

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD
Board of the Faculty of Classics

FACULTY OF
CLASSICS



UNIVERSITY OF
OXFORD

Graduate Handbook

for the
Master of Studies and Master of Philosophy
in
Greek and/or Latin Languages and
Literature
2025

Faculty of Classics
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Dates of Full Terms

Michaelmas 2025: Sunday 12 October – Saturday 6 December 2025

Hilary 2026: Sunday 18 January – Saturday 14 March 2026

Trinity 2026: Sunday 26 April – Saturday 20 June 2026

Michaelmas 2026*: Sunday 11 October – Saturday 5 December 2026

Hilary 2027*: Sunday 17 January – Saturday 13 March 2027

Trinity 2027*: Sunday 25 April – Saturday 19 June 2027

*provisional

Disclaimer

This handbook applies to students starting the MSt or MPhil in Greek and/or Latin Languages and Literature in October 2025. The information in this handbook may be different for students starting in other years.

The *Examination Regulations* relating to these courses will be published at <https://examregs.admin.ox.ac.uk/>. If there is a conflict between information in this handbook and the *Examination Regulations* then you should follow the *Examination Regulations*. If you have any concerns please contact graduate@classics.ox.ac.uk.

The information in this handbook is accurate as at 7 October 2025; however, it may be necessary for changes to be made in certain circumstances, as explained at www.ox.ac.uk/coursechanges. If such changes are made the department will publish a new version of this handbook together with a list of the changes and students will be informed.

Course Details

Full Title of Award: Master of Studies in Greek and/or Latin Languages and Literature
Course Length: 9 months
FHEQ Level: 7

Full Title of Award: Master of Philosophy in Greek and/or Latin Languages and Literature
Course Length: 21 months
FHEQ Level: 7

Useful Links

Classics Postgraduate Information Canvas Site: <https://canvas.ox.ac.uk/courses/48688>

Complaints and Appeals: <https://canvas.ox.ac.uk/courses/48688/pages/complaints-and-academic-appeals>

Data Protection: <https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/life/it/studentrecord/data>

Equality and Diversity at Oxford: <https://canvas.ox.ac.uk/courses/48688/pages/equality-and-diversity> (see also Annexe A of this handbook)

Examination Conventions: <https://canvas.ox.ac.uk/courses/48688>

Examiners' Reports: <https://canvas.ox.ac.uk/courses/48688/pages/mst-and-mphil-examiners-reports>

Graduate Forum: <https://canvas.ox.ac.uk/courses/48688/pages/graduate-forum>

Graduate Supervision Reporting (Student Self-Service): <https://www.evision.ox.ac.uk/>

Past Exam Papers: <https://solo.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/>

Research Integrity: <https://researchsupport.admin.ox.ac.uk/governance/integrity>

1. Introduction

This handbook, which is meant to be read in combination with the formal course descriptions in *Examination Regulations*, covers the two taught graduate degree programmes in Classical Languages and Literature offered by Oxford University:

- **Master of Studies (MSt)** in Greek and/or Latin Languages and Literature (one year; nine months' actual duration)
- **Master of Philosophy (MPhil)** in Greek and/or Latin Languages and Literature (two years; 21 months' actual duration)

The Examination Regulations may be found online at <https://examregs.admin.ox.ac.uk/>.

You will need to refer to this handbook and the *Examination Regulations* regularly throughout your MSt or MPhil.

2. Aims and Objectives of Courses

Aims

(i) To increase high-level intellectual confidence in students, enabling them to pose research-type questions for themselves, and work independently to produce convincing answers.

(ii) To broaden the range of ancient Greek and Latin literature accessible to students, to include material in other media and texts from other periods where appropriate, and to inculcate critical and sophisticated analysis of all that they study.

(iii) To provide for students a sustained, carefully designed and progressively structured course which requires effort and rigour from them and which yields consistent intellectual reward and satisfaction.

(iv) To train and encourage students in appropriate linguistic, analytical, research and presentational skills to the highest possible standards.

(v) To equip students to approach major issues in their own as well as other cultures with a thoughtful and critical attitude.

(vi) To produce Masters' graduates who are able to deal with challenging intellectual problems systematically, analytically and efficiently, and who are suitable for a wide range of demanding occupations and professions, including teaching our subject in schools and higher education.

(vii) To equip those students who have a vocation for further research with the skills needed to embark on doctoral-level research in any branch of Classical literature; and to impart a critical understanding of current international debate in the subject.

Objectives

(i) To provide expert guidance on methods and controversies in higher-level study of ancient literature, over a very wide range of options in central and representative fields of study, while offering the chance to research more recondite topics to a comparable level.

(ii) To help students develop their critical, scholarly, and argumentative skills, and basing their arguments throughout on a just analysis of the views of other critics and scholars.

(iv) To develop further in students skills of clear and effective communication in written and oral discourse and the organisational abilities needed to plan work and meet demanding deadlines.

(v) To provide a teaching environment in which the key features are close and regular personal attention to students, constructive criticism and evaluation of their work, and continuous monitoring of their academic progress.

(vi) To provide effective mechanisms through which able students at different levels of experience can rapidly acquire the linguistic and other skills needed to achieve their potential in the subject.

(vii) To make full and effective use in our courses of the very wide range of research expertise in our Faculty and the excellent specialist resources and collections available in the University.

(viii) To offer courses which are kept under continuous review and scrutiny.

3. Supervisors

Your supervisor is appointed before you embark on the course by the Graduate Studies Committee. He or she has overall direction of your course. At the beginning of the course, your supervisor will discuss your choice of options and the scheduling of those options with you. Throughout the course, your supervisor is your first port of call if you have questions or concerns. It is important to keep in regular contact with him or her. It is also your responsibility to retain a grasp of the general progress and balance of your own work.

MPhil students have a thesis advisor, and MSt students who write a dissertation have a dissertation advisor. The dissertation/thesis advisor may or may not be the same person as your supervisor.

Your college should have also appointed a college advisor for you. Your supervisor, whether teaching you at the time or not, is the first person to turn to with queries and for advice on applications to the Graduate Studies Committee etc. Otherwise, the Director of Graduate Studies, Dr Christopher Metcalf, should be contacted for advice and guidance on academic matters (christopher.metcalf@balliol.ox.ac.uk).

At the end of each term, both you and your supervisor(s) will submit a report on your academic progress. To facilitate this reporting, the University operates an online Graduate Supervision Reporting system (GSR), which is part of Student Self Service. Students are asked to report in weeks 7-9 of term. This is an opportunity to review and comment on your academic progress, any skills training you have undertaken or may need to undertake in the future, and on your engagement with the academic community (e.g. seminar/conference attendance or any teaching you have undertaken). Your comments will be useful to your supervisor and to the Director of Graduate Studies.

When reporting on academic progress, you should review progress during the current term, and measure this progress against the timetable and requirements for your programme of study. You should briefly describe which subject-specific research skills and more general personal/professional skills you have acquired or developed during the current term. You should include attendance at relevant classes that form part of your programme of study and also include courses, seminars or workshops offered or arranged by your faculty or the Division. You should reflect on the skills required to undertake the work you intend to carry out. You should mention any skills you do not already have or that you wish to strengthen by undertaking training.

If you have any complaints about the supervision you are receiving, you should raise them with the Director of Graduate Studies as soon as possible. You should not use the supervision reporting system as a mechanism for complaints.

Once you have completed your sections of the online form in GSR, it will be released to your supervisor(s) for completion and will also be visible to the Director of Graduate Studies and to your college advisor. Your supervisor(s) will review and comment on your academic progress and performance during the current term and assess skills and training needs to be addressed during the next term. Your supervisor should discuss the report with you, as it will form the basis for feedback on your progress, for identifying areas where further work is required, for reviewing your progress against an agreed timetable, and for agreeing plans for the term ahead.

When the supervisor's sections are completed, you will be able to view the report, as will the Director of Graduate Studies and your college advisor. The Director of Graduate Studies may add brief comments too. College advisors are a source of support and advice to students, and it is therefore important that they are informed of your progress, including concerns (expressed by you and/or your supervisor).

To access GSR, please visit <https://www.evision.ox.ac.uk/>. You will be able to log on using your single sign-on details. Full details of how to use GSR are available on the University website at <https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/selfservice>; if you need additional support, please contact graduate@classics.ox.ac.uk in the first instance.

4. Master of Studies

The one-year MSt (completed in nine months and normally over by the end of June) is designed to allow students a period of study of Greek and/or Latin Classical Literature which is both at a more advanced level, and more independent, than that normal in undergraduate courses, and at the same time more tightly-structured and supervised than work for a doctorate. Most, but not all, students take the course as preparation for a research degree, and for such students it might offer, for instance: linguistic training; the opportunity to become acquainted with an ancillary discipline such as papyrology or palaeography; and a first introduction, via the dissertation, to extended research and the extended presentation of a scholarly argument. The minority of students who treat this degree as a goal in itself can study a wide range of topics which they will not have covered as undergraduates.

A main aim in designing the course has always been flexibility, since students beginning

graduate work at a major international university inevitably have very different backgrounds and needs. Every student takes a selection of options individually related to his or her requirements. Teaching is often in the form of one-to-one or two-to-one tutorials, but you are also encouraged to attend, and actively participate in, a wide range of seminars, some specifically directed to this course. In addition, there will be a class on Research Techniques in Classical Literature, extending over the first two terms and part of the third: this will offer an introduction to approaches and resources, and in particular will provide a forum for you to present your work to other students. Attendance at this class is obligatory for all MSt and first-year MPhil students.

Different option choices will lead to different timetables for the individual, and even a given choice of options may leave scope for a degree of variation in your timetable. It is important that you discuss with your supervisor the implications of your option choices for your timetable. Relevant considerations in this regard may be the need to read primary texts for a particular option before the actual teaching on it starts, the desire to have fresh draft essays available for applications to doctoral programmes, or the due dates for your various pieces of presubmitted written work.

5. The Structure of the MSt

The MSt is inevitably highly intensive. It is a taught course requiring frequent meetings with tutors or supervisors, often once a week.

You offer three options, which may be all Greek, all Latin, or a combination of both languages. Most candidates offer a short dissertation as one of their options (up to 10,000 words; for detailed instructions on word limits, see 15 'Presubmitted Essays and Dissertations'), but this is not obligatory. Those using the MSt as training for a DPhil are strongly advised to submit a dissertation, if possible on a subject which might develop into their doctoral thesis. The MSt options are organised into four groups A, B, C and D. Candidates must take three options from lists A, B, C and D below, at least one of which must be drawn from B or C. Every candidate must offer at least one option that requires detailed study of Greek or Latin or of texts in those languages. This requirement would only be infringed by taking two of B5, B6, B7, and B9, and would depend on choices within those options.

The normal mode of assessment, except for translation papers and the dissertation, is the extended essay of 5,000 words. There are a few exceptions to this, where timed written examinations are considered a more suitable mode of assessment; these are listed in Section 6 below.

The titles of all essays and dissertations that you intend to submit for examination should be approved by the Graduate Studies Committee in accordance with the timetable set out in section 8 below. You are encouraged to phrase your essay and dissertation titles in the style of an academic journal article rather than an exam-style question.

