

The Exeter JCR Guide to Academic Life 2023-2024

This guide has been written and put together by the Academic Affairs Officer of the JCR, Eve, to help our students, current and prospective, understand and cope with the academic life of being a student at Oxford.

Welcome from Eve:

Hello! I'm Eve, the current JCR Academic Affairs officer. This page contains information from Exeter's subject reps (one for each subject- more or less!) who have written descriptions of how their course works at our college. Some details may vary from year to year, so if it doesn't sound quite like how your course is running, don't panic! Subject reps are one of the main points of contact for undergrads if things aren't going quite right in your academics- you can contact them for tips about completing an essay or problem sheet, how to balance work, or more specific questions about your course. They've already finished at least a year of their subject, so they (most likely) know what they're talking about.

As well as the subject reps, you can contact the Academic Affairs officer (me, eve.campbell@exeter.ox.ac.uk), or your college parents, who will be studying either the same subject as you or a very similar one. Of course, one of the best sources of academic advice is your tutors- they'll know a lot about your course (but have probably forgotten what it's like to study it as an undergrad.)

Work at Oxford is a big step up from secondary school, and absolutely everyone struggles at some point. Don't be afraid to reach out, and best of luck in your time at Exeter!

Subject Representatives:

To help, here are the contact details of our subject representatives for each individual subject. They all want you to reach out, so please email them!

Biochemistry:	Maisie Young maisie.young@exeter.ox.ac.uk
Biomedical Sciences:	Beth Lawton beth.lawton@exeter.ox.ac.uk
Chemistry:	Nada Omar nada.omar@exeter.ox.ac.uk
Classical Archaeology and Ancient History:	Thant Thura thant.thura@exeter.ox.ac.uk
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Classics and AMES:	
Classics and English:	Eve Campbell eve.campbell@exeter.ox.ac.uk
Classics and Modern Languages:	Isabel de Silva isabel.desilva@exeter.ox.ac.uk
Computer Science:	
Earth Sciences:	Stanley Upton stanley.upton@exeter.ox.ac.uk
Economics and Management:	Pamela Penman pamela.penman@exeter.ox.ac.uk
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History and English:	Emily Britto Davis emily.brittodavis@exeter.ox.ac.uk
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Law with Law Studies in Europe:	Luisa Mayr luisa.mayr@exeter.ox.ac.uk
Mathematics:	Benjamin Gray benjamin.gray@exeter.ox.ac.uk
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Mathematics and Philosophy:	Nina Oldham nina.oldham@exeter.ox.ac.uk
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Medicine:	Emily Williams emily.williams@exeter.ox.ac.uk
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Modern Languages and Linguistics:	
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Philosophy and Modern Languages:	Edwin Roberts edwin.roberts@exeter.ox.ac.uk
Philosophy, Politics and Economics:	Naomi Wood naomi.wood@exeter.ox.ac.uk
Physics:	Emre Pasaogullari emre.pasaogullari@exeter.ox.ac.uk

Biochemistry

Hi Biochemists! Exeter college takes on 4-6 new biochemists each year, with no particular requirements: neither Biology A-Level nor Maths A-level are essential. We are a prime location - 10 mins walk away from the Department and from the labs, and also have the best tutor around: Maureen Taylor!!

The first year of Biochemistry is essentially a foundation year. You will study 5 courses: Molecular Biochemistry, which includes DNA and Genetics, Proteins and Laboratory Skills; Cellular Biochemistry; which mainly cellular structure and function with LOADS of metabolism biochem (Think Krebs, Penrose phosphate, respiration etc. in lots of detail); Mechanistic Biochemistry (think A-Level organic chemistry but extended and much harder); Physical Biochemistry, which is A Level physical chemistry but with much more thermodynamics, complicated kinetics and even a little bit of quantum (eek!). Lastly, Quantitative biochemistry, which is spilt into Maths, which doesn't include any content harder than Further Maths AS, and Statistics, which very much does, and rarely makes sense.

These five courses, which are completely alongside a Practical Module, are very accessible, even if they sound terrifying!

A typical week in first year will include 2-3 Lectures each morning, a Molecular/Cellular tutorial with the brilliant Maureen Taylor, a Mechanistic tutorial (usually organised on discord) with the similarly brilliant Matt Rattley, A Physical Class, a Mathematics Class and a Practical on Friday that can take anywhere between 2 and 8 hours.

In terms of work load, I won't lie to you- it is quite high! Each week will feature at least one essay/problem sheet from Maureen, a Mechanstic problem sheet from Matt that can take a whole day, a Maths sheet, a Physical sheet, and a Lab report. It is demanding but incredibly interesting, and there is still a huge amount of time for societies, socialising and (least importantly) sleep.

These 5 courses are examined in Prelims (end of years) in week 7 of trinity term, and collections (mocks) will be set at the beginning of Hilary and Trinity, but are essentially progress checks. Prelims are pass/fail and all must be passed either the first time round, or in September resits, in order to progress to second year (everyone at Exeter does!). Prelims do not count for your final grade! Second and Third year are taught in 'Toolboxes': with each lecture series and the corresponding practical work and Maureen Taylor Tutorial being taught in one block, like one or two weeks, instead of parallel to each other like in first year. These are examined using TSAs (termly summary assessments) which are at the beginning of each term from 2nd year Hilary to 3rd year Michaelmas and each count for between 3-5% of your final grade. Then finals are held during Trinity of 3rd year.

In 4th year you will join a research group operating at the department - you can choose to apply to the ones you are most interested in! You write a research project summarising the year of work and submit it, and give a presentation. The 4th year grade is combined with your finals grade to give an overall classification which you will then graduate with.

Biomedical Sciences

Hi! I'm Beth, a second year Biomed student. There are normally 2 of us in a year here at Exeter, with around 40 in a year across the university. Due to it being a small course, the medics and biomed join up for tutorials with our main tutor Neil. These tutorials are in college in Palmer's Tower, and cover the 'Cells and Body' aspect of the course, including muscle, heart, lungs, and kidneys. The rest of the tutorials are just with the biomed. These are 'Genes and Molecules' with John Parrington (DNA, RNA, proteins, and metabolism) at Worcester college, and 'Brain and Behaviour'. Brain and behaviour is getting a new tutor this year so it's exciting to see how it will work. For these tutorials often an essay will have been written beforehand to discuss through with the tutor. Typically there are 2 essays a week, with Neil's being every week and the other 2 tutorial essays every other week. Neil acts as main tutor for both the biomed and medics and so also likes to hold meetings at the start of term just to ask how things are going and go over what the next term will cover.

There are also stats tutorials/classes but these are organised by the department and are in groups of 6/7 with other colleges. They involve working through a python coding workbook and happen once a week at the medical sciences teaching centre (MSTC). The MSTC is only a 15 minute walk from Exeter (10 minutes if I need to rush) and is where the majority of practicals and lectures take place. Some lectures are also in the department of pharmacology, anatomy, and genetics (DPAG) which is a couple minutes walk from the MSTC. Lectures are often with another subject such as medicine, biochemistry, or psychology, typically for Body and Cells, Genes and Molecules, and Brain and Behaviour respectively.

In addition there are chemistry and physics lectures which are just for biomed students as different people will have done different A levels and so aims to bring everyone to the same level of knowledge needed for the course. Similarly, there are statistics lectures which introduce the statistical concepts which are worked on in python in the tutorial. Finally there are a few maths lectures covering topics such as integration and exponentials for those who didn't do A level maths.

Due to the wide range of topics to be covered in the first year, there are a lot of contact hours. It is very rare to have a day without any lectures, most days have 2/3 particularly in the second term, which is the busiest. There isn't really a typical week as the number of lectures and labs varies but there are roughly 8 practicals each term. Sadly there are a lot of 9ams but at least it means on a Friday you tend to miss the morning fire alarm. The busy timetable along with essays and tutorials may seem intimidating at first but I promise it is completely manageable and you will still have a social life. If you have a lot of fellow STEM friends they will also be having intense contact hours, so you are not alone.

At the end of first year there are 5 exams. They tend to be in 9th week, which means you have to stay an extra week at the end of Trinity term (the final term). The first is a 90 question multiple choice paper which can cover everything and is the only paper which asks about the chemistry and physics lectures. Papers 2a, 2b, and 2c are essay based where you have to write 2 essays in 90 minutes. You choose a question to answer from 4 for each of the 6 modules: Cells and Body, Genes and Molecules, Brain and Behaviour, with 2 modules per paper. The final paper is the statistics paper. This is an open book online coding exam to be carried out in python similarly to the tutorial exercises. At the start of Hilary and Trinity terms (2nd and 3rd term) the college and department set collections to test knowledge of the previous terms. The department organises a multiple choice and statistics paper, whilst Neil typically arranges an essay paper of 3 essays to cover a topic from each tutor.

