course, and a guide to other University services which may be relevant to you. You do not need to read it in one sitting, but please do familiarize yourself with the contents in case you need to refer to it at any time during the year.

You should consult the current edition of the Examination Regulations for information regarding your degree. The information in this handbook should be read in conjunction with the Examination Regulations (below), the [University Student Handbook](#), and your college handbook.

- [MSt Yiddish Studies examination regulations 2026-27](#)
- [General Regulations for the Degree of Master of Studies](#)
- [Regulations concerning the Status of Graduate Taught Students](#)

If there is a conflict between information in this handbook and the Examination Regulations then you should follow the Examination Regulations.

The information in this handbook is accurate as of October 2026, however it may be necessary for changes to be made [in certain circumstances](#). If such changes are made the department will publish a new version of this handbook, together with a list of the changes, and students will be informed.

Canvas

Other detailed course information and useful resources can be found on [Canvas](#), the University's virtual learning environment.

Oxford Students' Website

The [Oxford Students' website](#) is also a key source of information about the rules applying to, and the services available to support you in your studies.

Key contacts:

Dr Kerstin Hoge, MSt in Yiddish Studies course director (kerstin.hoge@mod-langs.ox.ac.uk)

Dr Rajendra Chitnis, MML Director of Masters Courses (dmc@mod-langs.ox.ac.uk) oversees the MSt and MPhil in Modern Languages and taught degree policies across all taught courses.

Prof Catriona Seth, MML Director of Graduate Studies (dgs@mod-langs.ox.ac.uk) oversees the provision of doctoral study and chairs both the Graduate Studies Committee and Graduate Joint Consultative Committee. She also oversees admissions and funding processes for both PGT and PGR courses.

Your Course Supervisor – oversees your work and advises you on your dissertation. It is your responsibility to keep in regular contact with any tutors who are overseeing your classes, essays, and dissertation, as they are responsible for advising on all aspects of academic work, including attendance at lectures and classes.

The Tutor for Graduates or Academic Office at your College – Colleges take responsibility for general welfare, social facilities and support services such as computing and study facilities. They may also offer help with housing and finance and are responsible for collecting fees. Your College is the first point of contact for welfare and pastoral concerns.

Your College Advisor – not to be confused with your Faculty supervisors. Their role is not to supervise your research, but to be a source of independent counsel and guidance, should that be needed.

The MML Faculty Graduate Studies Office – Email: graduate.studies@mod-langs.ox.ac.uk
The people behind this email are **Sandra Beaumont**, Graduate Studies Officer, and **Daniel Dolley**, Graduate Studies Assistant.

Graduate Student Representatives: postgraduate student reps are elected for each course, and for each language sub-faculty, to ensure students have a voice on key committees. Their names are published on [Canvas](#). If you would like to stand for election as a student rep, look out for emails from the MML Graduate Office at the start of the academic year when we ask for volunteers.

GETTING STARTED

Congratulations on becoming a student at the University of Oxford. You can find lots of information and advice to help you settle into life as an Oxford student here: [New students | University of Oxford](#). Take a look around the website to familiarise yourself with the information there: the sections on 'before you arrive' and 'your first few weeks' will be particularly useful in the first instance, as well as the [Graduate](#) section of the Oxford students' website.

Information on the IT services available, your Oxford email account, and how to set up your IT access, is available on the [Getting started with IT](#) web pages. You will need to use your Oxford Single Sign On details to access [Student Self Service](#).

Registration and Student Self Service

As a new student you should complete the first step of your University [registration](#) by verifying your details online using [Student Self Service](#) before you arrive. New students must complete their registration by the end of the first week of term and your status as a member of the University is not confirmed until your registration has been completed by your college, which usually takes place in Week 0 of term. Your college will provide you with your University card as part of this process.

Continuing students must register at the anniversary of the term in which they first started their programme of study.

Once you have completed your University registration, an enrolment certificate is available from [Student Self Service](#) to download and print. This certificate may be used to obtain council tax exemption. You can also use Student Self Service to amend your address and contact details, review and check the details of your academic record, enter for examination and assessments, access detailed exam results, and access on-course applications should you wish to change course or suspend your studies.

Oxford terms

The University of Oxford's academic year is divided into three terms of 8 weeks, during which residence in Oxford is obligatory. Students should also expect to be engaged in academic work for a significant part of the vacation periods. The [weeks of term](#) begin on Sundays and are numbered 1 to 8, as follows:

Michaelmas term 2026 begins on Sunday 11 October (referred to as Week 1 or 1st Week) and ends on Saturday 5 December (Week 8 or 8th Week). The weeks either side of this are known as Week 0 and Week 9 or 0th Week and 9th Week, Week -1 or -1st Week and Week 10 or 10th Week etc.

Hilary term 2027 begins on Sunday 17 January and ends on Saturday 13 March.

Trinity term 2027 begins on Sunday 25 April and ends on Saturday 19 June.