List A consists of 11 specified groups of authors or groups of texts. These largely overlap with the options available in the undergraduate final examination (Honour School of Literae Humaniores), and this means that University lectures are available for most of the options in most years. University classes for options A1, A2, A5, A10 and A11 may be scheduled in the

same slot, so it is wise to choose only one of these options. The methods of teaching and examination, however, are quite distinct from those in the undergraduate degree. There is a final clause (A12) allowing the proposal of 'any other texts or combination of texts approved by the Graduate Studies Committee in Classics'.

List B consists of methods and techniques of scholarship such as papyrology, palaeography, metre, textual criticism, comparative philology and reception theory. It is also possible to offer an option from the MSt in Classical Archaeology or in Greek and/or Roman History. There is also a clause allowing candidates to 'propose any other subject proposed with the aim of developing skills needed for future research and approved by the Graduate Studies Committee', which will determine their method of examination.

List C consists of Elementary or Intermediate Greek, or Elementary or Intermediate Latin. These are only available for those who have not studied the languages to degree level before embarking on the course.

List D consists of a dissertation. Outstanding dissertations in Greek and/or Latin languages and literature will be considered for the Gaisford Dissertation Prize.

Teaching provision

The mode of delivery varies according to option.

List A options require you to meet with a tutor on a regular basis and write essays for those meetings (two of these essays will eventually be selected for revision and pre-submission); there may also be related undergraduate lectures or classes on the option in question, attendance at which should be beneficial.

N.B. Faculty classes for A10 Neronian Literature and A11 Latin Literature from Titus to Trajan will be offered in alternate years. The classes in 2025-26 will be on Neronian Literature, and in 2026-27 on Latin Literature from Titus to Trajan.

The Papyrology options (B1a and B8) require attendance at the classes on literary papyrology in Michaelmas and Hilary Terms. Students taking B8 will have a few follow-up tutorials on their pre-submitted essay. The classes on documentary papyrology may also be of interest.

The Greek Palaeography option (B1b) is taught in a series of classes by Dr Peter Tóth in Michaelmas Term at the Weston Library. Takers of the Latin Palaeography option (B1c) should attend the palaeography classes offered for B3 Latin Textual Criticism. Further tutorials may be arranged on an ad hoc basis if required.

The Metre options (B1d and e) require attendance at lectures, which are then followed up in tutorials in smaller groups.

Greek Textual Criticism (B2) requires attendance at a seminar series starting in week 7 of Michaelmas Term and running until the end of Hilary Term, as well as a dedicated series of classes on Greek papyrology and medieval palaeography in Hilary Term.

Latin Textual Criticism (B3) requires attendance at a seminar series and at the lectures on Latin palaeography; there will also be some individual supervisions on Latin textual criticism, as well

as classes on manuscript description and transcription.

Historical Linguistics and Comparative Philology (B4) is taught through a combination of lectures and individual tutorials.

Reception (B7) requires attendance at a seminar series. Your supervisor will also organise individual tutorials.

The Greek and Latin language papers (C) require attendance at classes over all three terms.

6. Choice of Options (MSt)

Before arriving at Oxford, you should set about deciding which options you are going to take, as you need to submit these options to the Graduate Studies Committee for approval by Wednesday of Week 1 of Michaelmas Term. Talks for the induction in Week 0 may be helpful if you are undecided. Your options should be submitted on form LL01 which may be obtained from Canvas (see Annexe D on p. 42 for further details). The Committee will check that the texts which you are proposing to study are satisfactory where you are creating your own option of texts. **Any modification to your option choices at a later stage has to be approved by the Director of Graduate Studies.**

The course is meant to be as flexible as possible. Your attention is drawn to the freedom allowed by:

- **A12:** the possibility for you to design a custom-built text-based subject constructed to fit your particular interests. You should work closely with your supervisor in designing this option. Rough equipollence with the listed options **A1-A11** will be expected; see below for the verse count (poetry) and OCT page count (prose) for these options. **Please be sure to include a title for your option, verse and/or page count, as well as the preferred editions.**
- **B5** options in Classical Archaeology
- **B6** options in Greek or Roman History
- **B9** intended to cover non-text-based subjects comparable to the other B options.

Your supervisor will advise you on your choice of options, and needs to approve them before they are submitted.

List A

Options in List A are examined by two presubmitted essays and a written translation paper. The texts set for translation in the written examination will be drawn from the prescriptions listed below. Essays may discuss other texts that fall within the area of the option (other historiographical texts in Historiography, other texts by Ovid in Ovid, etc.).

A1. Historiography (191 pp.)

Herodotus III.1-38, 61-88, 97-119 (Wilson, OCT)

Thucydides III.1-19, 37-48, 69-85, 94-114 (Stuart Jones, OCT)

Claudius Quadrigarius fr.6 in *Fragments of the Roman Historians, Vol. II: Texts and Translations* (T. J. Cornell et al., OUP)

Livy preface, I.1-16, 39-60 (Ogilvie, OCT), VII.9.6-10 (Conway & Walters, OCT)

Tacitus *Annals* XV.23-74 (Fisher, OCT)

N.B. A Greek-only or Latin-only version of this option may be studied under A12, subject to your chosen text prescription being approved by the Graduate Studies Committee.

A2. Lyric Poetry (4,263 vv.)

W. Allan *Greek Elegy and Iambus: A Selection* (CUP): all texts

F. Budelmann *Greek Lyric: A Selection* (CUP): all texts

Pindar *Olympians* 1, 6; *Pythians* 4, 8, 9, 11 (Race, Loeb)

Bacchylides 3, 5 (Maehler, CUP)

Catullus 11, 17, 34, 51, 61 (Mynors, OCT)

Horace *Odes* I; *Odes* IV 1, 2, 7, 15 (Wickham & Garrod, OCT)

N.B. A Greek-only or Latin-only version of this option may be studied under A12, subject to your chosen text prescription being approved by the Graduate Studies Committee.

A3. Early Greek Hexameter Poetry (6,142 vv.)

Homer *Odyssey* I, V. 1-XIII. 92 (Monro & Allen, OCT)

Hesiod *Works and Days* including the bracketed portions (Solmsen, OCT)

Homeric Hymns 2 (*Demeter*), 5 (*Aphrodite*) (Monro & Allen, OCT)

A4. Greek Tragedy (4,622 vv.)

Aeschylus *Agamemnon* (Page, OCT)

Sophocles, *Oedipus Tyrannus* (Lloyd-Jones & Wilson, OCT)

Euripides, *Medea* (Diggle, OCT)

A5. Comedy (4,889 vv.)

Aristophanes, *Birds* 1-684, 956-1765 (Wilson, OCT)

Menander, *Dyskolos* (Sandbach, OCT)

Plautus, *Pseudolus* (Christenson, CUP)

Terence, *Eunuchus* (Barsby, CUP)

N.B. A Greek-only or Latin-only version of this option may be studied under A12, subject to your chosen text prescription being approved by the Graduate Studies Committee.

A6. Hellenistic Poetry (2,863 vv.)

Theocritus 1, 2, 7, 11, 13, 15, 17, 28 (Gow, *Bucolici Graeci*, OCT)

Callimachus, *Hymns* 1, 5, 6; fr. 1, 67-75, 110, 178, 191, 194, 260; epigrams 2, 4, 8, 13, 16, 19, 21, 25, 27, 28, 29, 30, 41, 43, 46, 50 (Pfeiffer, except fr. 260, to be read in Callimachus, *Hecale* (ed. A. S. Hollis) fr. 69-74)

Posidippus, *Epigrams* 1-20 (Bastianini, Gallazzi & Austin, LED, Milan)

Apollonius, *Argonautica* III.439-1162 (Hunter, CUP)

Asclepiades 1, 2, 3, 10, 11, 12, 16, 18, 25, 26, 28, 32 (Page, OCT)

A7. Cicero (191 pp.)

Pro S. Roscio Amerino (Clark, OCT)

Pro Murena (Clark, OCT)

Pro Milone (Clark, OCT)

Philippic II (Clark, OCT)

A8. Ovid (5,505 vv.)

Amores II (Kenney, OCT)

Heroides I, II, V, VII, X (Knox, CUP)

Metamorphoses I-IV (Tarrant, OCT)

Tristia I (Owen, OCT)

A9. Latin Didactic (5,211 vv.)

Lucretius I and III (Rouse & Smith, Loeb, 2nd edn, 1992 or later)

Virgil, *Georgics* (Mynors, OCT)

Ovid, *Ars Amatoria* III (Kenney, OCT)

A10. Neronian Literature (2,813 vv. + 194 pp.)

Lucan, *De Bello Civili* I (Roche, OUP, 2009), VII (Roche, CUP, 2019)

Seneca, *Thyestes* (Tarrant, American Philological Association)

Seneca, *Epistles* 7, 21, 47, 53, 70, 86 (in *Seneca. Selected Letters*. Edwards, CUP, 2019)

Seneca, *De Brevitate Vitae* (Reynolds, OCT)

Seneca, *Apocolocyntosis* (Eden, CUP)

Petronius, *Satyrica* 1-26. 6, 79-end (Müller, Stuttgart & Leipzig, 4th edn.)

Persius 1 (Clausen, OCT)

A11. Latin Literature from Titus to Trajan (3,551 vv. + 61 pp.)

Juvenal, *Satires* 1, 2, 4 (Clausen, OCT)

Martial, *Epigrams* IX (Lindsay, OCT)

Pliny the Younger, *Epistles* II (Mynors, OCT)

Statius, *Silvae* IV (Courtney, OCT)

Statius, *Thebaid* I and VIII (Shackleton Bailey, Loeb)

Tacitus, *Agricola* (Ogilvie, OCT)

A12. Any other text or combination of texts approved by the Graduate Studies Committee for Classical Languages and Literature

List B

Each of options B2-B4 will be examined in one paper of three hours. The mode of assessment for other List B options varies; please see below for details. The technical skills taught in options B1-3 and B8 form the bedrock of literary study of the ancient world, in that they have allowed scholars to reconstruct the texts on which we all work. They are vital to the study of Greek and Latin and provide a serious foundation for students of literature. The acquisition of these skills, even at a basic level, is crucial to the formation of future literary scholars, who are able to engage closely with texts and questions surrounding their transmission. There are few means of preparing more thoroughly for being a sensitive close reader of literary works of any kind than approaching them from a textual critical angle, a perspective that demands attention to the content, context, style, genre, and form of a given text.

The resources in Oxford are prodigious for the study of the transmission of texts from antiquity to the present day, as the university and the colleges have extensive libraries of manuscripts and early printed volumes in Greek and Latin, and the Oxyrhynchus collection provides an unparalleled source of material. Oxford's Faculty of Classics has for over a century been one of the leading centres for the study of these more technical skills, and continues to boast a large number of specialists on whose expertise students are encouraged to draw. Attendance at palaeography, papyrology, and textual criticism classes is open to all graduates in the faculty, even if not taking one of these options for examination.

B1. Methods and Techniques of Scholarship

Candidates choosing this option are required to offer two of the following topics:

- (a) Greek Literary Papyrology
- (b) Greek Palaeography
- (c) Latin Palaeography
- (d) Greek Metre
- (e) Latin Metre

Each of these topics will be examined in one paper of one and a half hours, except for (a) Greek Literary Papyrology, which will be examined by a practical test taken in the candidate's own time (as prescribed for option B3 Greek and Latin Papyrology in the M.Phil. in Greek and/or

Latin Languages and Literature). Option B1(a) may not be combined with option B8 below.

