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Astrophoria Foundation Year – History and English with Foundation Year Course Information Sheet

The Astrophoria Foundation Year is free for students and is designed to be a one-year intensive academic course which will bridge any gaps between school and our academically challenging undergraduate courses.

The programme is carefully designed to build and develop your study skills, subject knowledge and academic confidence. Students that pass the course will be awarded a nationally recognised Certificate in Higher Education (CertHE) qualification.

If you pass the course at the required level, you will be automatically admitted into Oxford as an undergraduate student if you wish to be, without the need to re-apply.

Students who have applied for History and English with Foundation Year at the University of Oxford take part in the Foundation Year Humanities course. Students who pass their foundation year at the required level then progress onto the undergraduate course in [History and English](#). For more information about the undergraduate part of your course please see the appropriate [course information sheet](#).

The Foundation Year Humanities course begins with an introduction to the Humanities which will allow you to explore the similarities and differences between the Humanities subjects before moving to more subject specific study. It will also give you an understanding of what it means to study your subject at undergraduate level. Alongside your subject you will also have the option to take either one language course or one maths course.

Alongside your academic subject programme, you will take the Preparation for Undergraduate Studies course. This will help you develop the core skills that will enable you to thrive on a course at undergraduate level, whether at Oxford or another university.

These modules will provide support in building general academic skills including:

- Academic writing
- Communication skills
- Broader personal development through a society and culture course and academic mentoring

Please note this Course Information Sheet refers only to the Foundation Year section of your course, for more information about the undergraduate section of your course please see the appropriate [course information sheet](#).

Typical week

During your foundation year you will be expected to attend around five hours of classes per week, participate in regular meetings with tutors to discuss work, carry out independent research and you are likely to write at least one essay every two weeks.

Your time will be spent both on academic work for your Humanities programme and work related to the Preparation for Undergraduate Studies course.

In each term there will be options for you to choose which will lead to your degree pathway. In your final term you will complete an extended essay on a subject related topic of your choice, deepening your subject interest and building your skills in independent study.

You may also have the opportunity to learn a language or enhance your maths skills during the foundation year.

Tutorials are usually for around two students and a tutor. Classes are slightly bigger, and class sizes may vary depending on the modules that you choose. There are likely to be around four students in a class, however when the whole Humanities cohort is together, this may include up to 18 students. Lectures are a larger format again, and are likely to be delivered to the foundation year cohort (up to 50 students) as a whole.

Most tutorials, classes, and lectures are delivered by staff who are tutors in their subject. Some teaching may also be delivered by postgraduate students.

To find out more about how Oxford's teaching year is structured, visit our [Academic Year](#) page.

Foundation Year course structure

Term 1

Courses	Assessment
Two courses are taken: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foundations in Humanities 1: Fame • Preparation for Undergraduate Studies (including General Academic Skills, Communication Skills, Society and Culture) 	Coursework: Four essays

Term 2

Courses	Assessment
Three courses are taken: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foundations in Humanities 2: Inequalities • Methods in Humanities • Preparation for Undergraduate Studies (including general academic skills, communication skills, society and culture) 	Assessment will vary but is likely to include: Examination: Written papers Coursework: Portfolio of submitted essays, presentations, commentaries on text or images

Term 3

Courses	Assessment
Three courses are taken: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Subject specific options (choice of around 20)• Extended Essay• Preparation for Undergraduate Studies (including general academic skills, communication skills, society and culture)	Assessment will vary but is likely to include: Examination: Written papers Coursework: Extended Essay of 5,000 words

Fees

Our Foundation Year courses are free of charge and there are no course fees. All tuition is provided free of charge. Students admitted to the Foundation Year courses will also receive an accommodation bursary and another bursary for other living costs.

Due to this financial support, we would typically encourage you not to take out student finance for the Foundation Year (however you will need to apply during your Foundation Year for student finance if you continue to study at Oxford by progressing to a degree course).

Some students may be encouraged to apply for a student loan of £0 during their Foundation Year to enable them to receive additional financial support in the form of a Disabled Students' Allowance (which also means they do not need to reapply in year 1). Applicants who may be in receipt of a DSA and secure a place on the programme will be contacted by the Foundation Year Team to discuss this.

If you continue to study at Oxford by progressing to a degree course, you will need to pay the course fees and cover your living costs (in most cases this is paid by taking out student loans). Visit the undergraduate course pages or the [fees and funding webpages](#) for more information about undergraduate fees and funding.

Living costs

Our Foundation Year courses are free of charge and there are no course fees. All tuition and accommodation costs are covered by the University of Oxford. Students admitted to the Foundation Year courses will also receive a bursary of £5,920 for other living costs.

Living costs for the academic year starting in 2024 are estimated to be between £600 and £1,030 for each month you are in Oxford. Our academic year is made up of three eight-week terms, so you would not usually need to be in Oxford for much more than six months of the year but may wish to budget over a nine-month period to ensure you also have sufficient funds during the holidays to meet essential costs.

Living costs breakdown

	Per month		Total for 9 months	
	Lower range	Upper range	Lower range	Upper range
Accommodation (including utilities)	Provided free of charge for the foundation year.			
Food	£315	£495	£2,835 ¹	£4,445
Personal items	£190	£320	£1,710	£2,880
Social activities	£40	£95	£360	£855
Study costs	£35	£85	£315	£765
Other	£20	£35	£180	£315
Total	£600	£1,030	£5,175	£9,270

Additional fees and charges

There are no compulsory costs as part of the Foundation Year Humanities course. Visit the course page for [History and English](#) to see more details about any fees and charges related to the undergraduate course.

¹ Please note, this figure is likely to be lower for Foundation Year students as some of your food is likely to be covered in your accommodation, which is paid for by the programme.