Complete Harassment and Sexual Misconduct online training

All students starting a course at Oxford are required to complete the University's [Harassment and Sexual Misconduct online training](#). You can access the training once your IT access has been set up, and you should complete it before you begin registration. Together, we can create a community where we all feel valued and able to thrive.

Faculty Structure

Overall responsibility for graduate studies in Modern Languages lies with the Modern Languages Faculty Board. A committee of the Board, the Graduate Studies Committee (GSC), meets once a term, on Monday of 3rd week, and reports to the Faculty Board, which meets on Monday afternoons in the 2nd and 8th weeks each term. The Faculty Board appoints the Director of Graduate Studies and the Director of Masters Courses, and decides on most matters of policy within the Faculty, including curricular matters.

There is also a Graduate Joint Consultative Committee (GJCC), which meets once a term, and is specifically devoted to discussion of issues between Faculty and postgraduate students.

Faculty and College

Like every other student of the University, as a graduate student you are a member of both a college and a faculty. The following is an overview of main responsibilities.

Colleges are responsible for:

- the general welfare and pastoral care of graduate students,
- housing,
- financial support and guidance,
- reviewing student reports and progress,
- presentation of the student for their degree,
- requests for special provision for examinations and assessments,
- appeal to Proctors after examinations.

The Faculty is responsible for:

- examination of your university degree,
- reviewing student support and progress,
- advice and academic oversight regarding your course,
- appointment of supervisors,
- provision of teaching and delivery of your course.

COURSE STRUCTURE

MSt in Yiddish Studies

This is a one-year postgraduate taught course that may be taken as a stand-alone qualification or as preparation for a higher research degree. The course requires three terms of full-time study and is designed to enhance the linguistic proficiency, academic

competence, and cultural literacy of aspiring scholars, instructors, and educators in the field of Yiddish language and literature. The course offers a variety of subjects dealing with the language and literary culture of both pre-modern and modern Ashkenazi societies. The options are taught by Yiddish specialists working at the University and at the Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies.

All candidates are required to present:

- (i) Component A: Two Yiddish core options, examined by 'take home' examination
- (ii) Component B: An option subject from the MSt in Modern Languages usually examined by submission of a 5,000-7,000 word essay.
- (iii) Component C: A dissertation of 10-12,000 words.

I) Component A – Yiddish Core Options

All students will take the two Yiddish core options entitled:

- i) Modern Yiddish Literature, 1864-1939
- ii) History of Yiddish Language

Options (i) and (ii) will be taught in the first two terms. Assessment of these subjects is by 'take-home' examination, one of which must be submitted by Thursday of Week 9 of Hilary Term and one by Thursday of Week 1 of Trinity Term. The examination papers will be distributed on the Thursday of the preceding week.

II) Component B – Option Subject

Students will choose a special subject from one of the following Method options offered for the MSt in Modern Languages:

- German Cultural Theory: The critical tradition from Schiller to Arendt and Jaeggi
- Key Questions in Critical Thought
- Spaces of Comparison
- Palaeography, History of the Book and Digital Humanities

The subject is examined by submission of an essay of 5,000 – 7,000 words, to be submitted by Thursday of Week 10 of Hilary Term.

Please note that not all options will be available in all years. Applicants will be advised further on this during the admissions process.

III) Component C – Dissertation

Students will complete a dissertation of approximately 10,000 words and not more than 12,000 words on a subject proposed by the candidate in consultation with the supervisor. The supervisor and others are permitted to give bibliographical help during the preparation of the dissertation and to discuss drafts.

You will be asked to confirm your dissertation title early in Hilary Term – the deadline for response will be in HT Week 4 – on the basis of which examiners with the appropriate academic expertise will be assigned. It is still possible to make changes to your title after this time, but you must notify the Graduate Studies Office (graduate.studies@mod-langs.ox.ac.uk) of your intention, as a significant change in topic may require new examiners

to be found. You should discuss any potential changes of focus with your supervisor, who will be able to advise whether this will be necessary.

The dissertation is to be submitted not later than noon on Thursday of Week 8 of Trinity Term.

Award requirements

Agreed final marks for individual papers will be expressed using the following scale:

Pass	50 or above
Merit	65 or above
Distinction	70 or above

For the **overall average mark**, the compulsory subjects and the special subject will each account for 20% of the total mark, while the dissertation will account for 40% of the total mark. All of the programme components must be passed, i.e. you must achieve a mark of at least 50 for all assessments, in order to qualify for the award of MSt.

If any component is **failed** at the first attempt*, you are entitled to resit it once (the resit submission date is 12.00pm on the last Monday of the September following your first attempt). The mark awarded for a resit is capped at the pass mark for the course (50); and you should note that if *any* course components are passed at resit, rather than at the first attempt, you cannot be considered for an overall award classification of Merit or Distinction.

*If you do not submit any work by the deadline without permission (i.e. an extension), or within the timeframe given by the Proctors for making an application for mitigating circumstances (14 days from the approved deadline) you will fail the course. For further guidance on late submissions, see [Extensions to submission deadlines](#).