B2. Greek Textual Criticism: Euripides, *Orestes* 1-347 and 1246-1693: Papyri, Manuscripts, Text

This subject is assessed in a 3-hour written paper.

The paper will consist of: (i) transcription of short passages from both (a) a papyrus of Greek poetry and (b) a medieval manuscript of the *Orestes*; (ii) textual and interpretative commentary on a choice of passages (with apparatus criticus), from Euripides, *Orestes* 1-347 and 1246-1693. Both (i) and (ii) are to be attempted. Candidates will be expected to show appropriate knowledge of the history of transmission and the principles of textual criticism; they will also be expected to show, as appropriate, knowledge of the whole play.

B3. Latin Textual Criticism

Either

(a) **Seneca, *Medea***: manuscripts, text, interpretation

or

(b) **Catullus** 1-14, 44-51, 61, 68-76, 95-101, 114-116: manuscripts, text, interpretation

N.B. University teaching is given in only one of these subjects each year. In 2025-26 and 2027-28 University teaching will be available on Seneca, *Medea*; in 2026-27 on Catullus.

This subject is assessed in a 3-hour written paper.

The written paper will consist of: (i) transcription of a short passage from a medieval manuscript; (ii) textual and interpretative commentary on a choice of passages (with apparatus criticus) from the set text. Both (i) and (ii) are to be attempted. Candidates will be expected to show appropriate knowledge of the history of transmission and the principles of textual criticism.

B4. Historical Linguistics and Comparative Philology

This option includes an introduction to the methods and aims of historical and comparative linguistics, the reconstruction of the Indo-European protolanguage and its development into Latin and Greek. This subject is assessed in a 3-hour written paper. The questions set for the written exam will require specific competence in one of the two classical languages but not necessarily in both. An opportunity will be given for (optional) commentary on Greek or Latin texts.

B5. Any option available in the MSt in Classical Archaeology, Schedule B

This option will be examined either by two presubmitted essays or by a dissertation of not more than 10,000 words. The deadlines for submission of essays will be those of the MSt in Greek and/or Latin Languages and Literature.

B6. Any option available in the MSt in Greek and/or Roman History, Lists B and C

The mode of assessment will be as specified in the regulations for the MSt in Greek and/or Roman History. However, the deadlines for submission will be those of the MSt in Greek and/or Latin Languages and Literature. You should consult with your supervisor about these options, and keep in mind that the relevant Sub-Faculty assumes some previous study of the period and/or familiarity with the methodology.

B7. Reception: Theory and Methods

This option will be examined by two presubmitted essays and requires attendance at the associated classes.

B8. Greek and Latin Literary Papyrology

This option will be examined by one presubmitted essay of up to 5,000 words and by a practical test taken in the candidate's own time (as prescribed for Greek and Latin Papyrology in the MPhil in Greek and/or Latin Languages and Literature). This option may not be combined with option B1(a) above.

B9. Any other subject proposed with the aim of developing skills needed for future research and approved by the Graduate Studies Committee in Classical Languages and Literature, which will determine the method of examination

Histories and Methodologies of Classical Scholarship may be offered under this regulation. It will be examined by two presubmitted essays and requires attendance at the associated classes. It will be run by Professor Constanze Güthenke (constanze.guthenke@classics.ox.ac.uk), who may be consulted for further details.

List C

C1a. Elementary Greek

There will be one three-hour paper, consisting of passages of Greek which will test knowledge of Attic grammar and competence in translation from Greek into English.

C1b. Intermediate Greek

Candidates will be expected to be familiar with *An Anthology of Greek Prose* ed. D.A. Russell (Oxford University Press 1991), nos. 17, 18, 23, 24, 33, 40, 44, 66, 78. There will be one two-hour paper and one three-hour paper. The first paper will include passages for unseen translation and grammatical questions on the Russell selection. In the second paper candidates will be expected to translate from the Russell selection and also from two of the following texts:

- (i) **Herodotus** I. 1-94 (Wilson, OCT)
- (ii) **Plutarch** *Life of Antony* 1-9, 23-36, 71-87 (Pelling, CUP, 1988)
- (iii) **Euripides** *Bacchae* (Allan & Swift, CUP, 2024)

C2a. Elementary Latin

There will be one three-hour paper, consisting of passages of Latin prose which will test knowledge of classical Latin grammar and competence in translation from Latin into English.

C2b. Intermediate Latin

Candidates will be expected to be familiar with *An Anthology of Latin Prose* ed. D. A. Russell (Oxford University Press 1990), nos. 7, 12, 22, 23, 34, 52, and 63. There will be one two-hour paper and one three-hour paper. The first paper will include passages for unseen translation and grammatical questions on the Russell selection. In the second paper candidates will be expected to translate from the Russell selection and also from TWO of the following texts:

(i) **Cicero** *Pro Caelio* (Clark & Peterson, OCT)

(ii) **Pliny** *Letters* 1.6, 9, 13, 19; VII.21, 24, 26, 29; VIII.16, 17; IX.6, 12, 15, 27, 33, 39; X.31, 32, 96, 97 (Fisher & Griffin, CUP, 1973)

(iii) **Ovid** *Metamorphoses* 8 (Hollis, OUP, 1970)

List D

D. Dissertation

A dissertation (if offered) should be of not more than 10,000 words on a subject to be proposed by the candidate in consultation with the overall supervisor or the supervisor for the dissertation, and approved by the Graduate Studies Committee in Classical Languages and Literature.

7. Examinations (MSt)

In the examination, each assessment will be marked on a numerical scale. For options consisting of two presubmitted essays, the overall mark for the option will be the average of the two essay marks. Where an option consists of two essays and a translation paper, the translation will constitute one third of the overall option mark and each essay as another third. The overall mark for each option will constitute one third of the overall average for the degree, except in the case of half-options under B1, which each constitute one sixth of the overall average.

A Pass in the examination requires an average mark of 50 or above across the three options; a Fail (i.e. a mark of less than 50) in more than one option will normally constitute an overall Fail. A Distinction will be awarded when the average mark is 70 or above, provided that no mark is below 50; alternatively, a Distinction may be awarded when two separate options are marked at 74 or above, and the third at 57 or above. A Merit will be awarded to any candidate not achieving a Distinction when the average mark is 65 or above, provided that no mark is below 50; alternatively, they a Merit may be awarded when two options are marked at 70 or above, and the third is not below 50.

All candidates who are offering two options examined by presubmitted essays must complete two of those essays by Thursday of Week 5 of the second term (Hilary Term) and the remainder

by Wednesday of Week 6 of the third term (Trinity Term). Candidates offering only one option examined by presubmitted essays may optionally submit their essays by Thursday of Week 5 of Hilary Term; otherwise they must submit them by Wednesday of Week 6 of Trinity Term (but in order to ease their workload in Trinity Term it may be advisable to complete them in Hilary Term). The written work submitted in connection with papyrology options does not for these purposes count as a presubmitted essay.

For the dates of the written exam please see below; please note, however, that the textual criticism options (B2 and B3) will probably be examined two or three weeks earlier as part of the timetable for undergraduate examinations. Some other papers, especially language papers, may also be examined earlier than Monday to Wednesday of Week 9 of Trinity Term. Past papers are available in Solo at <https://solo.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/>. These will give you an idea of what is expected in a representative range of topics, but it should be noticed that the syllabus in any particular option may be different from that in previous years.

Candidates who need to make special arrangements for exams should consult their colleges in the first instance. Mr Andrew Dixon (graduate@classics.ox.ac.uk), your supervisor and the Director of Graduate Studies (christopher.metcalfe@classics.ox.ac.uk) will be able to offer advice if difficulties with arrangements for exams are foreseen.

8. Timetable for the Proposal and Submission of Academic Work (MSt)

1. By **Wednesday, 15 October 2025** (First Week of Michaelmas Term)

Submission of your three options for approval by the Graduate Studies Committee in Classics (form LL01).

2. **Thursday, 4 December 2025** (Eighth Week of Michaelmas Term)

Examination entry deadline. ***Please note that any subsequent changes to your exam entry must be arranged via your college office, and may be subject to an administration fee.*** N.B. You should also consult your college in the first instance about any particular arrangements needed for the exam, or any request to have a deadline for submitting work extended etc.

3. By **Monday, 12 January 2026** (Noughth Week of Hilary Term)

Submission of the proposed title of any dissertation for approval by the Graduate Studies Committee (form LL04).

4. By **Monday, 12 January 2026** (Noughth Week of Hilary Term)

Submission of titles of at least two presubmitted essays, if you are offering two options examined by presubmitted essays (form LL02). If you are offering just one option examined by presubmitted essays you may submit their titles by this deadline.

5. By **noon on Thursday, 19 February 2026** (Fifth Week of Hilary Term)

Submission of (first) two presubmitted essays to the University's online exams platform (but if you are offering just one option examined by presubmitted essays you may choose to submit them by the deadline given in 7 below).

6. By **Friday, 1 May 2026** (First Week of Trinity Term)

Submission of titles of remaining presubmitted essays (form LL03).
Confirmation of any dissertation title (form LL05).

7. By noon on Wednesday, 3 June 2026 (Sixth Week of Trinity Term)

Deadline for submission of any remaining presubmitted essays and/or the dissertation to the University's online exams platform.

8. Monday to Wednesday, 22-24 June 2026 (Ninth Week of Trinity Term)

Written examination. Please note however that the Greek and Latin language examinations may be held in the preceding week, and the textual criticism options (B2 and B3) will probably be examined two or three weeks earlier as part of the timetable for Literae Humaniores finals. At the beginning of Hilary Term, you must inform the Graduate Studies Committee of the titles of any essays you are submitting in the fifth week of that term, and at the beginning of Trinity Term the titles of essays you are submitting at the end of Trinity Term. The course has been designed so that it is sufficiently flexible for students to tailor their studies to fit their individual interests. It is necessary for the Graduate Studies Committee to keep track of what graduates are studying in order to make suitable examining arrangements for each student.

Please pay special notice to the requirement that if you take a combination of options which involves a total of four or more presubmitted essays, you should submit at least two of those essays by noon on the Thursday of Week 5 of Hilary Term.

You must not submit an essay or thesis with a title that differs from the one that has been approved by the Graduate Studies Committee. Any changes to the titles of essays and dissertations must be approved by the committee. Initial requests can be made by email to the Director of Graduate Studies; these will normally be approved if the change is not drastic.

For complaints and appeals please go to <https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/complaints>.

9. Master of Philosophy

Nearly all students who take the two-year MPhil (completed in 21 months and normally finishing by the end of June in the second year) do so as preparation for a research degree. For such students it might offer, for instance, linguistic training or the opportunity to become acquainted with an ancillary discipline, such as papyrology, textual criticism of Greek and/or Latin, or reception. It also offers, through an obligatory thesis, the first steps in actual research and the extended presentation of a scholarly argument. The minority of students who treat this degree as a goal in itself can study a wide range of topics which they will not have covered as undergraduates.

