



The Taylor Institution Library

Further information and contacts

You can find further information on our website:
www.mod-langs.ox.ac.uk

Here you will find details of all our courses, as well as information on the admissions process and frequently asked questions. You may wish to contact the Modern Languages Faculty directly with an enquiry, or to request a copy of the University's Undergraduate Prospectus and the Faculty's Modern Languages brochure:

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MODERN GREEK AT OXFORD UNIVERSITY



UNIVERSITY OF
OXFORD

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. 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.

You may also wish to attend one of the many Open Days organized by the colleges and the University (details on our website), to direct specific enquiries to the admissions office of a college you are interested in, or check out the modern languages Schools Blog, Adventures on the Bookshelf, at <http://bookshelf.mml.ox.ac.uk>.

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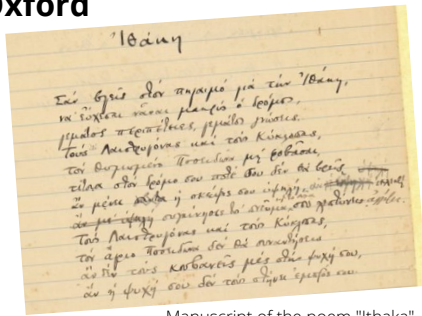
Greek is one of the longest living and most influential languages in the world. An official language in Greece, Cyprus and the EU, Modern Greek is also spoken by heritage speakers in the US, Australia, eastern Europe, as well as a growing number of new learners.

Modern Greek at Oxford

OXFORD is the longest-standing centre for the study of Medieval and Modern Greek literature and culture outside Greece, 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. 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. From the Greek folk songs to the poems of Kiki Dimoula and Katerina Anghelaki-Rooke, and from Erotokritos to Lanthimos, our courses combine the literary and cultural study of Greece over the centuries, and include

“ You are constantly encouraged to delve further into a subject, push yourself and expand your thinking.”

LARA, UNDERGRADUATE IN MODERN GREEK



Manuscript of the poem "Ithaka" by C.P. Cavafy (1863-1933)

dedicated surveys of contemporary history, popular music, theatre and cinema. 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 the Oriental institute, the Sackler Libraries and the libraries of other faculties and colleges, make Oxford one of the most comprehensive research collections in Modern Greek language, culture and history outside Greece.

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.

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.

Applicants who do not hold an A-Level or equivalent knowledge of Modern Greek are able to study the language from scratch. Each year the department of Medieval and Modern Greek receives applications from candidates with diverse backgrounds, and whose incentives to study the

language, literature and Culture of Greece stem from a range of interests and encounters.

In your first year, language will be taught in small-group classes. The literature syllabus will provide you with a broad introduction to nineteenth and twentieth-century Greek poetry, prose works and other cultural texts, which will equip you with a range of analytical skills to approach genre, form and context.

In the second year, along with the continued study of language, you will work on a range of literary and cultural movements (Romanticism, Demoticism, Modernism, Surrealism etc.) and focus on specific areas of interest in consultation with your tutor (including Medieval and Early Modern Greek language and literature, historical linguistics, translation theory, the work of individual authors, Greek cinema, and gender and/in literature). These interests can be further pursued in your final year, which also offers the option of writing an Extended Essay on an approved topic of your choice.



Maria Polydouri, poet (1902-1930)



Nikos Engonopoulos (1907-1985), The Poet and the Muse (detail)

Year Abroad

The year abroad is one of the most exciting parts of a language degree at Oxford, offering you an opportunity to be immersed in the culture(s) of the languages that you are studying. 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 working as a paid language assistant in a school abroad.

“ Languages as subjects are far more than simply speaking and writing, and it has been hugely enjoyable to have studied the literary and cinematic works which the language offers as well as attending seminars on a wide range of issues within Greek culture and society.”

GABRIEL, UNDERGRADUATE IN MODERN GREEK & GERMAN

“ The language education is highly personalised and well-paced.”

ANDREAS, UNDERGRADUATE IN MODERN GREEK & CLASSICS

“ I love how much freedom I have to delve into whichever authors and literary movements I want. A unique aspect is the bond Greece has with its classical civilisation. The literature often has echoes of ancient history, but is brought to the surface by the living, tangible, and far more anarchic voices of the present.”

PHOEBE, UNDERGRADUATE IN MODERN GREEK & PHILOSOPHY