Where exceptional circumstances, e.g. for late or non-submission, are accepted by the Proctors, or a dispensation granted by Education Committee, allowances may be made in respect of resit attempts. You can find the Student Guide to mitigating circumstances on the [problems completing your assessment](#) webpage.

Transferring between courses

Should you wish to change courses, you will need to complete a form via the 'My Student Record' section in [Student Self-Service](#), which requires you to have discussed the proposed programme change with your supervisor and your College.

Withdrawal or suspension of studies

If you encounter circumstances which prevent you from pursuing your studies for a period of time, which mean that you need to suspend your studies, please seek advice from your College and the MML Graduate Office.

Applications for suspension of status should be made via the 'My Student Record' section in [Student Self-Service](#). If the application is approved, you will not be liable to pay fees during the period of suspension and will automatically resume your former student status at the end of the period (you will need to complete a return from suspension form via the 'My Student Record' section in [Student Self-Service](#) prior to your return). MSt students are generally expected to return at the equivalent point of the following academic year, but this should be discussed with the Faculty prior to submitting the application form, depending on the circumstances and the point of the programme at which you suspend your studies.

Should it prove necessary to withdraw from your course, you will need to complete a withdrawal form, which is also available via Student Self Service.

You can find more information about changes in student status on the University website here: [Changes in student status | University of Oxford](#)

TEACHING AND LEARNING

The emphasis of the MSt course is on self-directed learning and in this differs from many taught-course programmes at other institutions. Much of the teaching takes place in small-group or individual tutorials. Students will develop their own study programmes in close consultation with their supervisors and be encouraged to formulate and pursue their own areas of research.

Your progression from the core options and special subject to the dissertation should enable you to discover and define your own interests and to explore them with increasing independence. You may already be clear about the topic you are interested in, in which case the Special Subject enables you to begin investigating it in depth. Or you may be looking for a research topic, in which case a broadly defined Special Subject promotes wide but focussed reading within a general area. The theoretical/methodological seminars open up a range of critical perspectives which should both enlarge your understanding of your field of study and equip you with research skills for further study. Finally, the dissertation allows you to write a substantial piece of original scholarly work that benefits from the new perspectives opened up by the theoretical/methodological seminars.

The Lecture List

Students are free to attend any undergraduate lectures advertised on the MML Faculty's Lecture List, as well as the various Humanities seminars and events that are advertised throughout the year. You have access to the lecture list and undergraduate course resources via your [Canvas](#) dashboard. Lecture lists for other Faculties, such as English, Philosophy, or History, are usually available on their respective Faculty webpages or can be found via the University's [A-Z search](#).

Please note, seminars and language classes listed on lecture lists are often specifically tailored to the needs of students enrolled on particular programmes, **so permission to attend should be sought beforehand from the convenor.**

The MSt programme is an intensive and challenging course. Graduate students should look upon their study as a full-time occupation and be prepared to commit at least 40 hours each week. While you may wish to take on additional non-academic commitments (e.g. paid work) the University recommends that this be limited to a maximum of eight hours per week. Further information can be found on the [Paid Work Guidelines for Oxford Graduate Students web page](#).

Dissertation Supervision

For MSt students, your dissertation will form the sole focus of your work after you have submitted final core options and special subject assessments). The knowledge you gain of material, contexts and approaches in the core options and special subject during Michaelmas and Hilary is designed to build up your ability to complete the dissertation successfully. During those terms you are expected to read broadly on your dissertation topic and meet your dissertation supervisor once or twice to refine your topic, primary materials and research questions.

You will normally have an introductory meeting with your dissertation supervisor during Michaelmas Term. Your dissertation supervisor is usually allocated by the fourth week of Michaelmas term based on the information you provided in the form to submit your option choices, and you should be contacted by your supervisor to arrange an introductory meeting. Please do not hesitate to contact them if you have not heard from them by the middle of term.

You will normally receive four contact hours of MSt dissertation supervision. Your supervisor may only read one complete draft. Students are encouraged to initiate and determine the timing of supervision meetings.

It is a feature of the academic culture at Oxford that academics are open to informal consultation by students who are not their supervisees, where their expertise is relevant to the student's research. MSt students are welcome to contact other academics within and beyond the Faculty to ask for advice, bearing in mind that their ability to respond may be affected by their standard teaching, research and administrative commitments.

Graduate Supervision Reporting (GSR)

GSR, or Graduate Supervision Reporting, is a system used by students, supervisors, College and Faculty staff to track your progress through your course. You are strongly encouraged to take the opportunity to review and comment on your academic progress, any skills training you have undertaken or may need to undertake in the future, and on your engagement with the academic community. When reporting on academic progress, you should review progress during the current term, and measure this progress against the timetable and requirements for your programme of study. You should also reflect on the skills required to undertake the work you intend to carry out and identify any skills you wish to gain or strengthen through further training. Your tutor/s should discuss these reports with you, as they will form the basis for reviewing your progress and agreeing plans for the term ahead.