That was a lot of information so sorry for rambling on, and is only for how the course works in first year. After the first year you are able to select options of study

and your research projects, so get to specialise. If you have any questions about anything, not just course related, please feel free to contact me: my email is beth.lawton@exeter.ox.ac.uk. Good luck in biomed and I hope you enjoy it!

Chemistry

Chemistry is a science which looks at matter from an atomic/molecular scale. It is split into Organic, Inorganic and Physical chemistry.

First Year

In the first year, there is also a mathematics for chemistry course alongside organic, inorganic and physical chemistry. You will be expected to do 1 problem sheet a week for maths and sit an exam for it at the end of the year. Your contact hours will consist of tutorials/classes, lectures and labs. A lot of your resources will be on Canvas, so it is important to get used to using it.

Tutorials and classes:

At Exeter college we roughly have 2-4 tutorials/classes a week, one of which will always be a maths tutorial. It usually alternates weekly between inorganic, organic and physical. In addition, within the physical chemistry course there are four physics lecture courses, and each will have a tutorial dedicated to them. This means you will have four physics tutorials in first year. Organic tutorials are given by Prof Paul Roberts, he does his tutorials with the full group, and they are usually two hours long. In addition, Paul adds prelim problem classes where he goes through exam questions on the topic you just did a tutorial on. Physical chemistry tutorials are given by Isabel Creed (Izzy). Her tutorials are also usually 2 hours long, but she splits the group so you will usually do physical tutorials in threes. Inorganic tutorials are given by Dr Lydia Gilday, she for the most part does 1 hour tutorials and they are usually in pairs. The physics tutor will be a different tutor to Izzy, however Izzy has always been happy to help with physics questions J.

In Trinity term (third term) there will be a biological chemistry course which is examined in the section B of the organic chemistry paper, that course has a tutorial and will be given by a different tutor to Paul. Also expect extra classes in Hilary and Trinity term to go through vacation work or collections etc. Tutorials are compulsory to attend.

For each tutorial you will be expected to submit work beforehand at a certain deadline given by your tutor. There is a reading list given at the start of each problem sheet with suggested resources and bullet points of what you need to know. Making notes is not compulsory but can be useful, however it is time consuming, and it is worth reaching out to older students and asking for notes.

Lecture notes usually have most of what you need. I have found Oxford primers very useful too there is a website where you can access them digitally [here](#) (login through SSO). Problem sheets can be difficult, they are not like school homework, it will take a few days to complete one.

As for lectures you will be in a lecture theatre with all the other chemists in your year (approx. 185 students). A lecturer for a certain course will basically go through lecture slides or notes for a course. Some lecturers are better and more interactive than others it can vary from course to course. Many students like to use the lectures to introduce themselves to the content. Attending lectures is not compulsory but try going for the most part if it helps. You can find the lecture timetable [here](#) there is a useful feature where you can download the lecture timetable to your calendar. You may not wish to go to lectures, but I would recommend using the lecture notes for revision to learn and understand content for tutorials. I found lecture notes a lot more concise and easier to read than textbooks at times.

Labs:

In 1st year there will be 12 hours a week split across two days. At Exeter our labs are on Thursday and Friday, 6 hours each day. Labs are 6 out of the 8 weeks in a term, meaning you have two lab free weeks in each term. At first it will feel overwhelming getting used to new machinery, long hours in the lab and the weekly lab reports. After some time, you will get used to it and writing a lab report will get a lot easier, you will get more familiar and efficient in the lab. Hopefully you will then finish faster to be able to leave earlier. To help with writing lab reports the lab demonstrators create pro formas which are templates to help you structure your lab report. You will write one lab report per practical so usually 2 reports a week. Some practicals (beginning in the second term) will be 2-day practicals, so you would write one report in that week. You will also be expected to go to the lab once you complete your lab report and sign off the practical with a demonstrator. The lab demonstrators explain everything in the welcome talk and please don't hesitate to ask them for help with conducting experiments or explaining stuff they are so supportive.

Work and Time-Management:

Chemistry is known to have quite a difficult workload, where it can be easy to fall behind with your work. As a university student you doing work is all based on self-motivation. It is very important to manage your time very well and find good spaces to do work. There are plenty of libraries across Oxford and in college. I have personally liked working in Cohen Quad. In Exeter, you can also book rooms in Turl Street and Cohen to study. It is important to seek support when you need it from your tutors and peers. I have found it very useful to network with a range of chemists across the years and in other colleges. For example, if someone in another

college has done a lab practical before me, I can ask them for advice on how to be more efficient with the experiment or advice on writing the lab report. There is no shame in asking your peers for help with understanding or answering problem sheets or writing lab reports. It's important to help each other out and the chemistry 'community' is good for that.

Try not to leave things last minute, work can pile up and get difficult to keep up with. Start problem sheets early and have set time in the week to do lab reports (I do my reports on a Saturday morning and have them ready before the week starts to sign off). Please schedule your contact hours so use a calendar app on your phone or a planner etc. It is nice to have a retrospective view of the term and you know what is expected of you when. So, at the start of each term add your lectures, labs and tutorials in your calendar, it will save you so much hassle throughout the year.

Exams:

In first year, you will sit 4 exams at the end of the year called 'Prelims' which are preliminary exams, these do not count towards your degree, but you must pass them to move onto the second year. You will sit these exams week 7 Trinity term. The four papers are Inorganic, Organic, Physical chemistry and Mathematics for chemistry. There will be revision lectures and revision classes given by your tutors to support you. You will realise that exam revision is more intense than A-level, there is a lot of content to learn. It is important you spend the time understanding the content and practicing some exam questions. The best time to practice full prelim papers will be in Trinity term, once you've covered most of the content. Also at the start of each Hilary and Trinity terms you will sit 4 collection papers on the content covered in the lecture courses up until that point. Collections are basically mock exams to help you see where you are at with the content.

Second Year (Part IA):

There will be content on core material, including courses on: Theoretical chemistry; Biological chemistry; Inorganic Chemistry; Molecular chemistry; Molecular Spectroscopy; Synthetic chemistry.

You will cover most of the core material in second year. In addition, a range of supplementary courses are offered and there can be benefits to taking these courses and sitting exams in them. If you pass the supplementary course, you get a 36-hour lab credit (3 weeks off labs in 3rd year). If you choose to do a supplementary paper these are usually sat at the end of the Hilary term. You will sit three papers at the end of the year, Inorganic, Organic and Physical chemistry.

These will be sat week 8 Trinity and will count 15% towards your degree.

There will also be labs in second year these labs will also count.

Labs in second and third year count to a total of 10% towards your degree.

Third year (Part IB):

The rest of the core content is covered, and option topics are available for you to specialise in. At the end of the year beginning week 6 Trinity, you will sit a total of 7 papers. These exams count 50% towards your degree.

Fourth Year (Part II):

A research focused year, a thesis will be written at the end in addition to an oral presentation. The fourth year counts 25% towards your degree.

I hope this was useful to some extent I have focused this more on first year if you do want to understand the course structure in more detail for the 2nd-4th year go to your canvas-mchem chemistry-UG handbook Chemistry 2023-24 pdf. In

Classical Archaeology and Ancient History

Hi! I'm Thant Thura. At the end of your first year in June, you will sit what are known as Prelims. These will be your first public examinations, and you will be expected to pass them in order to remain at the university. This will be the culmination of all your work in the first year. Thankfully, no one in the history of this degree has failed them before, and you will not be the first. Don't worry too much about Prelims though; keep them firmly in the back of your mind but focus on getting settled in and forming a healthy routine that balances work, social life, and most importantly, yourself.

When you arrive in Michaelmas term, the first module which you will study will be 'Aristocracy and Democracy 550 - 450 BC', also known as 'Greek Core'. To help you along with this, I will give you a revision booklet I've made when you get here, which has (I hope), everything you need to smash the module. The main challenge with this module for me was the fact that the content studied is very dispersed across the entire Greek world spanning the Mediterranean. Thus, just because you know lots about Athens and Sparta, doesn't mean you will be able to answer the paper well. From the beginning, try your best to get a grasp of the wider Greek world and how the city-states interact with and affect each other. I've tried to make this easier through the booklet, but it will still perhaps be a little challenging. Try your very best to know the texts inside and out; the tutors will know if you've not read what you should've.

In Hilary term, you will start 'Republic to Empire 50 BC - 50 AD', otherwise known as 'Roman Core' This module has the same vibe as Greek Core, but there

are still significant enough differences. The challenge of this one however I feel, is more chronological. The classes do not cover sufficient material past the reign of Augustus. Thus, I highly encourage you to explore yourself. You will impress examiners and be ahead in the classes if you explore all the way up to 50 AD, through both historical sources and the material remains. I will compile a list of good handbooks for you when you get here, but for now, familiarise yourself as best you can with the ancient sources.

