

# Course Information Sheet for entry in 2026–27

## Undergraduate Certificate in the History of Art

### About the course

Taught at first-year undergraduate level, the part-time Certificate in the History of Art is designed to introduce students to the study of the history of art as an academic discipline. The course explores issues of artistic production, display, meaning, and value across a range of historical and cultural contexts. Students are introduced to a variety of concepts and methods to help them analyse and understand works of art in their historical context.

Taught through a combination of online digital learning and in-person teaching, this course supports a student-focused and transformative learning environment. Online asynchronous (self-paced) instruction will include reading materials (materials in the Virtual Learning Environment and set texts from journal articles, textbooks, exhibition catalogues, and books), videos, forum activities, and online exercises, as well as independent study such as essay preparation and research. Some online units will take the form of case studies, allowing students to study in-depth around a particular topic, while others will offer theoretical or methodological approaches that can be employed across periods and regions.

Students will usually meet in person three times per term, on select Fridays. These days are expected to run from 10am-5.30pm, mostly consisting of two classroom sessions and a visit to an art collection or site in Oxford. This teaching is expected to take place at Rewley House, 1 Wellington Square, Oxford, OX1 2JA. Additionally, there are two Saturday visits per year, usually to London museums, provisionally scheduled for week 8 of Michaelmas and Hilary terms.

The Friday Residences are usually held in-person, but may be moved online, rescheduled or revised if necessary e.g. as a result of a pandemic.

### Course structure

#### Year 1

1. The first term (Michaelmas) covers *Looking at Art: Ways of Seeing*;
2. The second term (Hilary) covers *What is Art?*;
3. The final term (Trinity) covers *Art in the World*.

The first year of the Certificate will introduce students to the key skills in the History of Art.

The first term teaches skills in visual analysis and the vocabulary required to describe and interpret works of art, considering issues of materiality, technique, and style.

The second term considers what makes a work of art, addressing issues of definition, display, value, and categorisation, including the roles of institutions such as museums and galleries.

Term three considers the interpretive models to understand and interpret works of art, including key theories, methods and concepts, with case studies drawn from the Italian Renaissance and French Impressionism.

## **Year 2**

1. The first term (Michaelmas) covers *Medieval Worlds*;
2. The second term (Hilary) covers *Renaissances*;
3. The final term (Trinity) covers *Modernities*.

The second year of the Certificate in History of Art will provide students with an historical survey of the History of Art from the medieval period to the present. While the course follows a broadly chronological structure, it also often adopts a thematic approach that enables connections to be made across periods and regions.

## **Assessment**

### **Year 1**

Formative:

- Task 1: Formative Visual Analysis (500 words)
- Task 2: Formative Primary Source Analysis (500 words)
- Task 3: Formative Writing Labels (700 words)

Summative:

- Assignment 1: Summative 1,500-word essay
- Assignment 2: Summative 1,500-word essay
- Assignment 3: Summative Object Biographies, 1,500 words
- Assignment 4: Summative 2,500-word essay

### **Year 2**

Formative:

- Task 1: Formative Medieval materiality critical analysis and presentation. 700 words.
- Task 2: Formative Research proforma.

Summative:

- Assignment 1: Summative Medieval essay. 2,500 words.
- Assignment 2: Summative early modern essay. 2,500 words.
- Assignment 3: Summative Contemporary/modern reflection, 750 words.
- Assignment 4: Summative 4,500 words essay research project. Title to be selected from a list of questions or agreed with the course director.

There is no formal examination at the end of the Certificate course.

## **Attendance**

Candidates are expected to attend a minimum of:

- i. 75% of the taught classes per year and
- ii. Three study visits per year
- iii. Three group tutorials per year

## Changes to courses

The University will seek to deliver this course in accordance with the description set out in this course information sheet. 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. The safety of students, staff and visitors is paramount and major changes to delivery or services may have to be made in circumstances of a pandemic (including Covid-19), epidemic or local health emergency. In addition, 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 course requirements for international study.

