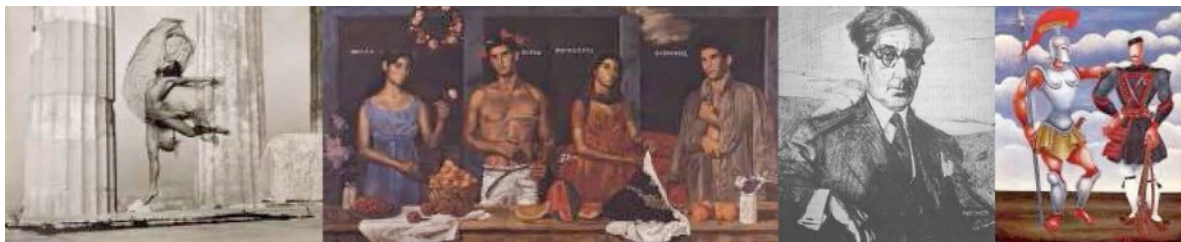


UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD



FACULTY OF MEDIEVAL AND MODERN LANGUAGES SUB-FACULTY OF BYZANTINE AND MODERN GREEK

Information for prospective undergraduate students (beginners and non-beginners)
of **Modern Greek** at the University of Oxford



A Presentation of the Department of Byzantine and Modern Greek

The sub-faculty of Byzantine and Modern Greek at Oxford is unique in that it is the only department in Britain which offers Medieval and Modern Greek as a major component of a BA degree, and one of the select few where Modern Greek can be studied at graduate level.

With a history of teaching Modern Greek since 1908 and the official establishment of the Bywater and Sotheby Professorship of Byzantine and Modern Greek Language and Literature in 1915, Oxford is also the longest-standing centre for the study of Medieval and Modern Greek literature and culture outside Greece.

Currently specialising in the Medieval, Early Modern and Modern periods, our teaching and research cover topics ranging from Byzantine poetry and Cretan Renaissance drama, to C.P. Cavafy, Nikos Kazantzakis, Yannis Ritsos and George Seferis, the cultural politics of the Greek 1960s and contemporary Greek popular music and cinema.

Of the members of the sub-faculty, Professor Marc Lauxtermann teaches Medieval and Early Modern Greek language and literature and Greek linguistics, Associate Professor Dimitris Papanikolaou teaches Modern Greek literature and culture, and Kostas Skordyles teaches Modern Greek language, translation and history. Associate Professor Constanze Guthenke, of the Faculty of Classics, also contributes to the teaching of Modern Greek literature and culture (esp. Poetry and the Reception of Classical Literature). The sub-faculty additionally collaborates with a broad network of scholars and specialists from Oxford and beyond, who participate in our undergraduate teaching, graduate seminars and colloquia.

Housed in the Taylor Institution Library and the main Bodleian Library, the Oxford University Modern Greek collection and its archival annex (which includes the important collection of R.M. Dawkins; 1871–1955), alongside the materials housed by Oriental Institute and the Sackler Libraries as well as the libraries of other faculties and colleges, combine to

make Oxford one of the most comprehensive research collections in Modern Greek language, culture and history outside Greece.

Led by a close community of students, researchers and tutors, the life in the department weaves undergraduate teaching with running graduate seminars, workshops, conferences, film screenings and cultural events open to the public, making the sub-faculty a dynamic hub for Modern Greek and Byzantine Studies.

In addition to the other modern language sub-faculties of the Faculty of Medieval and Modern Languages, we maintain close links with the Faculty of Classics and the Faculty of History of the university, as well as SEESOX (South East European Studies at Oxford), the Archive of Performances of Greek and Roman Drama (APGRD), the Oxford Centre for Byzantine Research, the Hellenic Centre in London, as well with as the Society for Modern Greek Studies and the Oxford Greek Society.

The members of the Subfaculty play a central role in the editorial committees of the three main journals in the field published in Britain: *Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies*, *Modern Greek Studies Online* & *Journal of Greek Media and Culture*.

The sub-faculty of Byzantine and Modern Greek is also the beneficiary of a generous support grant from the Alexander S. Onassis Public Benefit Foundation, through which we ensure the on-going organisation of a range of successful lectures, seminars, conferences and public engagement events.

A Presentation of the Course and Some Frequently Asked Questions

Can I study Modern Greek from scratch?

Applicants who do not hold an A-Level or equivalent knowledge of Modern Greek are able to study the language *ab initio* (i.e. from scratch). Each year the department of Medieval and Modern Greek receives applications from candidates with diverse ethnic backgrounds, and whose incentives to study the language, literature and culture of Greece stem from a range of interests and encounters. An interest in learning languages and an inquiring spirit are essential and often discussed during your interview at Oxford, which is further supported, in the case of *ab initio* applicants by the Language Aptitude Test (LAT) which all candidates without an A-Level are normally expected to sit.

Which Colleges should I apply to?

Most Oxford Colleges admitting Modern Languages candidates, can accept an application for Modern Greek too (but it is worth checking with the College you are thinking of applying to before finalizing your application). However, some colleges have a tradition of accepting students in Modern Greek and currently host most undergraduates in the subject; these are: Christ Church, Wadham, St Peter's, St. Catherine's, Lady Margaret Hall.

Since the teaching of Modern Greek takes place in the Department and the tutorial groups are made of students from different colleges, your choice of college will not affect your Modern Greek programme.