The two Cores will make up 50% of your Prelims. The other 50% will be taken up by your options. You will start the first of these options in Michaelmas term along with Greek Core, continuing it in your second term alongside Roman Core, and you will study the second in Trinity term alone. One option is taken from a list of Ancient History modules and the other from a list of Classical Archaeology. The exception would be if you choose to study an ancient language. In that case, you would pick only one special option to go along with your language from either CA or AH. Significantly, you would study that language throughout your first year, so starting from Michaelmas. You will study it for 3 hours a week alongside the Cores, and for 1 hour a week in Trinity term alongside your other option. For these languages, there are beginner, intermediate and advanced levels offered.

Thus, the final list of papers in Prelims would be:

1. Greek Core, Roman Core, Special paper in CA, Special paper in AH
- or
2. Greek Core, Roman Core, Language, Special paper in CA/AH

Personally, I believe all CAAH students should endeavour to learn both languages regardless of if you take them as a formal option. There can only be a limited understanding of the ancient world without understanding their languages.

N.B. : Language papers will make or break your grade. If you know the language well, it would not be unheard of to have that paper boost your grade significantly. If on the other hand you do not have a grasp on it, there is very little waffle room unlike the other papers. You either know what the text says, or you don't. If you do choose to take up a language, please come and see me, and I will provide a much more efficient and effective course for you than the one that they offer in the faculty.

I believe that should be it for the academic orientation. For essay writing and study tips, I can only provide what works for me personally, which may not work for you. Nevertheless, don't be afraid to reach out if you want some extra guidance.

Classics and English

Typical cohort: 1 (Classics: 6, English: 13)

Hi! I'm Eve, and I'm a second year Classics and English (IIB) student. Classics and English is a very small degree, so there's typically only one in a college year group, with about 20 in a whole uni year group. The English Faculty is a ten minute walk away, as is the Classics Faculty (though my personal record time is five minutes).

COURSE I:

If you're a course I student (meaning you've studied Latin or Greek to A-Level), you're on the three year course. You'll study five papers in first year: two are English (Introduction to English Language and Literature, which is examined with a portfolio in 4th week of your third term, and English Literature 1550-1660, which has a standard written exam at the end of your third term.) You'll also prepare to sit three Classics papers: seen translation, unseen translation, and classical literature (three essays, usually one on the Iliad/Aeneid, and another on texts included in the pure Classics Texts and Contexts paper. The third essay isn't specific to any classical text- you choose what you want to talk about!)

Language teaching is provided by both the Classics faculty and by college- usually one hour a week from each. Faculty classes will have about 15 students from various colleges; college classes will be much smaller.

Literature teaching is provided via tutorials, which are usually once a week- you'll write an essay as preparation. For Classics at Exeter, it's standard to read out your essay to your tutor (much less scary than it sounds!), but this isn't usually the case for English. The portfolio paper is taught in weekly classes with the whole Exeter English cohort- you get to know your year group really quickly! Work for this mainly involves reading shorter works of literary theory and posting on a discussion board. There are also plenty of lectures to attend, though their usefulness can vary. Classics lectures are held in Exam Schools and English lectures in the English Faculty. You'll be sent a timetable when it's available in Fresher's Week.

COURSE II

If you're on course II (like me!), things are a little different. The work I've explained above will be covered in your second year. Your first year is a preliminary 'language' year (though of course you get some literature teaching too). You will sit two exams at the end of the year (not prelims, but basically prelims)- one is a language paper, and one is a literature paper. The literature teaching will largely be done in tutorials with students studying pure classics- you will probably cover the Iliad and the Aeneid, then Bacchae if you're doing Greek, or

Ovid/Catullus if you're doing Latin. Language teaching is faculty based: you'll have morning classes every day for the first two terms, then weekly classes in your third term alongside weekly college classes.

On course II, there is no requirement to do any work for the English side of the course in first year. Barney (our Classics tutor at Exeter) might arrange for you to attend the Paper 1 classes, just to the English side ticking over, but this can vary- don't stress too much about it.

Both Classics and English are very strong (and popular!) subjects at Exeter; the Classics tutor, Barney, is also sub-rector and therefore very involved in college life. As with any joint honours subject, it's easier for things to get muddled with your workload - if you feel like you're being set the wrong amount or wrong type of work, please don't hesitate to reach out to me, your college parent, or your tutor- the sooner an issue is raised, the sooner it can be resolved!

2nd year (3rd year course II):

After prelims, you have a lot more freedom to customise your course. You'll take a mixture of Classics and English papers, along with 'Link' papers, which combine the two disciplines- it all adds up to 7 papers total. Everyone takes the Epic link paper, and you choose one more from Comedy, Tragedy, and Reception in Poetry from 1900. You choose two options from the English Finals syllabus (can be period papers, a Shakespeare portfolio, or the many weird and wonderful papers in 'Special Options', which vary from year to year). You also pick two papers from the Classics Greats options- a huge variety, though you can't take any Archaeology options, and you should be careful to make sure there's no overlap with your link papers or you won't be able to study what you've chosen (your tutor will help with this!). The 7th paper is a dissertation on a topic of your choice relating to Classics, English, or both- it will be submitted in the second term of your final year, but you'll start thinking about it at the end of 2nd/3rd year. This is your only year without end of year exams, so enjoy it!

3rd year (4th year course II):

You'll continue studying the papers you chose for 2nd year and write your dissertation. At the very end of this year you'll sit Finals and finish your degree!

Classics and Modern Languages: Isabel de Silva

Hiya, I'm Isabel, a second year Classics and Italian (IIA) student here at Exeter. CML (Classics and Modern Languages) is a particularly niche subject, so there is usually only one CML student per college and around 10 per year across the

university (mix between course I and II). The Classics Faculty is roughly 10 minutes from both Turl St and Cohen Quad. Most Modern Languages classes are held at the Languages Centre (47 Wellington Square) which is 15 minutes from Turl St and 2 minutes from Cohen Quad. Both the Classics and Languages Library (Taylorian) are extremely conveniently located, beside the Ashmolean Museum.

COURSE I

As a course I student, you are arriving at Oxford with an A level in either/ both Latin or Ancient Greek. Your course will last 4 years including one year abroad in your 3rd year.

In your first year, you will prepare to sit Prelims (Preliminary Exams) at the end of the year, typically in the last week in Trinity. There will be a total of 7 exams. In Modern Languages, you will sit 4 exams: 2 Language papers, 2 Literature papers. In Classics, you will sit 3 exams: 1 Unseen Translation from Latin or Greek, 2 Literature papers (1 Essay paper, 1 Translation and Comment paper). The Classics Literature papers include the Aeneid/ Iliad and texts included in the Texts and Contexts paper. To see exactly what texts are in each paper, consult the CML Handbook. (<https://www.classics.ox.ac.uk/files/cmlhandbook2022v10pdf>)

LANGUAGE CLASSES – CLASSICS

Teaching is split between Faculty and College. For Classics, course I students have weekly MILC continuation classes to revise and boost your knowledge of the classical language previously studied. Faculty classes usually have around 10 - 12 students, whereas college classes are much smaller.

LANGUAGE CLASSES – MODERN LANGUAGE

Firstly we must distinguish between course I students who have both the ancient and modern language to A level, and those who have Latin/ Ancient Greek to A level but are on a Modern Languages beginner's course. Regardless of whether or not you are a Modern Language beginner, you will have the same amount of language classes split, obviously, according to your level. Classes are held in the Languages centre at 47 Wellington Square. In a week, you will have a mix of grammar, oral, translation (to and from the Modern Language), and comprehension classes. Most language work is done at WS though you could have some in-college language classes too.

LECTURES

Classics lectures are held in Exam schools and you will probably have around 2 per week. Modern Languages lectures are held at the Taylorian Library and you will probably have around 2 per week. The timetable for lectures are uploaded to the online Faculty pages and on Canvas in week 0.

IN-COLLEGE CLASSES/ TUTORIALS

With CML, you will have one tutorial biweekly for each of your subjects. This means that you might have a Classics tutorial every even week, and a Modern Languages tutorial every odd week. By the end of each term, you will have produced 8 essays – 4 for Classics and 4 for your Modern Language. It is possible that both tutors ask you to meet on even weeks meaning that you'll have to organise your time well. In preparation for the tutorial, your tutor will send you a reading list with the primary and secondary sources you are to read and the essay question/s. You will then produce an essay (approx. 2000 words but double check with your tutor) answering one of the questions.

You will usually have some language classes in college too. For Classics, your tutor will be Barney Taylor and there are several Modern Languages tutors at Exeter but if you study Italian, your tutor will be Vilma De Gasperin. Both Barney and Vilma are super helpful and great at creating a pressure-free environment. It is customary for Barney to have one student read their essay aloud at the start of the tutorial, sort of as a launchpad from which to start the tutorial's conversation. As intimidating as it sounds, after the first time, it actually becomes rather enjoyable. I do believe this is only a Barney thing, I haven't heard of any Modern Languages tutors adapting this same practice.