Every student takes a selection of options individually related to his or her requirements. Teaching is often in the form of one-to-one or one-to-two tutorials, but you are also encouraged to attend, and actively participate in, a wide range of seminars, some specifically directed to this course. In addition, there will be a class on Research Techniques in Classical Literature, extending over the first two terms and part of the third: this will offer an introduction to approaches and resources, and in particular will provide a forum for students' presentation of their own work to other students. Attendance at this class is obligatory.

10. The Structure of the MPhil

The MPhil is an intensive course, though on a longer timescale than the MSt. It is a taught course requiring frequent meetings with tutors or supervisors, often once a week.

You offer three options, which may be all Greek, all Latin or a combination of both languages. All candidates must offer a substantial thesis as one of their options (up to 25,000 words). (For detailed instructions on word limits, see 15 'Presubmitted Essays and Dissertations.') One of the options from Groups A, B and C is taken in the first year of the MPhil, and your two other options are taken in the second.

The options are organised into three groups, A, B and C; any two options may be chosen in addition to the thesis (D). The normal mode of assessment, except for translation-and-comment papers, is the extended essay of up to 7,500 words. There are a few exceptions to this, where timed written examinations are considered a more suitable mode of assessment; these are listed in Section 11 below.

The titles of all essays and theses that you intend to submit for examination should be approved by the Graduate Studies Committee in accordance with the timetable set out in section 13 below. You are encouraged to phrase your essay and dissertation titles in the style of an academic journal article rather than an exam-style question.

List A consists of 11 specified groups of authors or groups of texts. These overlap to some extent with the options available in the Final Honour School of Literae Humaniores, and this means that University lectures are available for most of the options in most years; university classes for options A1, A2, A5, A10 and A11 may be scheduled in the same slot, so it is wise to choose only one of these options. The methods of teaching and examination, however, are quite distinct from those for the undergraduate degree. There is a final clause (A12) allowing the proposal of 'any other text or combination of texts approved by the Graduate Studies Committee in Classics'.

List B consists of methods and techniques of scholarship including transmission of texts, and palaeography, Greek and Latin papyrology, textual criticism of Greek and/or Latin, comparative philology and reception. There is also a clause allowing 'any other subject approved by the Graduate Studies Committee in Classics'; if the Committee approves a proposal, it will determine the appropriate method of examination.

List C consists of Intermediate Greek or Latin. These are only available for those who have not studied the languages to degree level before embarking on the course.

List D covers theses. Outstanding theses in Greek/Latin languages and literature will be considered for the Gaisford Dissertation Prize.

Teaching provision

The mode of delivery varies according to option.

List A options will require you to meet with a tutor on a regular basis and write essays for these meetings (three of these essays will eventually be selected for revision and pre-submission);

there may also be related undergraduate lectures or classes on the option in question, attendance at which should be beneficial.

N.B. Faculty classes for A10 Neronian Literature and A11 Latin Literature from Titus to Trajan will be offered in alternate years. The classes in 2025-26 will be on Neronian Literature, and in 2026-27 on Latin Literature from Titus to Trajan.

The option on the Transmission of Greek Texts, and the Elements of Palaeography and Textual Criticism (B1) requires attendance at a seminar series starting in week 7 of Michaelmas Term and running until the end of Hilary Term, as well as a dedicated series of classes on Greek papyrology and medieval palaeography in Hilary Term. Takers are also encouraged to attend a series of classes on Greek palaeography by Dr Peter Tóth in Michaelmas Term at the Weston Library. There will also be individual supervision of work towards the presubmitted essays and further tutorials on Greek palaeography arranged on an ad hoc basis if required.

The option on the Transmission of Latin Texts, and the Elements of Palaeography and Textual Criticism (B2) requires attendance at the lectures/classes on Latin palaeography, a seminar series on the set text, and classes on the transcription and description of Latin manuscripts; there will also be individual supervision of work for the set text paper and towards the presubmitted essays.

The Greek and Latin Papyrology option (B3) requires attendance at the lectures on literary papyrology, which are then followed up in tutorials with smaller groups; the classes on documentary papyrology may also be of interest.

Comparative Philology, with special reference to the history of the Greek and/or Latin language (B4) is taught through a combination of lectures and individual tutorials.

Reception (B5) requires attendance at a seminar series. Your supervisor will also organise individual tutorials.

The Greek and Latin language papers (C) require attendance at classes over all three terms.

11. Choice of Options (MPhil)

As soon as you arrive, or (even better) before that, you should set about deciding which options you are going to take; talks for the induction in Week 0 of Michaelmas Term may be helpful if you are undecided. You need to submit your options for approval by the Committee for Graduate Studies a term later, at their meeting in Second Week of Hilary Term. Your options should be submitted on form LL06, which may be obtained from Canvas (see Annexe D on p. 44 for further details). At the meeting the Committee will check that the texts that you are proposing to study are satisfactory where you are creating your own option of texts. **Any modification to your option choices at a later stage has to be approved by the Director of Graduate Studies.**

The course is meant to be as flexible as possible. Your attention is drawn to the freedom allowed by:

A12: the possibility for you to design a custom-built text-based subject constructed to fit your particular interests. You should work closely with your supervisor in designing this option.

Rough equipollence with the listed options A1-A11 will be expected; see below for the verse count (poetry) and OCT page count (prose) for these options.

B8: Any other subject approved by the Graduate Studies Committee in Classical Languages and Literature.

Please be sure to include a title as well as the preferred editions for any option offered under A12 or B8. The verse or page count should also be indicated for options under A12.

List A

Options in List A are examined by two methods: submission of three presubmitted essays and a written paper (three hours) which contains passages for translation and comment. For the MPhil, texts in the α section are set for translation and commentary, while texts in the β section are set for translation only. Essays may discuss both α and β texts, as well as other texts that fall within the area of the option (other historiographical texts in Historiography, other texts by Ovid in Ovid, etc.).

The editions listed below will be used in the examination; if more than one impression or edition has appeared, the latest will be used. Passages set for translation or comment will normally be scanned directly from the prescribed edition. Words enclosed in square brackets are not normally to be translated (except in the case of Hesiod) – but square brackets mean something different in the case of works transmitted only on papyrus by authors such as Callimachus, Menander, Posidippus, and Timotheus: in their case anything enclosed in square brackets *should* be translated.

A1. Historiography..... (α 191 pp. β 401 pp.).....

α

Herodotus III.1-38, 61-88, 97-119 (Wilson, OCT)

Thucydides III.1-19, 37-48, 69-85, 94-114 (Stuart Jones, OCT)

Claudius Quadrigarius fr.6 in *Fragments of the Roman Historians, Vol. II: Texts and Translations* (T. J. Cornell et al., OUP)

Livy preface, I.1-16, 39-60, VII.9.6-10 (Conway & Walters, OCT)

Tacitus *Annals* XV.23-74 (Fisher, OCT)

β

Rest of **Herodotus** III (Wilson, OCT)

Rest of **Thucydides** III (Stuart Jones, OCT)

Xenophon *Anabasis* I-IV (Marchant, OCT)

Caesar *De Bello Gallico* VI-VII (du Pontet, OCT)

Rest of **Livy** I (Conway & Walters, OCT)

Sallust *Bellum Iugurthinum* (Reynolds, OCT)

N.B. A Greek-only or Latin-only version of this option may be studied under A12, subject to your chosen text prescription being approved by the Graduate Studies Committee.

A2. Lyric Poetry

(α 6,014 vv. β 3,320 vv.)

α

W. Allan *Greek Elegy and Iambus: A Selection* (CUP): all texts

F. Budelmann *Greek Lyric: A Selection* (CUP): all texts

Pindar *Olympians* 1, 6, 13, 14; *Pythians* 1, 4, 8, 9, 10, 11; *Nemean* 1, 5, 10 (Race, Loeb)

Bacchylides 3, 5, 11, 13 (Maehler, CUP)

Catullus 11, 17, 34, 51, 61 (Mynors, OCT)

Horace *Odes* I, IV (Wickham & Garrod, OCT)

β

M. L. West *Greek Lyric Poetry: a new translation* (Oxford): all texts that are not α texts.

Pindar Remainder of *Olympians* and *Pythians*; *Nemean* 7; *Isthmian* 7; *Paeans* 2, 4, 6; *Partheneion* (Race, Loeb)

Bacchylides 17, 18, fr. 4, fr. 20B (Maehler, CUP)

Timotheus 788-91 (Hordern, OUP)

Callimachus *Iambi* 1, 4, 5, 13 and *Ektheosis Arsinoes* (Pfeiffer, Clarendon Press)

Theocritus 29 and 30 (Gow, *Bucolici Graeci*, OCT)

Catullus 4, 16, 21-6, 29-30, 38, 40-3, 52-60, 63 (Mynors, OCT)

Horace *Odes* II, III; *Carmen Saeculare*; *Epodes* (Wickham & Garrod, OCT)

N.B. A Greek-only or Latin-only version of this option may be studied under A12, subject to your chosen text prescription being approved by the Graduate Studies Committee.

A3. Early Greek Hexameter Poetry

(α 7,164 vv. β 148 vv. + 66 pp.)

α

Homer *Odyssey* I, V. 1-XIII. 92 (Monro & Allen, OCT)

Hesiod *Works and Days* (Solmsen, OCT)

Hesiod *Theogony* (Solmsen, OCT)

Homeric Hymns 2 (*Demeter*), 5 (*Aphrodite*) (Monro & Allen, OCT)

β

Fragments of the Epic Cycle (in M. L. West, *Greek Epic Fragments*, Loeb, 2003, pp. 38-171).

Candidates will also be expected to be familiar with the *Iliad* and the rest of the *Odyssey*.

A4. Greek Tragedy

(α 8,104 vv. β 8,136 vv.)

α

Aeschylus *Oresteia* (Page, OCT)

Sophocles *Oedipus Tyrannus* (Lloyd-Jones & Wilson, OCT)

Euripides *Medea, Electra* (Diggle, OCT)

β

Sophocles *Electra, Oedipus Coloneus* (Lloyd-Jones & Wilson, OCT)

Euripides *Helen, Ion* (Diggle, OCT)

Aristophanes *Frogs* (Wilson, OCT)

A5. Comedy

(α 7,371 vv. β 4,208 vv.)

α

Aristophanes *Birds, Ekklesiazousai* (Wilson, OCT)

Menander *Dyskolos* (Sandbach, OCT)

Plautus *Pseudolus* (Christenson, CUP)

Terence *Eunuchus* (Barsby, CUP), *Adelphoe* (Martin, CUP)

β

Menander *Aspis, Dis Exapaton, Epitrepontes, Kolax, Misoumenos, Perikeiromene, Samia, Sikyonios* (Sandbach, OCT)

Plautus *Bacchides* (Barsby, Aris & Phillips)

N.B. A Greek-only or Latin-only version of this option may be studied under A12, subject to your chosen text prescription being approved by the Graduate Studies Committee.

A6. Hellenistic Poetry

(α 3,660 vv. β 2,246 vv.)

