

STUDENT HANDBOOK

for the

PRELIMINARY

EXAMINATION

in

RELIGION AND

ORIENTAL STUDIES

2018-2019

FOREWORD

HANDBOOK FOR STUDENTS TAKING THE PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION IN 2019

This Handbook applies to students starting the BA in Religion and Oriental Studies in Michaelmas term 2018 and therefore expecting to be examined in Trinity term 2019. The information may be different for students starting in other years.

The *Examination Regulations* relating to this course are available at <https://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/examregs/2018-19/peireliandoriestud/studentview/>. 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 the Director of Undergraduate Studies at the Faculty of Theology and Religion, [Dr Mary Marshall](#).

The information in this handbook is accurate as at 27.09.2018, 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.

The up to date version of this handbook is available in the [Undergraduate Handbooks](#) section of the Faculty's WebLearn area. **This is version 1.0.**

Version	Purpose/Change	Date
1.0	2018-2019 Edition	27.09.2018

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1. GENERAL INFORMATION AND ADVICE

INTRODUCTION

This Handbook is designed to welcome you to the Faculties of Theology and Religion and of Oriental Studies and to inform you about the facilities and services available to students. It will also provide information about the structure and content of your course; its aims, the organisation of teaching and the expectations of study. The handbook will outline how the course will be assessed, the opportunities for feedback on your learning and advice concerning formal examinations. You will also find information about student representation and providing feedback to the Faculty and University, as well as directions to further information about student life.

Welcome from the Directors of Undergraduate Studies



We are delighted to welcome you to the Faculty of Theology and Religion and the Faculty of Oriental Studies. The undergraduate curriculum showcases key areas of scholarship here in Oxford. We hope that you will enjoy experiencing an exciting range of what we have to offer, whether you are exploring familiar subjects or discovering new ones. We, with our colleagues, look forward to working with you and are ready and able to offer advice and support. You should feel free to contact us concerning any academic matters. Please accept all our very best wishes as you embark on your course.

Dr Mary Marshall (Theology and Religion)

Prof. Linda Flores (Oriental Studies)

QUICK LINKS TO TOOLS AND KEY SOURCES OF INFORMATION

[Theology and Religion](#)

Faculty Websites

These feature articles on the latest news and events from the Faculty; a list of Faculty members, staff and research students; guidance on undergraduate and graduate admissions; information for alumni (former students); details of forthcoming events and opportunities and links to the Faculties' WebLearn and their presence on social media.

[Faculty of Oriental Studies](#)

[Faculty of Oriental Studies Intranet](#)

Faculty of Oriental Studies Intranet

These pages host the Faculty **lecture lists** along with a number of databases and other IT related facilities. Parts of this are restricted and require an Oxford SSO login as well as being a member of an appropriate group.

[Theology and Religion](#)

Faculty WebLearn Areas

Some sections are publically accessible, for other sections you will need you Single-Sign-On Username and Password. On WebLearn you will be able to view and download course Handbooks, Schedules of Papers, [Examination Conventions](#), forms, Faculty Booklists and other important Faculty documentation. Lecturers and Tutors may also post teaching resources, e.g. lecture slides and handouts.

[Faculty of Oriental Studies](#)

[Examination Regulations](#)

Examination Regulations, which are published annually at the start of Michaelmas term, govern all examinations at the University and are absolutely binding. There is a course specific link to the regulations which apply to your examinations in the Foreword to this Handbook.

[University Student Website](#)

Central University information for new and continuing students on academic matters; fees and funding; visa and immigration; Oxford life; health and welfare; and graduation and leaving Oxford. The site includes news and events as well as comprehensive information on [Health and Welfare](#) at Oxford.

[Student Handbook](#)

Provides general information you may need to help you to make the most of opportunities at the University of Oxford. It also gives you formal notification and explanation of the University's codes, regulations, policies and procedures.

[SU Website](#)

Information and services provided by Oxford SU (Student Union)

[SOLO](#) Search Oxford Libraries Online. Catalogue covering most libraries in the University
& and a gateway to databases and e-resources and Oxford Reading Lists Online.
[ORLO](#) Single-sign-on is necessary to access the full features and resources.

[Theology
and Religion
Lecture List](#) Access to the Faculty of Theology and Religion's Lecture Schedule.

[Oriental
Studies
Lecture List](#) Access to the Faculty of Oriental Studies Lecture Schedule.

[Nexus](#) Web access to the Universities email service

You will also find a lot of very useful information in the Handbook of your college or hall. Please consult the [relevant college website](#) or your college tutor or college office for further details.