COURSE II

If you're on course II (like me!) it is slightly different. You are arriving at Oxford with a Modern Language A level but without Latin/ Ancient Greek. This is a 5 year course (get used to the shocked reaction when you tell people you don't get a Masters once you graduate) with 4 years in Oxford and 1 year abroad in your 4th year.

Consequently, the work I've explained above is covered in your **second** year. Your first year is treated more like a foundation year in which you get up to speed with those who arrive already with the ancient language – essentially by the end of your first year, you will have A level equivalent knowledge of Latin/ Ancient Greek. This means that you will have **minimal** contact with your Modern Language during your first year. Your Modern Language tutor may invite you to have informal one-to-one classes once a week (as Vilma did with me!), but do bear in mind that this is up to each tutor's timetable and discretion. One thing you can do to maintain this contact is to attend the Modern Languages lectures that will be of use in second year, not necessarily taking notes but rather absorbing the content in a more relaxed way.

At the end of your first year, you will sit Qualifying Exams. These are 2 exams sat at the end of Trinity: 1 Language paper, 1 Texts paper. The Language paper has 3 unseen passages which you will translate into English and 5/ 6 sentences that are to be translated from English to Latin/ Ancient Greek. For the Texts paper, you will be given 3 passages from previously studied texts. You have to comment and translate into English only 2 extracts.

LANGUAGE CLASSES

Ab initio Latin classes take place Monday-Friday at 9am at the Classics Faculty in Michaelmas and Hilary. Most ab initio Greek classes take place Monday-Friday at 10am at the Classics Faculty in Michaelmas and Hilary.

IN-COLLEGE CLASSES/ TUTORIALS

In college Classics language classes usually start in Hilary and follow through into Michaelmas. As I am the only course II CML student at Exeter in my cohort, I had one-to-one Latin language classes with Barney once a week in first year, for example.

You will still be expected to complete weekly/ biweekly essays in Classics during your first year. You will not be producing any essays/ formal work for your Modern Language in first year so, yes, your workload will be lighter than that of your peers that study other subjects.

Also, make sure to always double and triple check things with your tutors and fellow CMLers as there is a possibility that you have been assigned the wrong workload, as happened with myself. Ultimately, being a CMLer at Exeter is fantastic and, since we're a niche course, it's all the more important that we stick together, so feel free to come to me with any queries – I look forward to meeting you!!

Earth Sciences

Average intake: 6-8

Course length: 3 years BA, 4 years MEarthSci integrated masters – most do the 4 year course

Distance to department: 10 minutes

Hi, I'm Stanley and I'm a third-year Earth Science (Geology) student. Earth Science is a small and friendly subject where you get to develop a massive range of skills to apply 'pure' science to fascinating questions about the surface and depths of our planet and beyond. It is sublimely enjoyable and social - it's easy for others to envy how fun our course truly is with travel abroad, well-structured contact hours and the development of tangibly employable qualities.

Teaching centres in the Earth Science department, where lectures, practicals and tutorials are held. The annual cohort is only ~36 annually – small enough such that everyone is together for lectures and practicals, while tutorials are typically in

groups of just 2-4. In the first year there are generally two tutorials a week: certain tutorials are run by our college tutors (Conall and Paula) and others are run by the department, but both are normally in the department building.

The first-year course consists of 5 parallel streams of mandatory teaching – Fundamentals of Geology I & II, Planet Earth, PCB (Physics, Chemistry & Biology) and Maths – assessed in 4 written papers at the end of the year and a practical component assessed throughout the year. This year is an exciting introduction to both geology and Earth Science, with a mixture of essential scientific and mathematical groundwork, and its application to theoretical and practical geoscience. In Fundamentals I you focus on mineralogy, igneous & metamorphic petrology and processes in Michaelmas Term (MT), and Hilary (HT) on sedimentary processes and invertebrate palaeobiology. Fundamentals II is dedicated to structural geology and maps in both MT & HT. Planet Earth touches on planetary science, seismology, plate tectonics, the geological timescale in MT; on atmosphere, oceans and climate, the cryosphere in HT; and on the origin of life on Earth in Trinity (TT). MT PCB study is on mechanics (classic and fluids) and on atomic and bonding theory; HT is aqueous geochemistry and physical thermodynamics; TT is biology: cell biology, energy processes, DNA & genes. Finally, the Maths modules are calculus in MT and statistics in HT. Both focus on scientific computing using Python. The aim with the Maths and PCB modules is for every student to reach the same ability level by the end of the year independent of their A-Level options. There are several field trips with residentials in Pembrokeshire and Arran and day trips to the Malverns and Westbury-on-Severn, where field skills get to be developed and practiced, and theory gets put into action. The costs of these trips are paid entirely by the department, so finances aren't a barrier to participation. There's a lot to look forward to, and the department gets in touch about the course timetables and maths tutorials around mid-September, as well as the arrangements for field work.

The second-year course consists of a broad and detailed range of lecture series advancing on the first year, with every module being compulsory. MT titles includes Structural Geology & Map Interpretation, Geophysical Methods (magnetism & gravity), Rock Thermodynamics, Stable Isotopes, Carbon cycle, Sedimentary Basins, Maths (series analysis & scientific computing). HT consists of Earthquakes (seismology & active tectonics), Remote Sensing, Igneous Petrology, Metamorphic Petrology, Radiogenic Isotopes, Climate change, Sediments (generation & diagenesis), Maths (linear algebra & scientific computing). Finally, TT consists of Evolution, Planetary Materials & Meteorites, Stratigraphy & Environments. The year starts with a residential field trip to Dorset at the end of September, after which there is a 1500-word essay following-up a topic studied on the trip. There is a second residential trip to NW Scotland for the Assynt Window in Easter. In TT there are three theory exams with a practical assessment running throughout the year. In the summer following the second year there is the option

to undertake either a 4-6 week independent mapping project or an independent lab-based research project.

In the third year each student takes six optional papers from a choice of ten, plus the compulsory Fieldwork & Interdisciplinary paper. In MT the options are Natural Resources, Analytical Methods, Mathematics for continua & vector calculus, Plate Tectonics, Climate Dynamics. In HT the options are Chemistry of the Earth's interior, Geophysics of the deep Earth, Volcanology Igneous Process & Petrogenesis, Quantitative Paleobiology, Biology & Physical Oceanography. Throughout MT the report for the independent projects is written and are due at the start of HT. In HT a 4000-word essay in the style of a review paper is written on a self-selected sufficiently unresolved substantial scientific problem. There is a residential field trip to SE Spain at the start of Easter.

The summer before fourth year has an option of field trips to Greece or Bermuda. The fourth year course focuses around half on the master's project, research for which is conducted throughout the year. You also have to take 4 papers from the options of 8 seminar series. In MT the options are Rock & Palaeomagnetism, Volcanology, Climate Science, Coevolution of Earth and Life; HT these are Planetary Science, Environmental Geophysics, Palaeobiology, Structure & Dynamics of the Earth's Mantle. Naturally, these have potential to change year on year since they are research oriented.

More detailed information can be found on the Earth Science undergraduate handbook, which updates annually as the courses get modified:

<https://www.earth.ox.ac.uk/teaching/undergraduates/course-information/>

One of the many appeals of Earth Science specifically at Exeter is the amount of interyear contact. Named after the pioneering geologist Charles Lyell – whose book Principles of Geology proposed ideas on gradual change over geologic time, greatly influencing Darwin's theory of evolution by natural selection – the Lyell society is the collection of current and former Exon Earth Scientists. There are some fancy events, such as the biannual alumnus dinner, but mainly many more casual socials. This means there is a uniquely warm, friendly network between Earth Scientists at Exeter College, which I've found welcoming and supportive since joining in 2021.

English Language and Literature

Hi! I'm Jasmine, a second year English Lit & Lang student and your subject rep!

English at Oxford is split into four 'papers'. Paper 1, divided further into A and B, is a chance to explore language and theory. In paper 1A you study the building blocks of language use, furthering your understanding of how language has evolved over time and how it is harnessed by English speakers everywhere. Paper 1B offers the chance to explore literary theory. I at first went into this expecting it to be boring, to be completely honest, but instead found it to be one of my favourite parts of the course! This module of paper 1 builds on the knowledge from 1A, and allows you to deepen your study of rhetoric and debate, forcing you to question, expand, and understand your own beliefs and awareness of both language and the climate it's used within. This Paper does not have a Prelim (our end-of-year exams) exam, but is instead a coursework paper. In Trinity term, you have a 10 day period to write two coursework essays (one for A, one for B). Whilst Tutors are off limits for this period, you can work with your course mates.