α

Theocritus 1, 2, 3, 7, 11, 13, 15, 17, 28 (Gow, *Bucolici Graeci*, OCT)

Callimachus *Hymns* 1, 2, 5, 6; fr. 1, 67-75, 110, 178, 191, 194, 260; epigrams 2, 4, 8, 13, 16, 19, 21, 25, 27, 28, 29, 30, 41, 43, 46, 50 (Pfeiffer, except fr. 260, to be read in Callimachus, *Hecale* (ed. A. S. Hollis) fr. 69-74)

Posidippus *Epigrams* 1-20 (Bastianini, Gallazzi & Austin, LED, Milan)

Apollonius *Argonautica* III (Hunter, CUP)

Asclepiades 1, 2, 3, 10, 11, 12, 16, 18, 25, 26, 28, 32 (Page, OCT)

β

Apollonius *Argonautica* IV (Hunter, CUP)

Moschus *Europa* (Gow, *Bucolici Graeci*, OCT)

Herodas 2, 4, 6 (in J. Rusten, I. C. Cunningham and A. D. Knox, *Theophrastus, Herodas, Cercidas*, etc. (Loeb)

A7. Cicero

(α 240 pp. β 188 pp.)

α

Pro S. Roscio Amerino (Clark, OCT)

Pro Murena (Clark, OCT)

Pro Milone (Clark, OCT)

Philippic II, III, IV (Clark, OCT)

Divinatio in Caecilius (Peterson, OCT)

β

Auctor ad Herennium I; II. 1-12, 47-50; IV. 11-16

De Oratore II. 71-216, 290-349

Verrine V

A8. Ovid

(α 6,277 vv. β 4,024 vv.)

α

Amores II (Kenney, OCT)

Heroides I, II, V, VII, X (Knox, CUP)

Metamorphoses I-IV (Tarrant, OCT)

Tristia I (Owen, OCT)

Ars Amatoria I (Kenney, OCT)

β

Catullus 64 (Mynors, OCT)

Metamorphoses XIII-XV (Tarrant, OCT)

Heroides XVIII (Knox, CUP)

A9. Latin Didactic

(α 6,497 vv. β 1,385 vv.)

α

Lucretius I, III, VI (Rouse & Smith, Loeb, 2nd edn, 1992 or later)

Virgil *Georgics* (Mynors, OCT)

Ovid *Ars Amatoria* III (Kenney, OCT)

β

Hesiod *Works and Days* (Solmsen, OCT)

Aratus *Phaenomena* 1-136, 733-1154 (Kidd, CUP)

A10. Neronian Literature

(**α** 3,706 vv. + 254 pp. **β** 481 vv. + 37 pp.)

α

Lucan I (Roche, OUP, 2009), VII (Roche, CUP, 2019)

Seneca *Thyestes* (Tarrant, American Philological Association)

Seneca *Medea* (Zwierlein, OCT)

Seneca *Epistles* 7, 21, 47, 53, 70, 86 (in *Seneca. Selected Letters*. Edwards, CUP, 2019)

Seneca *De Brevitate Vitae* (Reynolds, OCT)

Seneca *Apocolocyntosis* (Eden, CUP)

Petronius *Satyrical* (Müller, Stuttgart & Leipzig, 4th edn.)

β

Persius 1 (Clausen, OCT)

Calpurnius Siculus 1, 4, 7 (Duff & Duff, *Minor Latin Poets*, Loeb)

Seneca *Naturales Quaestiones* I *praefatio*, 16, III *praefatio*, 17-18, IVb.13, VI.1-3, 32 (Hine, Teubner, 1996)

Candidates will also be expected to be familiar with Suetonius, *Nero* (Kaster, OCT) and Tacitus, *Annals* XIII-XVI (Fisher, OCT).

A11. Latin Literature from Titus to Trajan

(**α** 4,678 vv. + 61 pp. **β** 207 pp.)

α

Juvenal *Satires* 1, 2, 4 (Clausen, OCT)

Martial *Epigrams* IX (Lindsay, OCT)

Pliny the Younger *Epistles* II (Mynors, OCT)

Statius *Achilleid* (Dilke, CUP)

Statius *Silvae* IV (Courtney, OCT)

Statius *Thebaid* I and VIII (Shackleton Bailey, Loeb)

Tacitus *Agricola* (Ogilvie, OCT)

β

Pliny the Elder *Natural History*, Preface (Beaujeu)

Pliny the Younger *Panegyricus* (Mynors, OCT)

Tacitus *Histories* II-III (Fisher, OCT)

A12. Any other text or combination of texts approved by the Graduate Studies Committee in Classics

List B

B1. The Transmission of Greek Texts, and the Elements of Palaeography and Textual Criticism, with Closer Study of Euripides, *Orestes* 1-347 and 1246-1693

Candidates will be required (i) to submit two essays on some aspect of the transmission of Greek texts or textual criticism; (ii) to sit a paper on Greek palaeography (1.5 hours): this will require the transcription, description and dating of two manuscript passages; and (iii) to take a paper of transcription and of comment on passages in the set text (for more information see option B2 in the MSt).

B2. The Transmission of Latin Texts, and the Elements of Palaeography and Textual Criticism, with Closer Study of either (a) Seneca, *Medea* or (b) Catullus 1-14, 44-51, 61, 68-76, 95-101, 114-116

Candidates will be required (i) to submit two essays on some aspect of the transmission of Latin texts or textual criticism, (ii) to sit a paper on Latin Palaeography (1.5 hours), and (iii) to take a paper of transcription and of comment on passages in the set text (for more information see option B3 in the MSt).

N.B. University teaching is given in only one of these subjects each year. In 2025-26 and 2027-8 University teaching will be available on Seneca, *Medea*; in 2026-27 on Catullus.

B3. Greek and Latin Papyrology, with special reference to literary papyri

Candidates will be required (i) to submit two essays that between them display more than a narrow range of the topic, and (ii) to undertake a practical test, in their own time. In the practical test, they are to prepare and submit an edition, in proper scholarly form, of an original papyrus or small group or papyri. A papyrus or group of papyri will be assigned to each candidate not later than Saturday of Week 6 in the Hilary Full Term preceding the candidate's final term. The edition must be submitted by noon on Wednesday of Week 6 in the appropriate Trinity Full Term.

B4. Comparative Philology, with special reference to the history of the Greek and/or Latin language

Two papers will be set. Paper (i), Essays, will cover (a) basic questions about the comparative and/or historical grammar of Greek and/or Latin, and (b) questions about the history of the Greek and/or Latin language. Paper (ii), texts for translation and linguistic commentary, passages set from Greek dialect inscriptions and/or Latin archaic inscriptions, from Greek and/or Latin literary texts, and from Linear B and/or Oscan and Umbrian.

B5. Reception: Theory and Methods

Option B5 will be examined by means of four pre-submitted essays and require attendance at the associated classes.

B6. Any option available in the MPhil in Classical Archaeology, Schedule B

This option will be examined either by two presubmitted essays or by a dissertation of not more than 10,000 words. The deadlines for submission of essays will be those of the MPhil in Greek and/or Latin Languages and Literature.

B7. Any option available in the M.Phil. in Greek and/or Roman History, Lists B and C

The mode of assessment will be as specified in the regulations for the MPhil in Greek and/or Roman History. However, the deadlines for submission will be those of the MPhil in Greek and/or Latin Languages and Literature. You should consult with your supervisor about these options, and keep in mind that the relevant sub-faculty assumes some previous study of the period and/or familiarity with the methodology.

B8. Any other subject approved by the Graduate Studies Committee in Classics, which will determine the method of examination.

List C

C1. Intermediate Greek

Candidates will be expected to be familiar with *An Anthology of Greek Prose* ed. D.A. Russell (Oxford University Press 1991), nos. 17, 18, 23, 24, 33, 40, 44, 66, 78. There will be one two-hour paper and one three-hour paper. The first paper will include passages for unseen translation and grammatical questions on the Russell selection. In the second paper candidates will be expected to translate from the Russell selection and also from two of the following texts:

- (i) **Herodotus** I. 1-94 (Wilson, OCT)
- (ii) **Plutarch** *Life of Antony* 1-9, 23-36, 71-87 (Pelling, CUP, 1988)
- (iii) **Euripides** *Bacchae* (Allan & Swift, CUP, 2024)

C2. Intermediate Latin

Candidates will be expected to be familiar with *An Anthology of Latin Prose* ed. D. A. Russell (Oxford University Press 1990), nos. 7, 12, 22, 23, 34, 52, and 63. There will be one two-hour paper and one three-hour paper. The first paper will include passages for unseen translation and grammatical questions on the Russell selection. In the second paper candidates will be expected to translate from the Russell selection and also from TWO of the following texts:

- (i) **Cicero** *Pro Caelio* (Clark & Peterson, OCT)
- (ii) **Pliny** *Letters* 1.6, 9, 13, 19; VII.21, 24, 26, 29; VIII.16, 17; IX.6, 12, 15, 27, 33, 39; X.31, 32, 96, 97 (ed. M. B. Fisher and M. R. Griffin, CUP 1973);
- (iii) **Ovid** *Metamorphoses* 8 (ed. A. S. Hollis, OUP 1970).

List D

D. Thesis

A thesis of up to 25,000 words, on a subject to be proposed by the candidate in consultation with the supervisor, and approved by the Graduate Studies Committee in Classics. The word limit excludes only the bibliography. Candidates may apply to the Graduate Studies Committee no later than three weeks before the submission deadline for dispensation to exclude certain other types of material from the word-count; guidance is provided in the handbook. Supervisors or others are permitted to give bibliographical help and to discuss drafts.

12. Examinations (MPhil)

In the assessment of the examination each option will be marked on a numerical scale. Where an option consists of three essays and a translation-and-comment paper, the translation-and-comment paper will count as one-quarter of the overall mark for the option, and each essay as one quarter.

A Pass in the examination requires an average mark of 50 or above, across the three options; a Fail (i.e. a mark of less than 50) in more than one option will normally constitute an overall Fail. A Distinction will be awarded when the average mark is 70 or above, provided that no mark is below 50; alternatively, a Distinction may be awarded when two separate options are marked at 74 or above, and the third at 57 or above. A Merit will be awarded to any candidate not achieving a Distinction when the average mark is 65 or above, provided that no mark is below 50; alternatively, a Merit may be awarded when two options are marked at 70 or above, and the third is not below 50.

Candidates awarded a Distinction or Merit will have, in general, produced excellent to exceptional work or very good work respectively. Candidates who achieve a Pass should produce good work in at least two options; candidates whose work is unsatisfactory in more than one option will normally be given a Fail.

For the dates of the written exam please see below; please note, however, that the textual criticism options will probably be examined two or three weeks earlier as part of the timetable for Classics finals.

Past papers are available in Solo at <https://solo.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/>. These will give you an idea of what is expected in a representative range of topics, but it should be noticed that the syllabus in any particular option may be different from that in previous years.

Candidates who need to make special arrangements for exams should consult their colleges in the first instance. Mr Andrew Dixon (graduate@classics.ox.ac.uk), your supervisor and the Director of Graduate Studies (christopher.metcalfe@classics.ox.ac.uk) will be able to offer advice if difficulties with arrangements for exams are foreseen.

Commentary in Written Exams

Writing a literary commentary should not be the same as writing a short essay. A commentary is largely concerned with the explication of a single passage of text; an essay is directed towards a different goal – making a more general argument or arguments on a set topic, using a wide

range of primary and secondary evidence.

Here are some guidelines on commentary-writing which may be of use.

