

Course Information Sheet for entry in 2026–27

Undergraduate Diploma in English Social and Local History

About the course

This two-year part-time course introduces you to English social and local history from the early medieval period to the late twentieth century. Taught at second-year undergraduate level, it is for anyone with a passion for history who wants to explore how the lives of ordinary people were shaped by the same forces that transformed nations.

Across the course you will study two topics in depth, either focusing on a particular period or following a theme across several centuries. The Diploma combines social history, examining how politics, religion, industry and reform shaped English society, with local history, which considers how those same forces impacted particular places. By looking at the lives of everyday people, you will see how wider events left their mark on daily life. At the same time, you will develop skills in critical interpretation, independent research and historical analysis.

Teaching is delivered through six Oxford-based residential weekends each year, combining lectures, seminars and occasional visits. Each session is taught by a subject specialist, giving you the chance to learn directly from a leading historian in that field. The weekends introduce you to a range of topics within broader periods and you can explore further what interests you most. Accommodation may be available at Rewley House during the residential weekends at an additional charge.

The Diploma has two modules, which divide into pre-1660 (Module One) and post-1660 (Module Two). You can take the modules in either order. Students starting the course in 2026 will study Module 1 first, followed by Module 2 in 2027-28.

Module 1: English Social and Local History to c.1660

This module covers the period from the later Anglo-Saxons (roughly c.800CE) to the Restoration of the monarchy following the Civil Wars and Republic (1640–60). Its emphasis is on the lives, occupations, beliefs and environments of people and the communities they lived in. It covers such diverse topics as church and religion, monasteries, the changing nature of towns and rural communities, the worlds of work and leisure, migration and population change, and the Black Death. Later parts cover the Reformation, social change under the Tudors and early Stuarts, and the breakdown of English society leading up to and during the Civil Wars. Additional activities usually include a visit to Oxford college chapels and a trip to Winchester. Special subjects offered in Module 1 will depend on available tutors, but have previously included English Landscape History 1100-1650, Popular Politics and Rebellion, 1381-1607, and the English Civil War and Republic.

Module 2: English Social and Local History from c.1660

This module covers the period after the Restoration and up to the late 20th century. It looks at how the dramatic social changes of modernity have changed the lives of English people and their communities. Topics range from the vibrancy of Restoration society – the age of Samuel Pepys, the Great Fire of London, coffee houses, William Hogarth, and the East India Company – through the

Georgian and Victorian worlds. It covers the impact of enclosure, industrialisation, and the growth of empire, as well as the wealth and poverty of Victorian England. Later topics include the impact of the World Wars, and the drastic social changes brought by the 20th century. Additional activities usually include a field trip to Bath, a workshop on sources about crime and poverty, and a workshop on oral history. Special subjects offered in Module 2 will depend on available tutors, but have previously included The Restoration: Society and Politics in England, 1660-1700, Family and Community in Rural England, 1650-1900, and Social Unrest and Popular Politics, 1840-1940.

Assessment

For each module, students will be required to complete:

- three coursework assignments (2500 words essays);
- one source work exercise (3000 words), commenting on selected primary sources.
- one extended essay (6,000 words) set by special subject tutors;

Attendance

In each module candidates are expected to attend a minimum of 80% of the sessions.

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	£4,095
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 expected to make their own travel arrangements and cover their costs for field trips and visits. Any entry fees are paid individually by the students. Accommodation for the residential weekends is not included in the course fee. Accommodation may be available at Rewley House for the residential weekends at an additional charge.

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 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