Paper 2 is often the paper most students find either difficult or completely alien. Whilst most universities study Old and Middle English literature, they do so in translation. Here at Oxford, we learn the actual language, and by the end of the year must analyse its use in the same way we analyse modern English. I myself loved this paper, though I am one of very few. This paper is a traditional exam, sat in the final week of Trinity term. There is one 'commentary' style question, wherein you discuss the language, form and style of a passage of Old/Middle English text from the set texts you study during the year (at Exeter this is usually Beowulf, Dream of the Rood and the Wanderer), and two essay style questions. In these, you can answer with regard to any OE/ME text, as long as it is not the text you wrote your commentary on.

Papers 3 and 4 are closest I'd say to A Level (or equivalent, such as Scottish Advanced Highers) English Literature. Paper 3 covers English Lit from 1830-1910, and Paper 4 covers 1910- present day. Whilst your tutor (at Exeter we have one tutor teaching both papers) will provide set texts/authors, it is greatly encouraged that you explore the vast canon that is Literature in English. Both these papers are assessed in Prelim exams, each comprising of three essay style questions. Towards the end of the year you make a choice whether or not to choose Course I or II. The former fills in the gaps left by first year, covering literature from 1350 to 1830, and is the most popular choice. The second, which I study, offers to chance to explore Old English and similar languages in more depth. This choice doesn't have to be made until post-prelims, so don't worry about it yet! And as a further note, don't stress about Prelims! They do not affect your final outcome of the degree in any way, and are there just to check your first year knowledge before progressing to second year.

This degree is split between faculty and college based teaching. Lectures are taught in the faculty building on weekdays from 9am until the afternoon, however some

take place in other buildings around Oxford. If this sounds confusing, don't worry: the faculty releases a timetable for all lectures taking place at the beginning of each term, detailing their allotted time and location.

English is not as collaborative as other degrees in Oxford are. There is no inter-college learning aside from lectures, as all other learning takes place within your college. This is where your tutorials and classes occur. For tutorials, you are set reading, and usually write a 2000 word essay addressing the themes explored that week. The tutorial is an hour long dissection of your essay and knowledge obtained from the reading. Classes are a chance for you to work with your peers at Exeter studying English too. Each paper has a two hour class each week, with set reading. Though a humanities subject, English at Exeter is quite heavy on contact hours. You can expect around 10-15 hours a week of college based, face-to-face teaching. I personally really liked this, as it made time-tabling your days much easier.

All tutors at Exeter are so friendly and approachable, and though they are all experts within their field, make you feel at ease during classes and tutes. Although late or missing work is not desired, do not stress! They will all listen, and help you if you are struggling. I had such a wonderful first year, and hope you do too! If you have any further questions, please pop me an email at jasmine.ashworth@exeter.ox.ac.uk, or find me around college.

English and Modern Languages

Hi, I'm Eve (she/her) and I'm a 3rd year student studying English and French at Exeter. English and Modern Languages is a really fun joint honours combination which gives you a lot of flexibility. I find that the courses complement each other really well and I've loved getting to know students and tutors across both faculties, at Exeter and beyond. I know Joint Honours can sound intimidating, but in my experience the workload is no more than Single Honours, it's just differently distributed. This can be slightly awkward but it just requires slightly more attentive time management. For example, you might end up having one week with no essays and the next week with two, in which case you should ideally do one in advance of the deadline. That said, for both subjects, the course in first year is quite structured, which helps take some of the stress out of organisation. For me, the English and French tutors have always been very on it with coordination, they frequently ask about my workload for the other side of the course and always do their best to work around it. They're also very understanding about clashes, so you shouldn't ever have a problem with overlapping classes or tutorials as long as you stay organised and bring it to their attention. If you ever feel like there's too much going on, you should always feel comfortable raising your concerns. You can also

always reach out to me or your college parents for advice. Below is a short summary of how the English and Modern Languages course works at Exeter which I hope will shed light on some of the questions you're having at this stage. If you have any further concerns, feel free to get in touch! My email is eve.coiley@exeter.ox.ac.uk. Have a great first term!

Average intake: 1 or 2 at Exeter, 30 across Oxford year group **Distance to department:** 5 minute walk to the Taylorian (Modern Languages), 10 minutes to the

English Faculty

Exams: Trinity term, usually weeks 5-9

Teaching format:

- You'll have a mix of tutorials, classes and lectures every week. Teaching format varies by tutor and usually (certainly for English), they will send out a term plan detailing in which weeks you will have a class or a tutorial. In my first term, I had alternate weeks of classes (whole cohort) and tutorials (2 or 3 students) for both subjects. There will be more contact hours for modern languages due to the weekly language classes in translation, grammar and speaking.

Lectures:

- For English, lecture timetables are usually published in 0th week. There will be a large range of lectures for each prelims paper but you're not expected to attend all of them, just prioritise those you find most interesting and sound most relevant to the content you will cover in classes or tutorials.
- For Languages, the literature lectures are focussed on the specific texts/authors you study as you don't do period papers in first year. Whilst still not compulsory, it is expected you attend these as they are really valuable resources for prelims, and your tutors are likely to refer to them in classes.

First year course structure (prelims):

- 6 papers are taken, 4 in your modern language and 2 in English
- The compulsory paper is Introduction to English Language and Literature.
 - It's worth reading about these papers in the handbook (linked) as they will likely be quite different to A-Level content you have studied before.
 - In my first year, Introduction to Literature was taught across the entire year and Introduction to English Language was taught in Hilary and Trinity
 - You won't be assigned regular essays for these papers, but there is a lot of reading (mostly theoretical essays or textbooks rather than

- 'literary' texts) and you might be asked to submit short pieces of writing to show your engagement.
- Assessed by portfolio in week 5 of Trinity term. One examination paper, consisting of a section on language and a section on literature. You will produce 2 essays of 1,500- 2,000 words.
 - The second paper is a period paper: either Literature in English 650- 1350 (Early Mediaeval) 1830- 1910 (Victorian) or 1910- present day (Modern)
 - Note that your choice of paper will affect where the burden of your workload falls across the year (eg. Victorians are usually taught in Michaelmas, Moderns in Hilary etc). It's useful to ask your tutors about this before choosing, but ultimately you should pick the paper which most interests you (reading the syllabus is a good place to start).
 - Depending on the paper you choose and your tutor, you will either have an essay every week or every 2 weeks (detailed in the term plan they give you)
 - Your essays should usually cover at least 2 texts as this is the requirement for Prelims exams, but tutors will almost always accept less if you have a difficult week as long as you explain and ask in advance.
 - Examined by a 3-hour written exam, 3 essays. **Language**
 - Two practical language papers, both 3 hours
 - Paper 1: Grammar test, translation (into French), summary (reading exercise)
 - Paper 2: One unprepared translation into English, one prepared translation into French
 - Taught by 2 weekly classes
 - One with a translation tutor- you submit an assigned translation every week and discuss together
 - One with the language teaching assistant- taught in the target language, alternating between grammar and oral, with work to submit such as grammar or reading exercises
 - No Oral exams in first year (just attendance of speaking classes)
 - Two literature papers in the modern language
 - Taught by a mixture of tutorials and classes
 - Unlike in English, you don't get a choice over which texts you study in first year
 - Paper 3: Short texts
 - You will study 4 short texts (plays, poetry etc)
 - Focus is on close reading and commentary

- 3 hour exam, 3 essays
 - Paper 4: Narrative Fiction
 - You will study 4 longer texts, ranging from the written between the Middle Ages and the 20th century
 - 3 hour exam, 3 essays The EML Prelims handbook goes into much more detail on all of the above:
<https://oess.web.ox.ac.uk/files/emlprelimshandbook2022-23v1pdf>
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- **Final honour school** (taught in 2nd and 4th year)
 - After first year, the course becomes a lot more flexible. You choose most of your Finals papers at the end of first year. This includes choosing to pursue either English Course I or Course II. But don't worry- your tutors will give you lots of information when the time comes!
 - You don't need to start thinking seriously about Year Abroad Plans before second year, so don't stress prematurely! Overview:
 - For your Modern Languages papers you will continue with language work and translations, and also choose two option papers.
 - For the English side of your programme, you will take three papers from the English single honours course, choosing to take all your papers from either English Course I or Course II
 - Finally, all students will write a dissertation in any area of English Language or Literature, or combining English with your Modern Language.
 - Up to four papers for EML (including the dissertation) may take the form of submitted work.
 - Handbook for more info:
<https://oess.web.ox.ac.uk/files/emlfhshandbook2022v1pdf>
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History

Typical cohort: 10 (including History + another subject)

Hi!! I'm Kate, a second-year historian. History is one of the largest subjects at Exeter so don't be surprised if you see lots of historians across all three years around college. There tend to be between 10-12 people studying History in each year, which is a number that includes people studying just History, History and a language/English or Ancient and Modern History. Conveniently, the History Faculty is a 5-10 minutes walk from college (depending on how late you're running!) although you probably won't spend much time there, if any. Lectures

normally happen in the Exam Schools which is a 10 minutes walk from college and excitingly, the History Faculty Library is the RadCam (the old building in central Oxford with a dome) which is not only right on our doorstep, but also very aesthetic which makes any long study session more bearable. Most of the books you'll need can either be found online through SOLO or in physical form in the RadCam and sometimes in the Exeter College library so you'll probably spend quite a bit of time in the RadCam over the course of the year.