Access to GSR is via [Student Self Service](#) - you are asked to report between weeks 7 and 9 of each term. You will be sent a GSR automated email notification with details of how to log in at the start of each reporting window, and who to contact with queries; however, should you need additional support, please contact the Graduate Studies Office in the first instance. GSR is **not** a complaints mechanism. If you have concerns about your supervision, raise them directly with your College, supervisor(s), and/or the DMC.

Once you have completed your sections of the online GSR form, it will be released to your tutor/s for completion. After that you will be able to view the full report, as will the Director of Graduate Studies and your College Advisor. Directors of Graduate Studies are responsible for ensuring that appropriate supervision takes place, and this is one of the mechanisms they use to obtain information about supervision. College Advisors are a source of support and advice to students, and it is therefore important that they are informed of your progress, including concerns (expressed by you or your tutor/s).

Formative feedback for Special Subjects may take a number of forms, including oral comments on oral presentations, annotations on draft bibliographies, email responses to proposed research questions, and so on (as appropriate). The Special Subject tutors will normally read and give formal written feedback and indicate a predicted mark range (pass, merit, distinction), on one or two pieces of written work during the term; where these pieces are subsequently revised and presented as a portfolio for assessment, the Special Subject tutors should not generally offer additional written comments on the revision. In cases where the proposed submission for assessment differs very substantially from the piece/s submitted during the term, the Special Subject tutors may also read, comment on, and

indicate a predicted mark band for this piece too, provided the work is submitted for comment by Friday of 8th week at the latest.

Research Ethics

The University is committed to ensuring that its research involving human participants is conducted in a way that respects the dignity, rights, and welfare of participants, and minimises risk to participants, researchers, third parties, and to the University itself.

All graduate students involved in research involving human participants need to fill in an application to be approved to carry out the research. If you are in any doubt about the ethical status of your research and/or the need for clearance, please discuss this with your supervisor(s). Alternatively, please contact ethics@socsci.ox.ac.uk. Further information, including how to apply, can be found on the [Research Ethics website](#).

ASSESSMENT

Rules and regulations

Students for the MSt in Yiddish Studies are examined entirely on the basis of submitted work. Make sure you understand the rules governing the assessment of your course – apart from this handbook, the key sources of information are:

- **Examination regulations** – the ultimate authority on the regulations governing graduate and other degrees at Oxford. The direct links can be found on [Canvas](#) (under 'Exam Regulations and Conventions') or the [Exam Regulations](#) web pages. If there is a conflict between information in this handbook and the Examination Regulations then you should follow the Examination Regulations.
- **Examination Conventions** – govern the examination process and are the formal record of the specific assessment standard for the courses. These will be published on [Canvas](#) from week 5 of Michaelmas Term (under 'Assessment and Feedback'). They set out how your examined work will be marked and how the resulting marks will be used to arrive at an overall classification for your award. They include information on: marking scales, marking and classification criteria, progression, resits, penalties for late submission, and penalties for over-long work.
- **Guidance on the format of assessed work and how to avoid plagiarism**, which you can find on [Canvas](#), under 'Assessment and Feedback'.
- **Further information and advice on academic good practice**, including managing your time efficiently, developing good reading and note taking skills and the importance of referencing correctly, is available on the University website at: [academic matters](#).
- **[Problems completing your assessment](#) website** – guidance on what to do if you experience difficulties with meeting assessment requirements.

Marking

All submissions are 'blind double-marked', with two markers making an initial assessment independently of each other, and then meeting to agree on a final mark for the work. The markers will take into account the stage in your course at which the essays were written, and also the need to ensure that the work of different students is marked to a consistent standard.

An external examiner is provided with samples of assessed work and marksheets, in order that they can make a judgement on the standards of marking and of student achievement, and provide assurance about the fairness and integrity of the assessment process.

Entering for assessment

You must formally enter for your assessments with the Examination Schools - see [Examination entry | University of Oxford](#). This should be done by Thursday of Week 8 of Michaelmas Term. You will receive instructions in an email inviting you to log in to Student Self Service to enter your assessment selections. If in doubt, consult the Tutor for Graduates or Academic Office at your College, as failure to enter for the correct assessment units on time will incur a fee. Should you wish to change an option after Week 8 of Michaelmas Term, you will be required to pay a fee set by the Academic Records Office.

SUBMITTING YOUR WORK

How to submit your work

All assessments must be submitted electronically via Inspira. Please do take time to read through the guidance on how to submit your coursework on Inspira, as making an error in uploading/submitting your work is not accepted as a reason for missing a deadline. Full information is provided on the student web pages: [Submission of coursework assessments | University of Oxford](#)

Formatting your work

You can find guidance on [Canvas](#) in relation to the format of work – some of the key things to remember are that your work should be submitted as a pdf file and it should be identified only by your **candidate number**. Please note that your candidate number is different from your Student number and from your University Card number. You can find your Candidate Number by logging on to your [Student Self-Service](#) Account. Please note that your Candidate Number will not be available on Self-Service until after you have formally entered for your examinations.