1. Identify the context (briefly but precisely), paying some attention to what follows as well as what precedes. If the passage is part of direct speech, identify the speaker.

2. Say what you feel should be said about the passage as a whole. This will vary from author to author and passage to passage, but the following suggestions may be useful:

(a) How the passage fits into the overall themes of the work from which it comes (e.g. *Ajax* 121-33 and the values explored in the play). Do cross-refer to other relevant passages, but do this fairly briefly (commentary, not essay!).

(b) [In drama] general elements of stagecraft and scene-setting.

(c) [In narrative works] the passage's place in the plot and narrative development (is this a crucial or a pivotal point? does it look forward or back to other points?).

(d) Logical and rhetorical structure (argument, coherence).

(e) Intertextuality, i.e. significant remodelling of or allusion to earlier literature (e.g. Greek lyric model for a Horatian ode, Aeschylus used by Euripides).

(f) Any relevant literary conventions which determine the overall character of the passage – e.g. hymn-style, supplication scene, priamel, *ekphrasis*, *locus amoenus*, *paraklausithyron*, *propemptikon* (if any of these terms or others are unknown to you, look them up in (e.g.) the indices of Nisbet and Hubbard's commentaries on Horace's *Odes* or of Russell and Winterbottom's *Ancient Literary Criticism*, Liddell and Scott, or the *Oxford Latin Dictionary*).

3. Say what you feel should be said about the **details of the passage**, going through it in order and indicating points of interest. You may find it useful to quote a few words of the original and then comment on them, or use line numbers to refer to the text, but you can, if you prefer, write in a more discursive manner. The following might be worth noting:

(a) Significant names, periphrases and factual references (note *significant*: there may not be time to explain all, and some will be too obvious to bother with: you do not need to explain where Athens was, or who Hercules was).

(b) Detailed examples of the elements listed in 2 above (specifically keyed to the wording of the passage).

(c) Rhetorical devices (e.g. anaphora, apostrophe, tricolon); but you need not go to extremes memorising ancient or modern technical terms.

(d) Metaphor and related figures (simile, personification, etymological play, metonymy).

(e) Verbal style (general linguistic register, unusual/colourful vocabulary).

(f) Word order (e.g. artistic rearrangement of natural order, esp. in poetry).

(g) Use of metrical form in poetry (couplet, stanza, verse paragraph); particular metrical effects (enjambement, hypermetre, antilabe, stichomythia), sound effects (but not too fanciful – 'sinister s-sounds', 'gloomy spondees' etc. !!!); rhythmical clausulae in prose.

4. Finally, if possible, *explain* as well as *describe*: it may be worth saying that *grata compe* (Horace, *Odes* 1.33.14) is an oxymoron, but you might also say *why* it is there, what its literary function is within the passage.

13. Timetable for the Proposal and Submission of Academic Work (MPhil)

1. By **Monday, 12 January 2026** (Noughth Week of Hilary Term)

Submission of your choice of options for approval by the Graduate Studies Committee in Classics (form LL06). Your supervisor will advise you of the procedure.

2. **Thursday, 29 January 2026** (Second Week of Hilary Term)

Examination entry deadline for first year of MPhil. ***Please note that any subsequent changes to your exam entry must be arranged via your college office, and may be subject to an administration fee.*** N.B. You should also consult your college in the first instance about any particular arrangements needed for the exam, or any request to have a deadline for submitting work extended etc.

3. By **Monday, 16 February 2026** (Fifth Week of Hilary Term) Submission of the titles of any presubmitted essays associated with the List A or B option which you are offering in the first year, for approval by the Graduate Studies Committee (form LL07).

4. By **Tuesday, 28 April 2026** (First Week of Trinity Term)

Submission of dissertation title (form LL08).

5. By noon on **Wednesday, 3 June 2026** (Sixth Week of Trinity Term)

Submission of essays for any List A or B option being offered in the first year to the University's online exams platform.

6. **Monday to Wednesday, 22-24 June 2026** (Ninth Week of Trinity Term)

Written examination for options taken in the first year. Please note however that the Greek and Latin language examinations may be held in the preceding week, and the examinations for Euripides *Orestes*, Seneca *Medea* and Catullus (options B1 and B2) will probably be held two or three weeks earlier as part of the timetable for Literae Humaniores finals.

7. **Thursday, 28 January 2027** (Second Week of Michaelmas Term)

Examination entry deadline for second year of MPhil. ***Please note that any subsequent changes to your exam entry must be organised via your college office, and may be subject to an administration fee.*** N.B. You should also consult your college in the first instance about any particular arrangements needed for the exam, or any request to have a deadline for submitting work extended etc.

8. By **Monday, 15 February 2027** (Fifth Week of Hilary Term)

Submission of the titles of remaining presubmitted essays for approval by the Graduate Studies Committee (form LL09).

9. By **Wednesday, 2 June 2027** (Sixth Week of Trinity Term)

Deadline for submission of both your dissertation and any remaining presubmitted essays to the University's online exams platform.

10. **Monday to Wednesday, 21-23 June 2027 (TBC)** (Ninth Week of Trinity Term)

Written examination. Please note however that the Greek and Latin language examinations

may be held in the preceding week, and the examinations for Euripides *Orestes*, Seneca *Medea* and Catullus (options B1 and B2) will probably be held two or three weeks earlier as part of the timetable for Literae Humaniores finals.

You must not submit an essay or thesis with a title that differs from the one that has been approved by the Graduate Studies Committee. Any changes to the titles of essays and dissertations must be approved by the committee. Initial requests can be made by email to the Director of Graduate Studies; these will normally be approved if the change is not drastic. For complaints and appeals please go to <https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/complaints>.

14. The Graduate Studies Committee

The Graduate Studies Committee for Classical Languages and Literature is a Committee of the Faculty Board of Classics, to which it reports. The Committee deals with the admission of graduate students, the approval of option and dissertation title choices, the appointment of supervisors, and other matters involving graduate students that arise from time to time or are referred to them by other University bodies. Its members for 2025-26 are the Director of Graduate Studies – chair (ex officio) (Dr Christopher Metcalf), Chair of the Sub Faculty (ex officio) (Prof. A. Kelly), Dr E. Greensmith, Dr D. Jolowicz, Prof. M. Leigh, Prof. P. Michelakis, Prof. T. Reinhardt, Dr L. Swift, Dr B. Taylor.

The Graduate Studies Committee usually meets on the Tuesday of *Second* and *Seventh* Weeks each term. The Director of Graduate Studies, Dr Christopher Metcalf (christopher.metcalf@classics.ox.ac.uk), may be approached at any time.

Graduate student representatives attend part of each Graduate Studies Committee meeting, at which matters of general concern to graduate students are discussed.

It is your responsibility to ensure that documentation for anything you wish to come before the Committee is received by the Classics Office in good time for (that is, at least a week before) the meeting at which you wish the matter to be discussed. Often small matters can be decided by the Director of Graduate Studies alone, but this is not always the case.

15. Presubmitted Essays and Dissertations

In preparation for presubmitted essays, you will write a number of essays to cover your subject, usually four or five per option for the MSt (perhaps fewer, if you have little experience of essay-writing in your undergraduate course), and a greater number for the MPhil. These should be submitted over the course of a term to the tutor teaching you the option. You then choose from among the work in these essays material which can be worked up for submission as part of the formal examination. Your tutor is allowed to discuss only one full draft with you.

In most respects dissertations are not dissimilar to presubmitted essays but are longer and more developed. They should not simply be collections of material, but should contribute to the understanding of the material collected; ideally they should have some degree of originality. An MSt or MPhil dissertation should be an excursion into the kinds of techniques used for a research degree, asking questions which have not previously been asked or making comparisons not previously made. Choosing an appropriate topic is crucial for the success of

the dissertation, and you are urged to discuss your topic with your supervisor at an early stage. Experience suggests that excessively broad topics in particular can be problematic, because they make it difficult to demonstrate searching and rigorous engagement with the material.

Literary essays at Master's level are importantly different from undergraduate work, even though they may often be on topics similar to those dealt with at undergraduate level. They are substantially longer, and in treatment and format they should be looking towards professional scholarly work and making at least some new points. This should be taken into account in selecting topics for essays, especially with a view to possible later use (after revision) as a presubmitted essay: a 5,000 word essay on 'The Gods in Homer' is unlikely to do scholarly justice to the subject, whereas one of the same length which examines Achilles' scenes with Thetis in the *Iliad* is much more likely to come up with new material, handling a more focused topic in a more detailed way.

The scale of Master's essays at a maximum of 5,000 words for MSt and 7,500 words for MPhil means that the structuring and organisation of material are particularly crucial. One aid to structuring an essay is the use of clear sections with sub-headings: the sub-headings themselves will help to articulate the argument, and if they form a logical sequence, so too will the essay itself. A well-structured essay will make its points better and get a higher mark. Master's essays need to balance a good knowledge and appreciation of the available scholarship (including commentaries) with the writer's own detailed reading of the relevant primary texts in the original language(s). It is through such readings that original perceptions are likely to come, and any student at this level should be capable of new observations about literary points. Essays should be more than mere critiques of the secondary literature; this can often be a good starting-point for an argument or a means to define a topic, but the argument or treatment should be supported and illustrated by close use and citation of the primary author(s).

Master's essays should use a full professional scholarly apparatus of citation, footnotes and bibliography (such as are illustrated in section 16 of this handbook). The use of other scholars' views should be fully and carefully acknowledged; at undergraduate level this is sometimes neglected, but at graduate level this is crucial, both for scholarly politeness and to avoid plagiarism (for a definition and examples of plagiarism see Annexe B of this handbook). Overall, Master's essays should aim at attaining the level and character of professional scholarship. It has not been unknown for them to be published later in revised form, and they constitute an important part of training for the regular writing for publication which a scholarly career entails.

For the Examination Conventions and other guidance on the submission process, please see [Canvas](#).

The word limit for dissertations for the MSt is 10,000 words; for the MPhil it is 25,000. As stipulated in the *Regulations*, only the bibliography is excluded from the word count. All other text, including titles, tables of contents, quotations, captions for any illustrations, footnotes and appendices, is included. Applications for exclusion of specific types of material (in addition to the bibliography) may be made by writing to graduate@classics.ox.ac.uk no later than three weeks before the submission deadline.

The Graduate Studies Committee will normally grant permission to exclude the following types of material. However, such exclusion is not automatic, and you should not assume exclusion

until you have been notified:

- In the case of editions: the text edited by the candidate, and any *apparatus criticus* or translation supplied with this text. Note that ordinary quotations and translations in the course of a discursive essay will always be included in the word count.
- Extensive tables of statistical data provided as an appendix.
- Unpublished archival material provided as an appendix
- Descriptive catalogues or lists of materials that constitute a reference collection of the principal evidence on which the argument of the essay or dissertation is based and include no analytical elements.
- In the case of illustrations: a list of illustrations (if provided in addition to captions), which may include sources for the illustrations, even if they do not appear as captions to the illustration itself, but no other interpretative material. Where many descriptive captions are desirable, it is recommended that students draw up a numbered Catalogue of materials (see above), using only the Catalogue number as a caption for the illustration.