Course Structure:

If you just do History (like me!) and not joint honours with another subject, then you'll be studying a 3 year course. In first year, you study 4 papers including one on British History, one on European and World History, one on Approaches to History and a final Optional Subject. You'll take 4 exams at the end of the year (one for each paper) and they're all 3 hours long so you get an hour per essay. At Exeter, you study modern British History from 1831-1950 but for all your other papers, you get to choose from a range of time periods or topics. The only requirement is that in first year you study one medieval paper, one early modern and one modern one. For approaches, you choose 2 topics which include Anthropology, Architecture, Art, Economics, Gender and Race and look at how historians approach history through these lenses. You study 1.5 papers for the first two terms, in term one this is the British History Paper along with one of the approaches and in term two it's the Europe and World Paper along with the second approach you've chosen. In the third term, you just do 1 paper, your optional subject which is more based on primary sources. There are also collections (a weird Oxford term for informal exams) at the start of every term to test what you learnt in the previous term but they're very relaxed and are designed to motivate you to keep things ticking over and check that you've understood everything.

Teaching:

While lots of your teaching can occur in college, because history has so many options for different papers, you may have a tutor at another college who is a specialist in the time period or topic you've picked which is often great because it allows you to meet new people! On average in a given week, you tend to have 2 lectures although this can be up to 4 and you're able to attend any other history lectures that are going on if they're of interest to you. Lectures aren't compulsory but are recommended to get a sense of the wider topic. You'll also have 3 tutorials every two weeks (normally with 2-3 people in them) and sometimes instead of lectures you could have a discussion-based class. This overall only actually amounts to 7-10 contact hours every fortnight which isn't a lot so most of the studying you do will be independent. Generally, you write 3 essays every 2 weeks (1 per tutorial)

although some tutors may get you to alternate between giving a presentation and writing an essay. The reading lists can look long and overwhelming but there's no expectation for you to have read everything! I always tended to aim for between 6-8 articles/chapters per essay but the amount people read varies depending on the person!

In second year, you study two different papers of your choice as well as a paper of historiographical method, and write an extended essay on an optional subject in the second term. At the end of the year, you'll sit a take home paper where you write 3 essay open-book. Finally, in third year, you write a thesis on a topic of your choosing (as well as studying a few more papers) and then you sit final exams at the end of the year on the papers you've studied in year 2 and 3.

History is a really brilliant degree because you have so much freedom! You get lots choice on what you study which allows you to pick things you're interested in and, you control your engagement with the degree outside of the requirements which is why I strongly recommend it! On top of that, the tutors at Exeter are great and always willing to help if you're struggling with anything academic.

If you're thinking of applying to history at Exeter/are a current or incoming student and have any questions, feel free to contact me and I'll do my best to answer!

History and English

Hi! I'm Emily, a second year History and English student :)

Since History and English only has an intake of around 14 students in a whole year group, I found myself being the only HENG student in all of Exeter college during first year. This made trying to figure out the structure of my course and how to better organise my workload really difficult - something I quickly found out as I was crying to my parents over the phone during freshers week whilst staring at a blank word page where my essay on the Parliamentary Reform Acts was meant to be typed out and ready to send.

But fear not! Hopefully you will find this guide helpful as I will outline the structure of the course, explain your weekly workload and offer some final advice.

Papers

During First Year, you will take four papers: Introduction to English language and literature, Literature in English 1830-1950, British Isle Paper 6 1830-1851 and an optional subject for history.

Introduction to English language and literature

This paper is split into two parts: 1A (Language) and 1B (Literature), both of which are assessed via coursework. Unlike single honours English students (who get a week to complete both essays), you will have two weeks! Additionally, you will receive a different set of questions for 1B which meet the interdisciplinary requirements of HENG.

Teaching for 1B begins in Michaelmas term with weekly classes by Mike Mayo at Exeter (who teaches English Theory) and by fortnightly classes held by the History faculty (teaching interdisciplinary HENG studies). These classes will continue up until you take the paper in week 5 and 6 of Trinity term. They both require you to do the pre-reading set, but Mayo's class also requires you to submit a 'zulip' post online, discussing what you thought of the reading with your classmates.

Teaching for 1A begins in Hilary term with weekly classes held by Jenni Nutall at Exeter. The workload requires you to do set pre-reading, but also occasionally requires you to submit a language commentary for marking.

Tutorials for 1A and 1B will only take place in Trinity term when you are asked to submit practice coursework essays. The 1B tutorial will not apply to you, as your essay will be marked online by your HENG tutor.

Literature in English 1830-1950

Teaching for this paper begins in Michaelmas term via weekly classes with Nicole King at Exeter. You will cover different Victorian texts and single honours students will be asked to submit an essay weekly. I will cover how the essay requirements will be different for you later on in the guide. This paper is assessed via an invigilated exam in Trinity term, where you will be asked to write 3 essays in 3 hours.

British Isle Paper 6 1830-1851

Teaching for this paper begins in Michaelmas term via lectures twice a week. There are no classes for this paper, so you must do the pre-reading for your tutorial essays (which again, will not be weekly for you). This paper is also assessed via an invigilated exam in Trinity term, where you will be asked to write 3 essays in 3 hours.

Optional subject

You will be asked to pick from a range of optional subjects which are taught by lectures and set reading in Trinity term. You will submit weekly essays and go to tutorials up until sixth week. This paper is also assessed via an invigilated exam in Trinity term, where you will be asked to write 3 essays in 3 hours.

Second and Third Year Papers

I wouldn't worry too much about trying to get your head around all the confusing requirements for picking papers for years 2 and 3 as your tutors will have a 'HENG pathway meeting' with you. This is where you and your tutor discuss the various pathways you can take in years 2 and 3, helping you to understand how you can pick the papers that interest you most, whilst also fulfilling the degree requirements. Although you won't be asked to think about this until late in Trinity term, I will nonetheless attach a useful grid below in case you are interested in having a glance at second and third year content.

Paper Category	Term usually taught)
1. Bridge Paper (deadline noon, Friday week 1, TT2)	Taught HT2
2. British History (deadline noon, Friday week 9, TT2)	Usually taught MT or TT2
3. Subject from English Course I or II	
4. Subject from English Course I or II	
5. Either History SS taught MT3 only, submission noon Friday week 0, HT3 OR EWF/FS/ OR additional English subject from Course I or II	SS always MT3 only EWF usually taught MT2 or TT2 FS usually taught HT2 but HENG can take FS2
6. History SS part 2 taught MT3 only OR EWF/FS/ OR additional English subject from Course I or II	SS always MT3 only EWF usually taught MT2 or TT2 FS usually taught HT2 but HENG can take FS2
7. Dissertation (deadline noon, Friday week 8, HT3)	Usually HT3

Balancing your Victorian Papers

The best advice I can give to you as a HENG student is to ensure you are coordinating your History and English essays so that they alternate weekly. For example, submitting History essays in weeks 0, 2, 4, and 8 of Michaelmas, and English essays in weeks 1, 3, 6 (week 5 is a reading week for both subjects). After completing half of each paper, you can then complete the rest in Hilary term whilst your single honours classmates go onto new papers, for example submitting the remaining History essays in weeks 0, 2 and 4 and the remaining English essays in 1, 3, 5, 6.

When I came to Exeter, I was told to submit my History essays fortnightly across Michaelmas and Hilary, whilst handing in my English essays weekly during Michaelmas. After realising that it was unfeasible to complete two essays, which could easily be moved to next term when I would have much less work to do, every two weeks on top of other work load, I spoke to Nicole and shifted the teaching to Hilary term. I highly recommend you do this!!

Weekly Routine

The time you are spending on academic affairs will be split between going to lectures, classes and tutorials, completing set reading and submitting essays to tutors. For History, there are only two lectures per week at 12 (which I regret skipping as the ones I did go to were often quite useful). For English, there are usually multiple lectures every morning (which I found less useful). Your classes, tutorials and certain English lectures are compulsory. As long as you alternate your History and English essays weekly and are mindful of the set reading for upcoming classes, you will be fine!