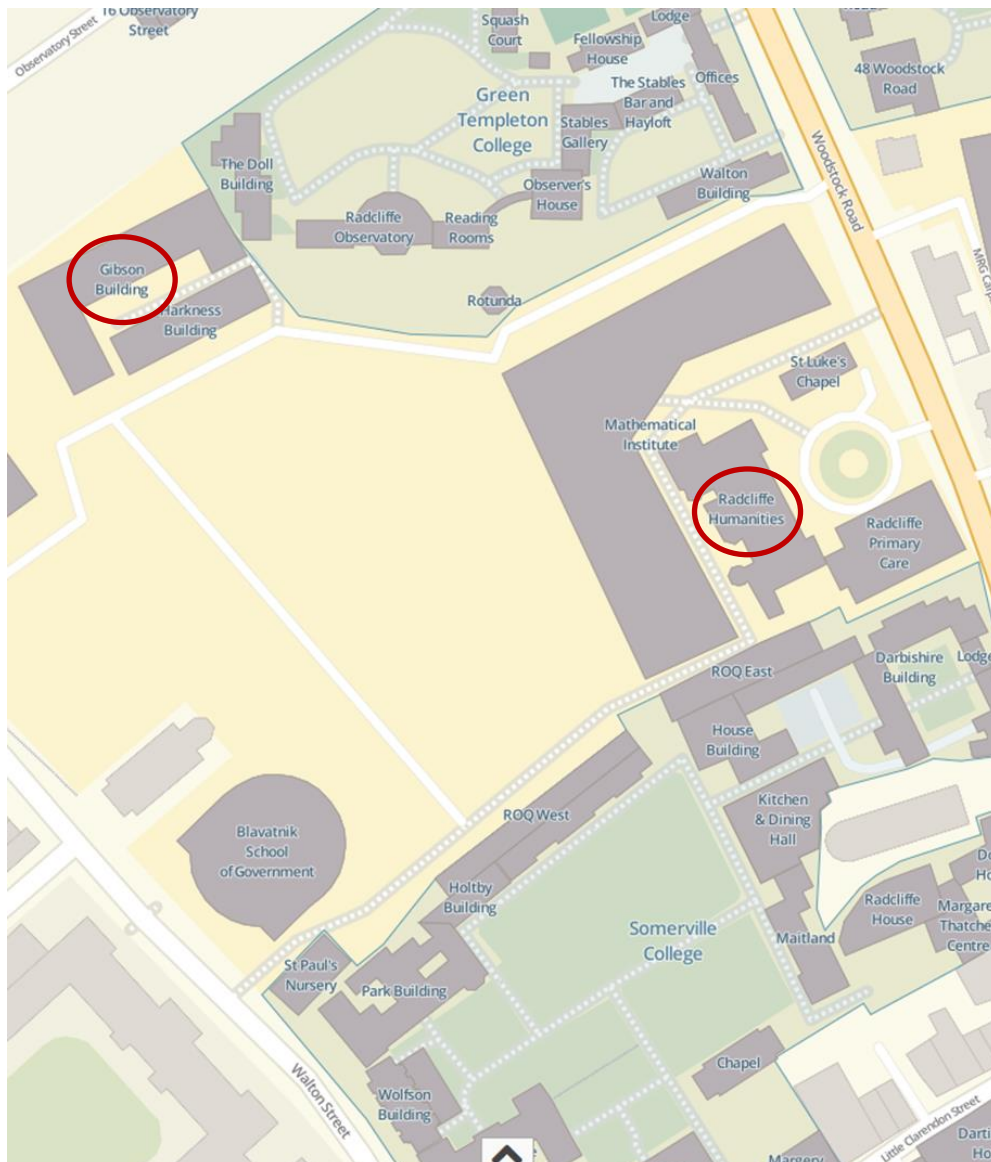
USEFUL CONTACTS AND SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Please note that your college tutor is the first point of reference for all queries about your course. The Directors of Undergraduate Studies, [Dr Mary Marshall](#) (Theology and Religion) and [Prof. Linda Flores](#) (Oriental Studies) can also be consulted about academic matters. Dr Marshall advertises drop-in sessions and students are also very welcome to make an appointment with her.

The Theology and Religion Faculty

The Theology and Religion Faculty is on the second (top) floor of:

The [Gibson Building](#),
Radcliffe Observatory Quarter,
Woodstock Road,
Oxford
OX2 6GG



Your University Card will provide access both to the building and to the Faculty.

The Faculty includes the following teaching spaces and facilities:

Lecture Room	Tutorial Office
Seminar Rooms 1 and 2	Board Room
Small Meeting Room	Toilets, including accessible facilities

As well as the offices of several academics and administrators.

There is also a graduate study space, graduate common room and kitchenette; these are not usually used by Undergraduates, except by special permission or invitation.

Faculty Office hours are from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday to Thursday and 9am to 4pm on Friday. In the Faculty Office you will find the following staff, who are always happy to help!