16. Guidelines and Conventions for the Presentation of Presubmitted Essays and Dissertations for the MSt and MPhil

(a) Overall Presentation and Format

All work submitted for a graduate degree should be presented as if for publication. Essays and dissertations must include bibliographies, and must be presented professionally with page numbers and due attention to spelling, punctuation and grammar. Presubmitted work should include maps, plans, charts, and illustrations of artefacts, whenever discussion of topography or artefacts plays an important part in the argument. All illustrations should be properly documented, with acknowledgement of the source (museum inventory number, Beazley archive reference, etc.). Candidates must read through their final version with care and make any necessary corrections. Please note what is said in section 14 (above) about word counts and word limits.

Both extended essays and theses should be word-processed and should be presented in at least 1.5 spacing, in at least 11-point font. The word count should be declared at the end or the beginning. To ensure the anonymous assessment of your work, it should be identified only with your candidate number; please do not enter your name, student number, college or personal dedications/acknowledgements anywhere on the document. Useful help and guidance on many detailed issues of how to format and present a piece of scholarly work can be found in *The Oxford Manual of Style* (OUP, 2002) and the *MHRA Style Guide* (Modern Humanities Research Association, London, 2002).

Note that the way in which ancient texts and modern scholarship are preferred to only needs to be consistent and not too abnormal: assessors are not looking for exact adherence to a set of rules. Recent OUP books will provide reasonable models.

(b) Quotations of, and references to, ancient authors

Where texts from ancient authors are quoted, this should normally be in the original languages, with translations if desired. Greek should always be cited with all diacritics (accents, breathings etc.), Latin in italics unless inset (see below). Abbreviated references to ancient authors should

use major accepted conventions, e.g. those of the Oxford Latin Dictionary and of Liddell and Scott (A. Ag. 1, Verg. A. 1.1). Where two lines or fewer of an ancient author (plus translation if desired) are quoted, this can be done in the main run of text; where more than two lines are quoted, these should be indented (not centred), with appropriate spacing.

(c) Systems of bibliographical referencing

Bibliographical references should appear in footnotes (not endnotes) rather than in the main text; footnote cues should follow punctuation marks rather than precede them. Either the Harvard system, in some version, or the full citation system should be used (the former is more usual, and is exemplified in most recent publications by the Oxford University Press). In the Harvard system, the footnote contains a bare reference to the item's author, year of publication, and page number; these references are then filled out in a bibliography at the end of the book or article, which lists all works in alphabetical order.

Where two works have the same author and year of publication, they are distinguished as Smith 2000a and Smith 2000b. In the full citation system, the footnote contains a complete bibliographical reference, and no final bibliography is needed; where a work is cited more than once, a cross-reference to the first footnote where the work was cited is required. In both cases abbreviations for journals and serials should follow roughly the conventions of *L'Année philologique* (<https://libguides.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/c.php?g=423135&p=2889313>).

Whichever of the two systems is used, the bibliographical item should be fully but not too fully described. Titles, subtitles and places of publication should be supplied, but not the name of the publisher; where the publication is a numbered volume in an established series, series and number should be given (e.g. Mnemosyne Supplements), but not when the series is occasional and unnumbered (e.g. Oxford Classical Monographs).

Practical examples of the formats recommended in (b) and (c) above

(b) Quotations of, and references to, ancient authors

(i) Short quotation in main run of text:

The opening words of Virgil's *Aeneid*, *arma virumque cano*, 'arms and the man I sing' (A.1.1), allude to both the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*.

(ii) Longer quotation, inset (N.B. no italics for Latin):

The opening of Virgil's *Aeneid* sets the scene for the poem (A.1.1-3)

Arma virumque cano, Troiae qui primus ab oris

Italiam, fato profugus, Laviniaque venit

litora...

'Arms and the man I sing, he who first came to Italy and Lavinian coasts from the shores of Troy, a fated fugitive...'

(c) Systems of bibliographical referencing

(i) Harvard footnotes and possible final bibliography entries:

The constructed nature of the discipline of Classics is a common topic in modern discussions, above all in the work of Arabella Smith,¹ who has stated that ‘the constructedness of Classics is a postmodern axiom’.²

¹ Smith (2000a) 12-13; Smith (2000b) 315-6; Smith (2000c) 40-45.

² Smith (2000a) 67.

(ii) Final bibliography possibilities:

Brown, B. ed. (2000), *Classics Reconstructed*, Mnemosyne Supplement 299 (Leiden) [edited volume, in series]

Smith, A. (2000a), *Classics Deconstructed* (Cambridge, Mass.) [monograph]

Smith, A. (2000b), ‘Afterword’ in Brown (2000), 310-24 [chapter in edited volume]

Smith, A. (2000c), ‘The Construction of Classics’, *TAPA* 130, 37-54 [journal article]

(iii) Full citation footnotes:

The constructed nature of the discipline of Classics is a common topic in modern discussions, above all in the work of Arabella Smith,¹ who has stated that ‘the constructedness of Classics is a postmodern axiom’.²

1. A. Smith, *Classics Deconstructed* (Cambridge, Mass., 2000), 65-6. [monograph]

Cf. A. Smith, ‘Afterword’ in Brown, B. ed., *Classics Reconstructed*, Mnemosyne Supplement 299 (Leiden, 2000), 310-24 [chapter in edited volume, in series]

A. Smith, ‘The Construction of Classics’, *TAPA* 130 (2000), 37-54 [article]

2. Smith (n.1 above), 67 [if ambiguous, use short title: ‘Smith, *Classics Deconstructed* (n.1 above), 67’].

More detail on modes of citation can be found in *The Oxford Manual of Style* (Oxford, 2002), 504-76 and in the *MHRA Style Guide* (Modern Humanities Research Association, London, 2002).

Examiners may in special cases recommend that dissertations for the MPhil should be deposited in the Bodleian. Dissertations for the MSt are not deposited.

17. Plagiarism

In presubmitted essays and dissertations, all quotations from primary or secondary sources, and all reporting or appropriation of material from those sources, must be explicitly acknowledged. The Faculty’s guidelines on Plagiarism are included below in this handbook as Annexe B. Note that paraphrase (whether extended or not), if insufficiently acknowledged, is liable to be regarded as plagiarism.

18. Classes and Seminars

There are a great number of seminars and classes organised by the Faculty of Classics in Oxford, details of which may be found in the lecture list (see section 19 below). They are frequently a

good way to find out about new research, and provide an opportunity to hear about something that might not necessarily be right up your own academic street. Notable seminars include the APGRD seminar in Michaelmas Term, the Corpus Christi Classical seminar in Michaelmas and Hilary term, and the sub-faculty seminar in various terms.

Your participation in seminars is very welcome, including seminars which look at particular texts; the organisers will always be glad if Master's students volunteer to present a passage or give a short paper. Clearly in the discussion one needs to speak with respect for other participants, and not to dominate.

A graduate 'Work-in-Progress' seminar is held each week. All graduates, including master's students, are encouraged to attend.

The Classical Association holds a well-advertised Annual Meeting at a university outside Oxford. This is one of the prime opportunities for UK Classics Graduates to give papers outside their own universities and to meet and discuss with graduates from other universities. The other prime opportunity is the national Annual Meeting of Postgraduates in Ancient Literature. Seminar series away from Oxford are also very worthwhile, especially at Cambridge and the Institute of Classical Studies in London. The latter publishes an excellent list of seminars all over the UK. Oxford also enjoys particularly close interaction with the nearby universities of Warwick and Reading. There are also occasional opportunities to present papers abroad through the Europaeum consortium (www.europaeum.org) and other links with universities in continental Europe, particularly the Netherlands, and the USA, particularly Princeton.

19. Lectures

A lecture list is published online each term, covering all the lectures on Classics Mods, Prelims and Finals, at www.classics.ox.ac.uk. Most of the lectures are designed specifically for undergraduate courses, but they often overlap with graduate options, particularly for those in List A: you will certainly find them useful.

20. Modern Language Classes

The University Language Centre offers a range of language courses. The intensive 'German for Classicists', 'French for Classicists' and 'Italian for Classicists' courses, which meet for four hours a week, are aimed primarily at doctoral students. Masters students may take them in particular cases and with the support of their supervisors if there are spare places. See <http://www.lang.ox.ac.uk/> for information about other courses offered by the Language Centre, fees and how to register for them. With all courses, it is important to be clear about the time commitment, as it is undesirable for the class dynamic, as well as financially, if you drop courses without finishing them.

21. Graduate Forum

Termly meetings are held between members of the Graduate Studies Committee and graduate students. These are important forums for discussion of general academic or administrative problems affecting graduates, all of whom are invited, and encouraged, to attend. Minutes of the

meetings are sent to the meetings of the Sub-Faculty, where they are given close attention, especially if they contain proposals for reform or complaints.

Standing orders and further information about the Graduate Forum may be found in Canvas at <https://canvas.ox.ac.uk/courses/48688/pages/graduate-forum>.

22. Financial Support

The Classics Faculty is able to offer moderate amounts of support for conference travel, organisation of conferences, and such like, from two sources, the Craven Fund and the Graduate Support Fund. It has no hardship fund; colleges do, and there are University funds: see <https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/fees-funding/assistance/hardship>. The Craven Committee meets once a term. Most of the grants are made at the Hilary meeting; applications must be submitted by 12 noon on Friday of Week 1 of Hilary Term. Forms are available at <https://unioxfordnexus.sharepoint.com/sites/CLAS-CRAVENCommittee>. The Graduate Support Fund is administered by the Directors of Graduate Studies, who may be contacted informally with enquiries. Grants are made throughout the year. The maximum sum granted per student per academic year from the Graduate Support Fund is £250. Most of the grants are made to applicants proposing to give papers at conferences; typically smaller sums are granted for attendance of conferences without presenting a paper. Grants for the purchase of a particular book or books can also be considered. Students are advised also to enquire about financial support schemes in their colleges.

23. Going on to a Doctorate after the MSt or MPhil

Many of those doing the MSt or MPhil will be hoping to go on to a doctorate (DPhil). In order to do this you must make a separate application, for MSt students at the start of the second term, and for MPhil students at the start of the fifth. The deadline for submitting applications to start a DPhil in MT 2026 will be Tuesday 6 January 2026. Applications received after that date cannot be considered. Applications are made online and details of the procedure are available at www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/postgraduate_courses/; look also at the Classics website, <https://www.classics.ox.ac.uk/graduate-admissions>.

If your application is successful, acceptance will be made conditional on a satisfactory performance in the examination; what is satisfactory here is assessed by the Graduate Studies Committee in the light of a report made to it by the Examiners, and normally means an overall mark of 67.5 or above; in this context particular attention is paid to the quality of the dissertation. A final decision on admissions will be made after the Examiners' meeting in June.

Applications for doctoral study will include applications for scholarships for which the student is eligible and which the university administers, such as AHRC studentships.

Particular care should be devoted to the research proposal, in which you outline your doctoral project.