Final Advice

Be mindful that when taking on a double honours degree you must communicate with your tutors, and let them know if the workload becomes unmanageable. Since the two faculties do not communicate with each other, you will often have to explain the differences that apply to double honours students (such as submitting essays at different times to the rest of your classmates, answering different coursework questions and having different deadlines). Since for many of my Exeter tutors, it was their first time teaching a HENG student, they now have a much better understanding of this very complicated course and are more than willing to help you with any problems that may occur. Overall, if you understand the structure of a HENG course and manage your time accordingly, it is so so manageable! Feel free to reach out to me at any time :)

Law

Hi, I'm Ruby! In 1st year, you will be learning criminal, constitutional, and roman law, in preparation for 1st year exams (Mods). Law is pretty standardised from the faculty, so even though there may be some difference in emphasis between colleges, all the basics will be taught. Information about the specifics of each course can be found here: <https://www.law.ox.ac.uk/content/options-page/ba-jurisprudence-options>, but I'll briefly go through how you'll be taught them at Exeter.

Criminal

Criminal law at Exeter is taught by Professor Jonathan Herring, who is also the lead Law Tutor for the college. Jonathan is an amazing academic, and also the author of the criminal law textbook you will most likely be using, which is pretty cool. You will start by covering the basics of criminal liability, such as causation and *mens rea* (the mental element of a crime), and then you will move onto the law on offences against the person, and general defences. In the exam you will do a mix of essays and problem questions, which is where you will be given a scenario of different things people have done, and you might be expected to explain any offences that have been committed, and possibly offer defences for them, depending on the question.

Constitutional

Constitutional law is taught by Professor Rachel Taylor, who is also the Associate Dean for Undergraduates. In constitutional law, you will learn about the structure of the UK constitution, including principles such as parliamentary sovereignty and the separation of powers. You will then learn about certain key principles to the UK constitution, such as devolution, and the structure, effects, and application of the Human Rights Act 1998. All assessment for constitutional law is through essays in the exam.

Roman

This one is really called A Roman Introduction to Private Law, but everyone just calls it Roman Law, and the purpose of it is to understand the concepts from Roman private law, which have had considerable influence over modern private law, and can be especially applicable for people doing Law with one of the European Law courses, as many of the European legal systems have strong influences from Roman law. You will study from the Institutes of Gaius and Justinian, but don't worry, these are translated – you don't need to know any Latin! This is also assessed by a mixture of essays and problem questions. Exeter doesn't

have one set tutor for Roman law, so it may be the case that you will be tutored by someone from another college, or possibly by one of the graduate students (this arrangement is fairly common so don't worry).

At Exeter, you will be taught all 3 subjects at the same time, with 1 tutorial in each over a 2-week period which repeats throughout term. This is different from a lot of colleges, who will essentially teach 1.5 subject per term, so don't worry if people in other colleges seem ahead or behind you, this is fine!

Mods are your major exams; you will sit one exam for each subject. They take place in 9th week of Hilary (2nd) term. This can be annoying, as your friends in other subjects won't have exams then, however the silver lining is you get a Trinity term without the stress of Prelims so you can actually enjoy yourself when the weather is nice. After Mods you'll start on the FHS courses, which you can also find on the link. You will study these, starting with contract and tort in Trinity term, plus 2 options courses (also on the link) across 2nd and 3rd year. There can be some variation in the options offered each year, but the staples are taught every year, and you will always be able to find something that interests you.

Medicine

Hi, I'm Emily!

Division of the course

Medicine at Oxford is taught kind of weirdly, but this is a rough guide to how the teaching is divided in the different years

1: Preclinical 2: Preclinical (terms 1+2), Research project (term 3) 3: Research Project 4,5,6: Clinical

Preclinical

Preclinical means that you will be spending most of your time in the department, rather than in the hospital. Most of the teaching is to do with the science that underlies how we treat different diseases and how a (healthy) human body works. You don't learn that much about particular diseases and treatments, but do learn some as useful examples/ case studies.

Clinical

I am not yet a clinical medic so can't tell you that much about this to be honest! You start doing placements at the hospital and doing a lot more hands on stuff. You see more actual patients, and you also have different tutors. Most of your teaching is in the hospital, not the MSTC.

Research project

In second and third year you will undertake a research project in an area of your choosing. It has to be to do with medical science, but other than that you get pretty much free reign (within reason). You don't have as much formal teaching during your project, and you get to choose which lectures you attend depending on what is relevant to your research

Exams

They are changing the way that exams work for your year, but you will probably have exams pretty much every year, with a combination of multiple choice and essay format. More information about this will be available to you on Canvas once you start the course.

First Year

Course structure

In first year you will study three core modules (OB, P&P, BCh) as well as a couple of other modules that are assessed via coursework rather than exams (Statistics and Medical Sociology). Most of your teaching in terms of lectures and practicals is done in the department (MSTC) and you will also have tutorials in college in your core modules. At the end of the year you will sit exams in the 3 main modules, which you have to pass to get into second year (don't worry, most people do).

Organisation of the body

Tutor: Fadi Issa Subjects included: Anatomy, Embryology, Endocrinology, Histology, Blood Teaching: - Tutorials with Fadi a few times every term (he is always pretty busy so try to be proactive in organising tutorials) - Lectures - Dissection (you will do prosection about once a week in 1st and 2nd term) - Histology: this is looking down microscopes at different cells and tissues.

Physiology and Pharmacology

Tutor: Neil Herring (your main tutor) Subjects included: Muscles, Nerves, Cardiovascular, Respiratory, Renal, Digestive Teaching: - Tutorials with Neil almost every week - Lectures - Practicals (a couple times a term) - Seminars (normally only once or twice a term and focus on pharmacology)

Biochemistry and Medical Genetics

Tutor: John Parrington Subjects included: Biochemistry, Molecular genetics, Medical genetics, Blood Teaching: - Tutorials with JP every ~2 weeks - Lectures - Practicals (tend to be longer and more lab based, normally only once per term)

Medical sociology

This is taught only with lectures in the second term. At the end of that term you get given a take home project where you have to write some essays and submit them to be marked. It is a bit dull but if you attend the lectures you should have no problem with the assessment.

Statistics

This is taught by a series of seminars in second term and assessed via a worksheet that you have to hand in near the end of term. It is quite chill, and you can

compare answers with friends, which is recommended. Don't worry if you haven't done A Level maths, they teach you everything you need to know!

FAQS

Is everyone else insanely smart? Will people care about my A Levels or BMAT?

Absolutely not!! Please remember that you deserve to be here as much as anyone else, and that some people work in different ways. There is no right or wrong way to learn, and it is just about learning what works for you. You are all Oxford medicine students which is an incredible achievement in itself, so try not to compare yourself to others. In general, medics are very kind and most are happy to share resources and help each other- there is no limit to how many people can pass so there is no reason not to help others and try and foster good working relationships with your peers.

How many contact hours will I have per week?

This varies week on week, but normally about 15-20, which are a mixture of practicals, lectures, and tutorials. Here is an example!

How much work should I be doing every day?

In general, if you attend all your lectures and practicals that is normally enough to be getting along with. You will also have tutorial essays to complete, which you should try to do your best in (or at least give it a decent go) and will probably take you a few hours, especially in the beginning. Some lectures might need a bit of going over before/after if you find them confusing, and the recordings and slides are always uploaded to Canvas.

What is the deal with collections?

Collections are mini exams that you do at the beginning of 2nd and 3rd term. They do not count for anything, and are entirely for your own benefit. They are normally done part in the department (for the multiple choice), and part in college (for the essays). They are not something to worry too much about, and many people don't do as well in collections as they do in the final exams.

Modern Languages

Typical cohort: 1 (Italian: 4, Spanish: 4)

Hi, everyone! I'm Gabe and I'm a second year Spanish and (beginners') Italian student. Despite not being the oddest language combination, Spanish and Italian at Exeter is a very small cohort – I'm the only person in my year studying this pair. Despite this, modern languages and linguistics at Exeter are well-represented given the college's size.

Exeter is very well situated for pretty much everything other than clubbing, and foreign languages is no exception: the Taylor (languages library where you'll have most of your lectures), Welly Square (languages faculty where you'll have most of your classes), and Cohen (Exeter's second site where you'll have some tutes and seminars) are all within ten minutes' walk.

Beginners' Italian:

If you're a beginner (like me) then you might be slightly nervous, and that's totally okay. Over the past few years there hasn't been a huge amount of info available online for languages courses full stop, let alone for beginners' courses, but you can rest easy – that's what this article is for.