Don't forget to **insert page numbers** throughout your document – this makes it a lot easier for markers to give feedback on specific points.

Submissions should be presented in scholarly form. If in doubt, you should follow a standard set of conventions, such as those prescribed by the Modern Humanities Research Association and set out in the [MHRA Style Guide](#).

Word count and word limits

A word count **must** be declared on the first page of your submission.

The word count includes:

- Main text of the essay
- Headings of each section of the essay, such as 'Introduction' or 'Conclusion'
- Content of footnotes (including works cited but excluding English translations of quotes given in the original language within the main text)

The word count does not include:

- Cover page
- Table of contents
- Lists of figures or illustrations
- Captions to illustrations
- Acknowledgements
- Appendices
- Bibliography or works cited
- Page numbers
- Footnote numbers

- Headers repeated at the top of each page (e.g. containing page numbers, candidate number, assessment unit number, etc)
- English translations in footnotes of quotes given in the original language within the main text.

Penalties for exceeding word limits

Penalties are applied to submissions which exceed the word limits – these are set out in the examination conventions (section 3.7) as follows:

Percentage by which the maximum word count is exceeded:	Cumulative mark penalty (up to a maximum of –10)
Up to 5% over word limit	-1 mark
Up to 10% over	-2 marks
Up to 15% over	-3 marks
Each further 1% - 5% over	-1 further mark

As noted above, the word count must be given on the first page of all submissions.

Work which is shorter than the recommended word count

As noted in section 3.5 of the examination conventions, there are no specific penalties for a submission which is shorter than the lower end of the word count range. However, work that is significantly under-length is more likely to be inadequate in its coverage and content in the context of the marking criteria.

Extensions to submission deadlines

Self-Certified Extensions: If you can't submit your coursework on time, i.e. due to a short term illness, you can apply directly for an extension of 7 calendar days (1 week) without providing independent evidence. This is known as a 'Self-Certified' extension and is granted automatically upon application via [Student Self-Service](#) (go to 'My exams', select 'extension requests' and click on 'start self-certification application'). Please note that you can only apply for a Self-Certified Extension twice during a single academic year. **All other extensions have to be applied for through your College and must be granted by the Proctors.**

Proctors' Extensions: To obtain an extension longer than a week, or in addition to, or instead of, a Self-Certified Extension you must apply via your College to the Proctors' Office and this application must be supported by independent evidence. For further information, please see: [Problems completing your assessment | University of Oxford](#)

PLEASE NOTE: any extension must be applied for in advance of the submission of the assessment. Extensions cannot be applied for once the assessment in question has been submitted.

Students are expected to manage their workload and take into account the impact of an extension on their other assessments. Extensions could delay the release of final results if the examiners are not able to mark the student's work in time for the final Board of Examiners meeting at the end of Trinity Term, which may also delay the student's graduation ceremony. Results that aren't able to be confirmed at the final Board of Examiners meeting may not be released until at least the following September, which may impact applications for further study or applying for the Graduate visa route to remain in the UK for work after your studies.

Applying for an adjustment to the examination regulations: If you have extenuating circumstances which require an adjustment to the examination regulations, the Faculty or your college may apply for a dispensation from the Education Committee on your behalf.

Penalties for late submission

Penalties will be applied for late submission where an extension has not previously been obtained from the Proctors or a dispensation given by the Education Committee. You can find these penalties listed in the examination conventions (section 3.6) as follows:

Lateness	Cumulative mark penalty
After the deadline but submitted on the same day	-5 marks
Each additional calendar day	-1 mark
Max. deducted marks up to 14 days late	-18 marks
More than 14 calendar days after the deadline	Fail

Language of submission

Work for the MSt in Yiddish Studies is normally written in English, but may be submitted in an appropriate language other than English, with the permission of the Director of Master's Courses (DMC). The application form is available on [Canvas](#), which you should complete in discussion with your course tutor and return to the Office for sign-off by the DMC.

The following restrictions in respect of language of submission apply:

- Method Options: the essays submitted for the courses on Key Questions in Critical Thought, Palaeography, History of the Book and Digital Humanities, and Spaces of Comparison must be written in English. Those written for the German Cultural Theory course may be written in English or German;
- At least one of the pieces of written work you submit over the course of the programme must be in English.
- A lack of competence in academic English is not an acceptable reason for requesting submission in another language.

Before seeking permission to write in a language other than English, you should consult with your course supervisors and give careful consideration to the wider implications of your request. It is important to recognise that the language of the work will to some extent determine the opportunities for subsequent publication and, ultimately, future career choices.

Quotations in foreign languages should be given in the text in the original language.

Translations into English should be provided in footnotes where there is an expectation that the work will be assessed by more than one sub-faculty, and it is largely a matter for the individual student and supervisor to decide whether this is the case. In any event, translations in the footnotes of material already included in the text will not contribute to the overall word-count (i.e. this material should not be counted twice).