You can find full information under “Changes to Courses” (sections 33 to 39) in the [Terms and Conditions for non-matriculated students](#)

## Expected length of course

2 years

## Annual fees for entry in 2026–27

Fee Status	Annual Course Fees
Home	£3,725
Overseas	£7,025

Course fees are payable each year, for the duration of your fee liability (your fee liability is the length of time for which you are required to pay course fees). For courses lasting longer than one year, please be aware that fees will usually increase annually. For details, please see [Changes to fees and charges | University of Oxford](#)

Course fees cover your teaching as well as other academic services and facilities provided to support your studies. Unless specified in the additional cost information (below), course fees do not cover accommodation, residential costs or other living costs. They also do not cover any additional costs and charges that are outlined in the additional cost information.

## Fee status

Broadly speaking, your fee status depends on your nationality, your immigration status in the UK, where you have been living and what you have been doing for the three years prior to the start of your course. Please refer to the [Undergraduate fee status](#) pages for more information.

## Information for applicants from the EU, EEA and Switzerland

On 11 May 2021 the UK Council for International Student Affairs published [new regulations and guidance](#) to be used in assessing the fee status of students commencing courses in August 2021 and later. We will be using this guidance to carry out fee status assessments for students commencing courses in 2026-27 and later, including students from the EU, EEA and Switzerland.

If you are an EU national and do not live in the UK then you are likely to be charged Overseas fees. Students with settled and pre-settled status in the UK and some other categories of students who work in the UK can qualify for Home fee status as long as they meet the residence criteria.

### **Additional cost information**

Students are not required to buy books, but there may be a few recommended key texts which you may choose to buy. Transport for trips and visits is normally arranged on a car sharing basis by the students themselves. Entry fees to museums and galleries are paid individually by the students.

You will also need a computer which meets our minimum specification, with access to the internet and various other software programmes. Please see the [system requirements webpage](#) for full details.

For most Oxford students and alumni, the [eDocuments](#) service provides electronic versions of your academic documents. These can be downloaded in support of employment or further study applications and shared via with third parties (e.g. verification companies, prospective employers, and other Higher Education Institutions). You will need to register for this service to access your final transcript

- The **eDocuments registration fee for students completing in 2025-26 is £17**. Please be aware that this fee will usually increase annually.
- This fee provides unlimited access to all available documents, and will include any further documents that are issued to you in the future. The service can also be used to print copies of documents at home. Please note that available documents depend on when you commenced your studies and/or your course progression. Please visit the “For Students/Alumni” tab for further guidance.

Your award certificate will be sent to you by post, usually in the January following the ratification of your results. It is your responsibility to ensure that your address is correctly recorded in Student Self-Service when you finish your course, as this is where we will send your certificate. If you have not received your certificate by the end of the April following ratification (for example, April 2027 if you complete in 2026), you must notify [undergraduate@conted.ox.ac.uk](mailto:undergraduate@conted.ox.ac.uk) within this timeframe. Failure to do so may result in a charge for a replacement certificate.

### **Living costs (in-person courses)**

In addition to your course fees and any additional course-specific costs, you will need to ensure that you have adequate funds to support your living costs for the duration of your course.

For the 2026–27 academic year, the range of likely living costs for full-time study is between c. £1,405 and £2,105 for each month spent in Oxford. Full information, including a breakdown of likely living costs in Oxford for items such as food, accommodation and study costs, is available on our living costs page at [Fees and funding - living-costs](#). When planning your finances for any future years of study in Oxford beyond 2026-27, you should allow for an estimated increase in living expenses of 5% or more each year, although this rate may vary significantly depending on how the national economic situation develops.

The living costs above are based on single, full-time students living in Oxford. While it may be the case that, as a part-time student, you will not be based in Oxford during your studies, you will still need to cover your cost of living on a full-time basis. If this applies to you, you should calculate your living costs to be sure that you have sufficient funding to meet these costs for the duration of your

course. In particular, part-time students who are not based in Oxford will need to calculate travel and accommodation costs carefully. Please note that living costs outside Oxford may be different from those shown above.

**Document accessibility**

If you require an accessible version of this document please contact [undergraduate@conted.ox.ac.uk](mailto:undergraduate@conted.ox.ac.uk).