There are two things you need to know before we progress: firstly, there are more beginners than those who have already studied Italian – you're not alone. Secondly, 'Beginners' Italian' isn't technically a course. For all the other languages which are available to start from scratch, there is a course tailored specifically to the beginners. This isn't the case for Italian. The only difference in course structure for those who haven't yet studied the language is that you attend a pre-sessional course which takes place over four days one or two weeks before freshers' week starts. The course is held in 47 Wellington Square and provides a great opportunity for you to get a taste of life at Oxford before you start: you'll stay in one of the colleges whilst you're on the course (my year were in Teddy Hall), meet your new course mates, familiarise yourself with the Italian language and those who teach it, and scope out some of the city's pubs and cafés.

Before the pre-sessional course, you will be sent a list of grammatical concepts with which you should familiarise yourself. Don't stress yourself out about these. Whilst gaining a solid working knowledge of them will stand you in good stead for the pre-sessional, you will go over all of the concepts during the four days anyway, so I'd recommend that, however you choose to approach it, don't stress yourself out trying to become an expert in this material. The main thing to remember is that, as much as it might sound scary, this 'in-at-the-deep-end' approach has worked for decades of beginners' Italian cohorts, so, whilst it might be tough at times, it'll work for you, too.

After the pre-sessional course, you will be at around GCSE level Italian (at least grammatically) and will be put in one of three groups. This will be the group with which you study grammar, translation (both into Italian and English), reading/essay, and speaking/listening. The group you are in determines the work which you will be set over the course of the year. Those who have studied Italian prior, and therefore not attended the pre-sessional course, will be in a fourth group which will study material suitable for their level. You will notice that the difference

in the work set for each group will gradually lessen as the year progresses, until, towards the end of the year, you will no longer be considered beginners.

One thing which your group does not determine is the literature you will study. Like I have said, 'Beginners' Italian' isn't really a course, so everyone studying Italian, beginner or otherwise, will study the same set texts and will receive the same prelims papers. Your seminars and tutorials at Cohen Quad will most likely contain non-beginners, and, whilst you shouldn't try to keep up with them and read everything in Italian immediately, I would recommend trying to gradually ease yourself into it: poetry especially is something which you should definitely read in the language as soon as possible given the focus on specific words, phonics, metre, etc. For more info on the literature side of the course, read the non-beginners' section of this article.

My main advice for beginners would be to trust the process. There may be times where you feel like it's too difficult, but if you work hard and keep going, you will find by the end of the year that you have made huge progress and will be more than capable of tackling prelims.

Italian:

If you have studied Italian in the past, then your path is a little more straightforward. Italian is a fairly small language at Oxford, and there are more beginners than non-beginners. Because of this, you will be placed in a group with all the other non-beginners for your language classes at Wellington Square which comprise grammar, translation (both into Italian and English), reading/essay, and speaking/listening. This group will contain a wide range of abilities, from GCSE to native speakers, but if you find yourself on the lower end of that spectrum, don't worry: the classes are at a suitable difficulty befitting your level. Language for prelims is split into two papers: Paper I – listening comprehension, reading comprehension, and essay, and Paper II – translation (both into Italian and English).

Literature is college-centric and is also split into two papers: Paper III – Italian Poetry, and Paper IV – Modern Italian Narrative and Cinema. As it says above, the usual intake for Italian at Exeter is around four, and this will be a mix of beginners and non-beginners. If the intake is four, then you will be split into pairs for your tutorials, whereas your seminars will include the full cohort. Dr. Vilma de Gasperin is a lecturer here at Exeter and handles both tutorials and seminars, as well as taking on some of the language classes. She's very supportive and enthusiastic, and is extremely receptive to any concerns you might have.

Italian Workload:

The workload for Italian involves a good split of contact hours and homework. For language, you should expect an hour-long class per week for grammar, translation, prose (translation into Italian), reading/essay, and speaking/listening. Each of these classes will also provide homework which varies in length. For literature, you will have at least two hour-long lectures per week, as well as seminars and tutorials. These alternate weekly and last around two hours. For seminars, you will be told in the tutorial the week prior to prepare some work – often a presentation. For tutorials, you will be given a range of essay titles to choose from in the seminar the week prior which you will discuss.

Spanish:

Spanish is one of the most popular languages on offer at the university, and it is a speciality of Exeter's: our college is home to the King Alfonso XIII Professorship of Spanish Literature and the Queen Sofía Research Fellowship in Modern Peninsular Spanish Literature.

Spanish prelims are split into four papers – two for language and two for literature. Your language papers are Paper I – Translation into Spanish, and Paper II – Translation into English, and in preparation for these you will have centralised lessons at Wellington Square for speaking and grammar/prose (translation into Spanish), the classes for which generally have students from two-three different colleges. In addition to this, you will have translation classes with your college tutor. These classes, as well as seminars and tutorials, were taught with the Spanish students from Keble, however Dr. Imogen Choi, the current Queen Sofia Official Fellow in Spanish, is on sabbatical leave for the 23-24 academic year, so these arrangements may differ.

In terms of literature, you will be preparing for Paper III – Introduction to Hispanic Prose, and Paper IV – Introduction to Hispanic Poetry and Drama. In preparation for these, you will have seminars and tutorials with your college tutor, which, as I have said, may also involve the Spanish students from Keble. In your tutorials, you will generally be split into pairs, whereas for your seminars, it will be the full cohort.

Spanish Workload:

The Spanish workload, like all the modern languages, is split fairly evenly between contact hours and homework. For language, you will have an hour per week of speaking, grammar/prose, and translation. Each of these classes will provide homework which varies in length. For literature, you will have at least two hour-long lectures per week, as well as seminars and tutorials. These alternate weekly

and last around two hours. For seminars, you will be told in the tutorial the week prior to prepare some work – often a presentation. For tutorials, you will be given a range of essay titles to choose from in the seminar the week prior which you will discuss.

Physics

Typical cohort: 7

Hi! I'm Emre, a second year Physics student (MPhys) at Exeter College and the subject rep for Physics. There are two physics degrees at Oxford: The Bachelor course (BA, 3 years) and the Integrated Master's course (MPhys, 4 years). There are also physics courses offered with other subjects: Physics and Philosophy, and Mathematical and Theoretical Physics. The Philosophy option is not offered at Exeter College and the Mathematical and Theoretical Physics option is a different course meaning you would have to apply with your second and third year results. Usually everyone enters the MPhys option at first then students choose to move to the BA course or to the Mathematical and Theoretical option. The Physics Department has two sites (Martin Wood Complex and the Denys Wilkinson Building) very close to each other both of which are about 10 minutes away from Turl Street site.

For first year, the content is split in half covering physics and maths topics. There are five written papers (prelims) to sit in Trinity term (TT, third term) consisting of four core papers and one short option paper. The first paper (CP1) covers Classical Mechanics and Special Relativity. The second paper (CP2) covers Electromagnetism, Optics, and Circuit Theory. These are the two physics papers to sit for prelims. The third paper (CP3) is the first mathematical methods paper covering Vectors and Matrices (Linear Algebra), Ordinary Differential Equations (ODEs) and Complex Numbers. The fourth paper (CP4) is the second mathematical methods paper covering Calculus, Multiple Integrals and Vector Calculus, and Wave motion. The short option paper is divided to three courses of which students pick one of the three options: Functions of Complex Variables (SO01), Introduction to Astrophysics (SO02), and Quantum Ideas (SO03).

The first year also requires you to complete 17 Days of experimental work consisting of labs in General Physics, Optics, Electronics, Electromagnetism, and Computing. Exeter College's allocated lab days are Thursdays for first years, and it generally takes up the whole day from 10am to 5pm. You are required to write up

two experiments of your choice, one from General Physics and one from Optics. The computing labs are completed and submitted on your own, so you won't have to come into labs to complete those. There are three computing assignments, two in Michaelmas term (MT) and one in Hilary term (HT) which in total adds up to 4 days of credit counting towards the total 17 days. The practical course ends with HT, meaning there won't be any labs or marking in TT. There are some exceptions to this if you miss a practical or cannot get your reports marked in time.

In terms of weekly contact hours MT and HT are quite similar. There are about 10-12 hours of lectures, 2-3 tutorials and one day of lab work. The lectures are divided into about 4 hours on Mondays and Tuesdays, and 1 lecture per day for the following days. In TT, there are revision lectures in first four weeks as well as lectures for all short options. The deadline for choosing the short option is a few weeks in TT, which allows you to attend lectures for all short options to get a feeling of each option.

Tutorials are weekly meetings with college tutors (Prof Andrew Steane and Prof Garret Cotter) and a PhD candidate where you go over problem sheets for the topics covered in lectures. Usually in MT, Prof Cotter covers the physics tutorials (CP1 and CP2), and the PhD candidate tutor covers the mathematical methods content. In HT, Prof Steane covers the CP1 content and Prof Cotter covers the CP2 content and the other tutor covering the CP3 and CP4 content. In TT, you will cover past papers for all core papers in tutorials with all three tutors. For most problem sets, it usually takes me about 5-10 hours with some tricky questions left per problem set, but the way I split these hours changes from week to week.