Mitigating circumstances

If you are experiencing issues which are impacting on your ability to complete your assessment on time, please refer to guidance on the website: [Problems completing your assessment | University of Oxford](#). Your college can also offer advice and guidance if you are experiencing difficulties with your studies.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism (e.g. presenting the work or ideas of others as your own) is a serious breach of the examination regulations which can result in severe penalties if you are referred to the Proctors and found to be in breach. You can find out more about the definitions of plagiarism and how to avoid - deliberately or inadvertently - being guilty of this form of cheating on the [plagiarism web page](#) of the Oxford students website. There are also a range of [study skills guides and courses](#) available to help you develop good academic practice in your studies.

Academic appeals

An academic appeal is an appeal against a decision made by an examination board. It may only be made on certain grounds (for example, there was an error or bias in the decision-making process), and not on the basis that you disagree with the academic judgement of the examiners who marked your work. You can find out more about the grounds for appeal, and the process you should follow, on the [complaints and academic appeals](#) web page on the Oxford students website. **You should NOT contact the assessors or examiners directly about an academic appeal.**

GUIDANCE ON THE USE OF AI

The Faculty cautions students against the uncritical use of generative AI. In particular, the use of AI tools to prepare written texts will result in texts that will be bland, impersonal, and may contain rogue references (hallucinations, as they are often termed) to non-existent sources or works. It is therefore essential that students approach it as a critical tool, much as they would any other resource. You should ensure that you familiarise yourself with the regularly updated guidance on Canvas and the University's policy on [AI use in summative assessment](#). Students should also refer to their tutors or supervisors on any specific issues regarding the use of AI in method options, special subjects, dissertations or theses.

It is imperative that students understand that **submitting work for assessment that contains AI-generated content presented as their own work constitutes a breach of academic integrity and is considered plagiarism**, which is a disciplinary offence:

[Plagiarism | University of Oxford](#).

LIBRARY RESOURCES

Library membership

Your University Card (also known as a 'Bod Card' or Bodleian Card) functions as a library membership card for all the libraries in the Bodleian library system, including all the departmental, faculty and institute libraries across the University. You can register with any of these libraries using your University Card. Each college also has its own library for the use of members of the college, and each college library has its own policies regarding use by other readers – see the section 'Other Libraries in Oxford' below.

Taylorian Library & Humanities Library

As a Modern Languages student, your most important library will be the Taylor Institution (or Taylorian), which is the largest and best resourced Modern Languages library in the country. Find out more about the library and its collections here: [Taylor Institution Library | Bodleian Libraries \(ox.ac.uk\)](#)

You will also find useful material, resources, and study spaces in the Humanities Library, located in the Schwarzman Centre for the Humanities: [Humanities Library | Bodleian Libraries](#)

Bodleian Libraries, Manuscript Collections, and Catalogue (SOLO)

It is important to make yourself familiar at an early stage with all the bibliographical tools of research available in Oxford. The place to start is the Bodleian Libraries website, here: [Home | Bodleian Libraries](#). You will find all sorts of research resources and study support available through this website, as well as information about the bibliographic, manuscript, and special collections held by the Bodleian, and how to search and access these.

As well as its extensive holdings of published material, the Bodleian contains a world-famous collection of manuscripts, both medieval and later. As a student of the University you have access to these collections. You can request material through the Bodleian Archives & Manuscripts service: [Bodleian Archives & Manuscripts](#). It will be delivered to the Weston Library for you to consult in dedicated reading rooms: [Weston Library | Bodleian Libraries](#).

For published material, the Bodleian Catalogue can be consulted online via SOLO (Search Oxford Libraries Online), here: [SOLO | Bodleian Libraries](#) – This catalogue includes almost all the bibliographic and electronic holdings available in Oxford through the Bodleian Libraries system, the departmental and faculty libraries, institutes, and college libraries.

Other Libraries in Oxford

You can register as a reader in almost any library in the University library system (with the exception of the colleges, each of which has its own policy). This means that you can use the libraries of other faculties and departments, and also institutes like the Maison Française and Rhodes House. The latter, for example, contains material of considerable importance to modernists. The holdings of the older college libraries may also be of interest, especially to those working on pre-1800 literature (requests for access should be addressed to the college librarian in each case).

HELP AND FEEDBACK ON WRITING – ROYAL LITERARY FELLOW

We are pleased to advise that, for the 2026-27 academic year, the Faculty has a dedicated Fellow in post to assist students with their writing skills and academic literacy.

Modern Languages students at **any** level of study (from first year to postgraduate) – and staff – are welcome to book a session with our Royal Literary Fund Fellow, **Elizabeth Lowry**. Sessions are in-person in Room 30.513 at the MML Faculty, Schwarzman Centre, Woodstock Road, Oxford OX2 6GG.