Annexe A. Equality and Diversity at Oxford

The Oxford Classics Faculty is committed to working together to ensure that we are inclusive and welcoming to all. We aim to provide an environment which promotes equality, values diversity, and maintains a working, learning, and social environment in which the rights and dignity of all its staff and students are respected to assist them in reaching their full potential. The Classics Faculty's EDI webpages and contact details for the Faculty's EDI Officer and Harassment Advisors can be found here: <https://www.classics.ox.ac.uk/edi-policy-classics>

The following is a University statement, which the Faculty strongly endorses:

“The University of Oxford is committed to fostering an inclusive culture which promotes equality, values diversity and maintains a working, learning and social environment in which the rights and dignity of all its staff and students are respected. We recognise that the broad range of experiences that a diverse staff and student body brings strengthens our research and enhances our teaching, and that in order for Oxford to remain a world-leading institution we must continue to provide a diverse, inclusive, fair and open environment that allows everyone to grow and flourish.” University of Oxford **Equality Policy**

As a member of the University you contribute towards making it an inclusive environment and we ask that you treat other members of the University community with respect, courtesy and consideration.

The Equality and Diversity Unit works with all parts of the collegiate University to develop and promote an understanding of equality and diversity and ensure that this is reflected in all its processes. The Unit also supports the University in meeting the legal requirements of the Equality Act 2010, including eliminating unlawful discrimination, promoting equality of opportunity and fostering good relations between people with and without the ‘protected characteristics’ of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion and/or belief, sex and sexual orientation. Visit our website for further details or contact us directly for advice: <https://edu.web.ox.ac.uk/> or equality@admin.ox.ac.uk.

The Equality and Diversity Unit also supports a broad network of harassment advisors in departments/faculties and colleges as part of the Harassment Advisory Service. For more information on the University's Harassment and Bullying policy and the support available for students visit: <https://edu.web.ox.ac.uk/harassment-advice>

There are a range of faith societies, belief groups, and religious centres within Oxford University that are open to students. For more information visit: <https://edu.admin.ox.ac.uk/religion-and-belief-0>

Student Welfare and Support Services

The University's unique and close-knit collegiate system provides a wealth of pastoral and welfare services for students to support engagement with studies and University life, promoting student wellbeing by providing opportunities for social interaction and sport and arts. Additionally, the central Student Welfare and Support Services department offers professional support that complements provision in colleges and departments. More detail can be found in the University's Common Approach to Support Student Mental Health.

The Disability Advisory Service (DAS) can provide information, advice and guidance on reasonable adjustments to teaching and assessment, and assist with organising disability-related study support. For more information visit: www.ox.ac.uk/students/welfare/disability

The Counselling Service is here to help you address personal or emotional problems that get in the way of having a good experience at Oxford and realising your full academic and personal potential. They offer a free and confidential service and the counselling team are committed to providing culturally sensitive and appropriate psychological services. Students can request to see a male or female therapist, a Counsellor of Colour, or to attend a specialist group such as the LGBTQ+ or Students of Colour Groups. All support is free and confidential. For more information visit: www.ox.ac.uk/students/welfare/counselling

The Sexual Harassment and Violence Support Service provides a safe and confidential space for any student, of any gender, sexuality or sexual orientation, who has been impacted by sexual harassment or violence, domestic or relationship abuse, coercive control or stalking, whenever or wherever this took place. More information is available from www.ox.ac.uk/students/welfare/supportservice.

A range of services led by students are available to help provide support to other students, including the peer supporter network, the Oxford SU's Student Advice Service and Nightline. For more information visit: www.ox.ac.uk/students/welfare/peer

Oxford Students' Union also runs a series of campaigns to raise awareness and promote causes that matter to students. For full details, visit: www.oxfordsu.org/communities/campaigns/

There is a wide range of student clubs and societies to get involved in - for more details visit: www.ox.ac.uk/students/life/clubs

Annexe B. Faculty Guidelines on Plagiarism

1. Plagiarism is the use of material appropriated from another source or from other sources with the intention of passing it off as one's own work. Plagiarism may take the form of unacknowledged quotation or substantial paraphrase. Sources of material include all printed and electronically available publications in English or other languages, or unpublished materials, including theses, written by others. The Proctors regard plagiarism as a serious form of cheating, for which offenders can expect to receive severe penalties, possibly including disqualification from the examination process. You should be aware that there are now sophisticated electronic mechanisms for identifying plagiarised passages.
2. Your work will inevitably sometimes involve the use and discussion of critical material written by others with due acknowledgement and with references given. This is standard critical practice and can be clearly distinguished from appropriating without acknowledgement material produced by others and presenting it as your own, which is what constitutes plagiarism.
3. A dissertation or presubmitted essay is essentially **your** view of the subject. While you will be expected to be familiar with critical views and debates in relation to the subject on which you are writing, and to discuss them as necessary, it is your particular response to the theme or question at issue that is required.
4. When you read the primary texts that you will be discussing, it is a good idea to **find your own examples** of episodes, themes, arguments, etc. in them that you wish to discuss. If you work from your own examples, you will be much less likely to appropriate other people's materials.
5. When you are taking notes from secondary sources,
 - (a) Always note author, title (of book or journal, and essay or article title as appropriate), place of publication (for books), and page numbers.
 - (b) If you copy out material word for word from secondary sources, make sure that you identify it as quotation (by putting inverted commas round it) in your notes. This will ensure that you recognise it as such when you are reading it through in preparing your thesis.
 - (c) At the same time always note down page numbers of quoted material. This will make it easier for you to check back if you are in doubt about any aspect of a reference. It will also be a necessary part of citation (see 6 below).
6. When you are writing your thesis, make sure that you identify material quoted from critics or ideas and arguments that are particularly influenced by them. There are various ways of doing this, in your text and in footnotes. If you are substantially indebted to a particular critic's arguments in the formulation of your materials, it may not be enough to cite his or her work once in a footnote at the start or the end of the essay. Make clear, if necessary in the body of your text, the extent of your dependence on these arguments in the generation of your own – and, ideally, how your views develop or diverge from this influence.
7. Example:

This is a passage from A. Barchiesi, *Speaking Volumes: Narrative and Intertext in Ovid and Other Latin Poets* (London, 2001), 54:

‘Something similar might be observed in a “pure” elegiac text, antipodal to epic, such as *Amores* 3.6. This elegy is a long appeal addressed to an obstinate little stream obstructing Ovid’s path to his love. The erotic situation lies completely in the background, abstract and vague; Ovid turns his whole attention to the obstacle and to the strategies aimed at overcoming it. The river is described in essentially “anti-Callimachean” terms: it has muddy banks (3.6.1), abundant and even filthy waters (v. 8: *et turpi crassas gurgite volvis aquas*). These features accord well with the narrative function of the stream that obstructs the amorous quest of the elegiac poet. But what is intriguing are the arguments Ovid uses to appease the flood. To honour the unnamed stream, the poet lists lofty examples of great rivers which have felt the power of love . . . He then goes on to develop a long narrative example, the story of a river in love, but, significantly, the story is of *epic* provenance: Mars’ rape of Ilia, who afterward was offered consolation by the Anio. The entire story . . . appeared in a prominent position at the beginning of Ennius’ *Annales*. This episode, though transcribed by Ovid in his own manner and in the style of elegy, is indeed an unforeseen guest in a poem of the *Amores*.’

A. Plagiarism:

‘*Amores* 3.6 is addressed to a river which is stopping Ovid from getting to his love. Ovid leaves the love situation in the background, and turns his whole attention to the river, and strategies for overcoming this obstacle. The description of the river makes it essentially “anti-Callimachean”: it has muddy banks and dirty waters. These features fit the narrative function of the stream that obstruct the elegiac love poet’s quest. Ovid’s arguments to the river are very interesting. He lists lots of lofty examples of rivers in love, and then develops a long narrative of a story about a river in love from epic. This story concerns the river Anio, which offered his love to Ilia after Mars’ rape of her. The whole story had a prominent position at the beginning of Ennius’ epic poem the *Annales*. Ovid treats it in his own manner and in elegiac style; but it still comes as a surprise in the *Amores*.’

This version adds almost nothing to the original; it mixes direct appropriation with close paraphrase. There is no acknowledgement of the source; the writer suggests that the argument and the development of it are his or her own.

B. Legitimate use of the passage:

‘*Amores* 3.6 forms part of the intensified conflict between genres which marks Book 3 of the *Amores*. In the first poem of Book 3, Tragedy and Elegy vie for Ovid’s soul; in the last, he wistfully abandons elegy for tragedy. In this poem, addressed to a river that prevents the speaker from reaching his beloved, Ovid moves into the prolonged narration of a story that comes in epic: the river Anio’s winning and wooing of Ilia after Mars has raped her. This story came in the first book of Ennius’ *Annales*. Barchiesi has pointed out that the river seems “anti-Callimachean” in its size and dirtiness.¹ The relation with epic may, however, be more elaborate and complicated. Within the *Iliad*, Achilles’ heroic advance is halted by a river; he fears an ignominious and rustic death (21.279-83). The situation of *Am.* 3.6 as a whole could be seen to mimic, on a lower level, an episode already generically disruptive. And the Anio’s speech to Ilia (53-66) sounds very like a love-poem—which naturally does not work as persuasion. Epic, then, does not simply interrupt elegy in *Amores* 3.6; and the poem is part of a larger design, not just a curious surprise.

¹ A. Barchiesi, *Speaking Volumes: Narrative and Intertext in Ovid and Other Latin Poets* (London, 2001), 54.’

This version uses an acknowledged paraphrase of part of the passage in forming a wider argument, with some fresh points. (The footnote is sound scholarly practice, but its omission would not be a matter of plagiarism.) The reference to the *Annales*, though originally derived from Barchiesi, does not require acknowledgement, since the writer can reasonably suppose it to be common scholarly knowledge. The final phrase echoes Barchiesi’s, while disagreeing with it; but no explicit acknowledgement is required, least of all after the earlier mention.

Annexe C. List of Graduate Forms and Deadlines

Form	Description	Deadline for Submission
LL01	Languages and Literature MSt Options	Wednesday 15 October 2025
LL02	Languages and Literature MSt Presubmitted Essay Titles (Hilary Term)	Monday 12 January 2026
LL03	Languages and Literature MSt Presubmitted Essay Titles (Trinity Term)	Friday 1 May 2026
LL04	Languages and Literature MSt Proposed Dissertation Title	Monday 12 January 2026
LL05	Languages and Literature MSt Change to Dissertation Title	Friday 1 May 2026
LL06	Languages and Literature MPhil Options	Monday 12 January 2026
LL07	Languages and Literature MPhil Year 1 Presubmitted Essay Titles	Monday 16 February 2026
LL08	Languages and Literature MPhil Year 1 Thesis Title	Tuesday 28 April 2026
LL09	Languages and Literature MPhil Year 2 Presubmitted Essay Titles	Monday 16 February 2026/Monday 15 February 2027

These forms may be downloaded from Canvas in MS Word Format at <https://canvas.ox.ac.uk/courses/48688/pages/mst-and-mphil-in-greek-and-slash-or-latin-languages-and-literature>.

Please submit these forms by email to graduate@classics.ox.ac.uk, copying your supervisor into the email. Deadlines for the submission of forms will be strictly enforced.

Corrections to the Handbook

<i>Date</i>	<i>Version</i>	<i>Page(s)</i>	<i>Description of Change</i>
07/10/2025	1.1	15	Correction to the mode of assessment for options B2, B3 and B4 in the MSt.

MSt/MPhil in Greek and/or Latin Languages & Literature Handbook 2025
Version 1.1
Issued 7 October 2025

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