For any further questions on this issue, please write to Prof. Dimitris Papanikolaou at dimitris.papanikolaou@mod-langs.ox.ac.uk

Undergraduate Studies: Degree Structure

Modern Greek is offered as part of a joint BA programme, meaning that undergraduates are required to study Greek in combination with a second language or another subject. These programmes are ideal for applicants looking to incorporate cultural and disciplinary diversity into their studies and/or who are intrigued by how different fields intersect and converse with one another. Oxford offers a broad range of options which can be combined with Medieval and Modern Greek, namely: another European or Middle Eastern language, English, Classics, Linguistics, History or Philosophy.

As an undergraduate student reading for a joint degree combining two languages offered by the Faculty of Medieval and Modern Languages (Modern Greek with French, Spanish, German, Italian, Portuguese, Czech or Russian), you will spend around half of your timetabled and independent study hours on Modern Greek language and literature, and half on your other language of choice. The joint degree is four years in length and students usually spend the third year of their course abroad.

If you are opting to combine Modern Greek with a language or subject offered by another Oxford faculty (known as 'Joint Schools') the regulations vary slightly according to the combination. Indicatively:

- *Modern Greek and a Middle Eastern Language*: Students are able to take Medieval and Modern Greek in combination with Arabic, Hebrew, Persian or Turkish; the year abroad usually takes place in the second year, with students following an approved course of study in the Middle East.
- *Modern Greek and English*: Students are able to take four or five papers in Medieval and Modern Greek (out of a total of eight or nine).
- *Modern Greek and Classics*: Students are asked to choose between taking Medieval and Modern Greek or Classics as their first (or main) subject.
 - A student opting to take Medieval and Modern Greek as their first subject will: (i) take the Preliminary Examination in Modern Greek at the end of their first year in Oxford; (ii) study either Ancient Greek or Latin; (iii) take six papers in Medieval and Modern Greek (out of a total of ten throughout the degree, with the optional addition of an Extended Essay in the final year).
 - A student opting to take Classics as their first subject will: (i) undertake a degree that is five years in length; (ii) take Classics Moderations at the end of their fifth term in Oxford (rather than the Preliminary Examination in Modern Greek); (iii) study both Ancient Greek and Latin; (iv) spend their fourth year abroad and return to Oxford in their fifth year; (v) take four papers in Medieval and Modern Greek (out of a total of ten, where the additional option of the Extended Essay can focus on a topic related to Medieval and Modern Greek);
- *Modern Greek and History*: Students may take four papers in Medieval and Modern Greek out a total of nine.
- *Modern Greek and Philosophy*: Students may take between five and seven papers in Medieval and Modern Greek.

In the sub-faculty of Byzantine and Modern Greek, your timetable will balance practical language training with classes and tutorials on Modern Greek literature, as well as with classes and lectures on the history and culture of Greece. In your first year (the Preliminary Course), language will be taught in small-group classes (or one-on-one for students with no prior knowledge of Modern Greek). The literature syllabus will provide you with a broad

introduction to nineteenth and twentieth-century Greek poetry, prose works and other cultural texts (from the stories of Papadimantis and Vizyenos, to the poetry of Seferis, Ritsos, Cavafy and Angelaki-Rooke, and from Costas Taktsis's *The Third Wedding* to Theo Angelopoulos's film *The Travelling Players*). This choice of literary and cultural texts will equip you with a range of analytical skills to approach genre, form and context.

Following the Preliminary Examination at the end of their first year at Oxford, students are admitted to the Final Honour School in Modern Greek (FHS, which encompasses the second to the fourth year of study). Along with the continued study of language, the second year in Modern Greek offers the opportunity to work on a range of literary and cultural movements (Romanticism, Demoticism, Modernism, Surrealism etc.) and to focus on specific areas of interest upon consultation with their tutor (including Medieval and Early Modern Greek language and literature, historical linguistics, translation theory, the work of individual authors, literary adaptations in Greek cinema, and gender and/in literature).

In your final year, you will have the option to focus on a choice of Medieval and/or Renaissance texts, and/or on two Modern writers, and/or a Special Subject from a long list of options divided by theme (ranging from Greek cinema and advanced Modern Greek translation, to popular culture in twentieth-century Greece). The Final Honour School Examination in Medieval and Modern Greek includes a compulsory oral examination, and students are additionally offered the option of writing an Extended Essay on an approved topic of their choice.

The Year Abroad

The year abroad is one of the most exciting parts of reading for a language degree at Oxford. If you are studying Modern Greek in combination with another language offered by the Faculty of Medieval and Modern Languages, you will usually spend half of your third year in Athens or another Greek city, studying at a Greek university or as a paid language assistant in a foreign school.

How do I prepare for Modern Greek at Oxford?

Applicants are advised to read around and familiarise themselves with the literature and culture of Greece as much as possible. A helpful introductory bibliography includes:

- Beaton R., *An Introduction to Modern Greek Literature* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, [1994] 1999)
- Clogg R., *A Concise History of Greece*, 3rd edn (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2013)
- Ricks, D. (ed.), *Modern Greek Writing: An Anthology in English Translation* (London: Peter Owen Publishers, 2003).

Remember: if you have any questions about your preparation and the course, do not hesitate to contact:

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More information on the Department's structure and events can be found on our website <http://www.mod-langs.ox.ac.uk/modern-greek> as well as on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/moderngreekstudiesoxford/>