Elizabeth Lowry is a professional writer who can help you improve your academic writing and make the whole process more enjoyable. Each session lasts 50 minutes and is free and confidential: this service is independent from university services for students.

Possible **topics** you might discuss include:

- understanding the title and scope of the question
- how to read with purpose and make notes effectively before you start writing
- how to express yourself so that you're engaging your reader – who also happens to be your tutor or examiner
- how to use AI in a way that empowers rather than deskills you.
- rewriting and editing your work so that **you continue to gain in confidence**

You are very welcome to contact the Royal Literary Fellow with any specific needs you have. Please note, though, that they do not undertake proofreading or EAP and TEFL tuition.

Details about the appointments available can be found on Canvas. To enquire or book your online session, email: elizabeth.lowry@rlfeducation.org.uk

By making an appointment you indicate that you understand and accept the following:

Disclaimer:

The Fellow is not employed by the university or funded by it; the Fellow is a self-employed published writer and provides an independent service as a non-academic expert in writing; the Fellow is required to work within parameters established and monitored by the Royal Literary Fund (RLF), organiser and funder of the service; the Fellow may therefore be unable to assist with certain types of enquiry and, with reference to these parameters, has the right to refuse to provide the service to any student; the Fellow and the RLF do not accept any liability for any direct, indirect, special, consequential or other losses or damages of any kind arising from use of the service by a student; students retain sole responsibility for their own work.

Privacy

The Royal Literary Fund stores the data you provide for the duration of the Fellowship. The Fellow also completes and retains a record of each tutorial session. This data is stored electronically. We collect and store this data solely for the purposes of providing the Fellowship service and monitoring the effectiveness of that service, and retain it only as long as is necessary for these purposes. Only RLF staff and contracted personnel have access, and that data is not shared with any third party. The university/college and its staff are not given access to your personal data.

STUDY SKILLS SUPPORT

If you feel you would benefit from study skills training or guidance to help you perform to your best ability on your course, check out the courses and resources available to you here: [Study skills and training | University of Oxford](#)

GRADUATE STUDY SPACES

There are dedicated study spaces for graduate students on Floor 1 and Floor 2 of the Humanities Library in the Schwarzman Centre: on each floor a 32-seater room for individual study and an 8-seater room for individual or group study (bookable - arrangements to be confirmed). This provision complements graduate study space in the Schwarzman Centre and general study space elsewhere in the Humanities Library.

There is also a graduate reading room in the [Taylor Institution Library](#).

WELLBEING

The University's unique and close-knit collegiate system provides a wealth of pastoral and welfare services for students to support engagement with studies and University life, promoting student wellbeing by providing opportunities for social interaction and sport and the arts. Additionally, the central Student Welfare and Support Services department offers professional support that complements provision in colleges and departments.

Welfare support services

Information about what student welfare services are available can be found on the [Welfare and Wellbeing pages](#) on the University website:

- The [Disability Advisory Service](#) (DAS) can provide information, advice and guidance on the way in which a particular disability may impact on your student experience at the University and assist with organising disability-related study support.

- The [Counselling Service](#) is here to help you address personal or emotional problems that get in the way of having a good experience at Oxford and realising your full academic and personal potential. The counselling team is committed to providing culturally sensitive and appropriate psychological services. Students can request to see a male or female therapist, a Counsellor of Colour, or to attend a specialist group such as the LGBTQ+ or Students of Colour Groups. All support is free and confidential.
- The [Sexual Harassment and Violence Support Service](#) provides a safe and confidential space for any student, of any gender, sexuality or sexual orientation, who has been impacted by sexual harassment or violence, domestic or relationship abuse, coercive control or stalking, whenever or wherever this took place.
- A range of services led by students are available to help provide support to other students, including the [peer support network](#) and [Nightline](#). The Oxford Student Union (SU) also offers free, confidential and independent information, advice and guidance on navigating college and university processes. They have a wide range of online resources available on their [website](#) and if you need further support you can get in touch with them via their [Online Form](#).

College Welfare Support

Every college has its own systems of support for students, including the college tutor for graduates, a designated college adviser for each student, the Chaplain, and the college nurse and doctor. In addition, there is peer support from the Middle Common Room (MCR), which elects student officers with special responsibility for welfare. Please refer to your college handbook or website for more information on who to contact and what support is available through your college.

Equality and Diversity

"The University of Oxford is committed to fostering an inclusive culture which promotes equality, values diversity and maintains a working, learning and social environment in which the rights and dignity of all its staff and students are respected. We recognise that the broad range of experiences that a diverse staff and student body brings strengthens our research and enhances our teaching, and that in order for Oxford to remain a world-leading institution we must continue to provide a diverse, inclusive, fair and open environment that allows everyone to grow and flourish." [University of Oxford Equality Policy](#)

As a member of the University you contribute towards making it an inclusive environment and we ask that you treat other members of the University community with respect, courtesy and consideration.

The [Equality and Diversity Unit](#) works with all parts of the collegiate University to develop and promote an understanding of equality and diversity and ensure that this is reflected in all its processes. The Unit also supports the University in meeting the legal requirements of the Equality Act 2010, including eliminating unlawful discrimination, promoting equality of opportunity and fostering good relations between people with and without the 'protected characteristics' of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion and/or belief, sex and sexual orientation. Visit their [website](#) for further details or contact them directly for advice on equality@admin.ox.ac.uk

The Equality and Diversity Unit also supports a broad network of harassment advisors in departments/faculties and colleges and a central [Harassment Advisory Service](#). The harassment officer in the Faculty of Medieval and Modern Languages is Alejandra Crosta.

Religion and Belief

There are a wide range of faith societies, belief groups, and religious centres within Oxford University that are open to students and can be important sources of support. For more information visit the [religious life](#) page.

University and College Clubs and Societies

Sometimes it is important to take a break from studying and there is no shortage of opportunities in Oxford to get involved in sport, theatre, the arts, politics, journalism, etc. alongside your academic commitments. There are a wide range of student clubs and societies across the University and the Colleges, which you can find listed here: [student clubs and societies](#).

DEVELOPMENT AND FURTHER STUDY

Funding

The Faculty encourages graduate students to make visits abroad, familiarise themselves with library resources, make contact with scholars in their field, and attend conferences (particularly if giving a paper).

Modern Languages students may also be eligible for funding from the wider University. You should consult the [student fees and funding website](#) for more information.

Prizes and Awards

There are a number of prizes and awards available to Modern Languages graduate students – a list is available on the Graduate Studies [Canvas](#) site.

Careers

[Careers, University of Oxford](#), helps students develop skills, explore career options and prepare for their future through dedicated events, one-to-one advice, resources, and more. The [careers guidance webpages](#) are freely accessible to anyone exploring their career options.

Humanities Researcher Development & Training Programme

The [Humanities Researcher Development & Training Programme](#) offers a wide range of interactive workshops, events, resources and opportunities to support your personal and professional development. We are here to help you:

- Complete your research on time and to a high standard.
- Think about what you are going to do afterwards.

Our workshops and events are open to Master's and DPhil students and postdoctoral researchers (including teaching-only and college-only appointments). Most of our events are free, but some require a £20 deposit which will be returned once you have attended the course, or cancel more than 72 hours before the event start time.

Our programme is organised into four training pathways. Together, they encourage you to build skills that strengthen both your research and your personal development.

- Preparation for Academic Practice Pathway: Resources to support all aspects of your development as a researcher, from writing book proposals to preparing for the DPhil viva

- Public Engagement with Research Pathway: Skills and tools to enable researchers to communicate, collaborate and inspire beyond the academy. Workshops include storytelling, Presentation Delivery Skills and How to Organise a Conference
- Teaching Pathway: Supports Humanities researchers who are currently teaching (or intend to teach) at Oxford
- Career Confidence: Resources and opportunities tailored to the interests, skills and preferred career destinations of Humanities researchers.

See <https://researcherdevelopment.humanities.ox.ac.uk/events> for the calendar of upcoming events and for more information about the programme.

You can also email the Humanities Researcher Development and Training Team at training@humanities.ox.ac.uk if you have any queries.

Further Study

In Michaelmas Term, the DMC and DGS host a workshop for Master's students on applying for a DPhil – look out for the email from the MML Graduate Office. If you wish to apply to stay in Oxford to do a research degree, you should start thinking about this early in the academic year and begin talking to relevant people as soon as possible. Consult with your core and special subject tutors, dissertation supervisor, the Director of Masters Courses, and the Graduate Studies Office for advice in Michaelmas term. Applications should normally be made in the first submission round (i.e. the January deadline) to be considered for funding support. Applications made in the March submission round cannot be considered for funding support. Admission to the DPhil depends primarily on your mark in the MSt dissertation, where a mark of 67 or better will normally be expected.

Graduate Conference

Each year the student reps (through the Graduate Joint Consultative Committee) organise a conference for all graduate students, with speakers invited from around the world. Look out for the emails advertising the event and calling for papers.

STUDENT COMPLAINTS

Oxford University is a world-leading centre of learning, teaching and research, and is committed to providing a high-quality educational experience, fully supported by academic and administrative services and facilities, to all of our students. However, we recognise that occasionally things can go wrong, and measures are in place to address student concerns about different aspects of their experience.

We always try to resolve any problems locally in the first instance, so if your concern relates to teaching or services provided by the Faculty, please bring it to the attention of the Director of Masters Courses (dmc@mod-langs.ox.ac.uk). If you are not happy with the outcome of the local investigation, you may escalate your concern to the Proctors – the procedures to be followed are set out on the [complaints and academic appeals web page](#) on the Oxford students' website.

General concerns affecting the student cohort should be brought to the attention of your student reps, who can raise the matter at the Graduate Joint Consultative Committee (GJCC), Graduate Studies Committee (GSC), or with the Committee on Library Provision and Strategy (CLiPS).