Alison Broadby

Head of Administration and Finance

Tel: +44 (0)1865 270791

HAF@theology.ox.ac.uk

Kristine MacMichael

Senior Academic Administrator

Tel: +44 (0)1865 270061

academic.administrator@theology.ox.ac.uk

Fran Roach

General Administrator

Tel: +44 (0)1865 270797

General.administrator@theology.ox.ac.uk

Kathrin Gowers (currently on secondment)

Undergraduate Studies and Examinations

Administrator

undergraduate.enquiries@theology.ox.ac.uk

Tom Mills

Graduate Studies Administrator

graduate.enquiries@theology.ox.ac.uk

The Oriental Studies Faculty

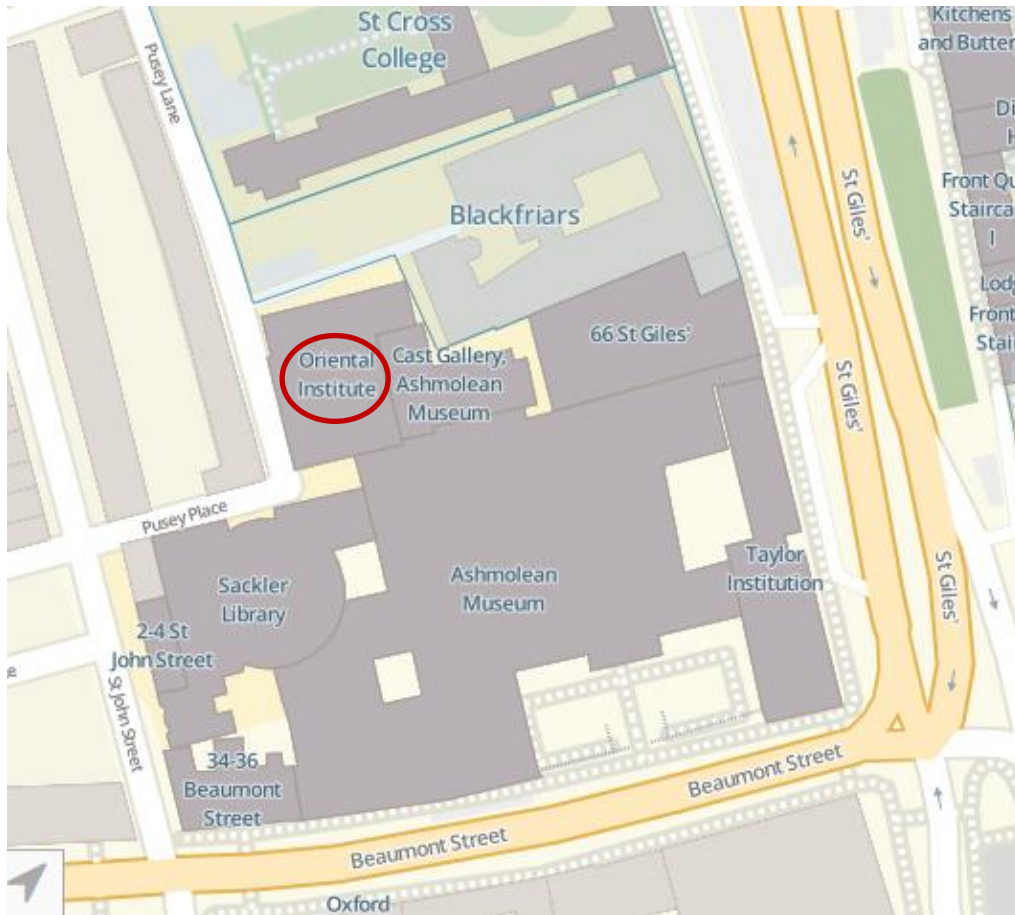
The Faculty of Oriental Studies is based at the:

[Oriental Institute](#),

Pusey Lane,

Oxford

OX1 2LE



Most of the teaching for courses in Oriental Studies is Faculty-based, and nearly all classes, lectures, and tutorials are held in the Oriental Institute. This is open during term Monday-Friday 9.00-7.00, Saturday 9.00-1.00; out of term it closes at 5.00 p.m. and is closed on Saturday. The Institute is home to most of the teaching staff in Oriental Studies (see 'Teaching Staff' below), and to the Faculty Office, classrooms, a library (see 'Libraries' below) and a common room which serves morning coffee from 10.30-11.30 and afternoon tea from 3.30-4.30 during term.

The Academic Office (third floor, Room 316) is the centre of the Faculty's administration.

Thomas Hall

Head of Administration and Finance

Tel: 01865 (2)78210

thomas.hall@orinst.ox.ac.uk

Christine Mitchell

Senior Academic Administrator

academic.administrator@orinst.ox.ac.uk

Aalia Ahmad

Academic Administrator (UG Studies)

Tel: 01865 (2)78312

Undergraduate.admissions@orinst.ac.uk

Liliane Morton

Reception

Tel: 01865 (2)78200

orient@orinst.ox.ac.uk

We are always happy to help!

Oriental Studies Course Co-ordinators

Arabic

Prof. Julia Bray

Tel: 01865 (2)78232

Julia.bray@orinst.ox.ac.uk

Hebrew and Jewish Studies

Prof. Adriana Jacobs

01865 (6)10432

adriana.jacobs@orinst.ox.ac.uk

Sanskrit

Prof. Jim Benson

Tel: 01865 (2)78229

james.benson@orinst.ox.ac.uk

Undergraduate Student Representatives:

At the **Faculty of Theology and Religion** Undergraduate Student Representatives are elected on a yearly basis each Hilary Term to serve from the following Trinity Term, an up to date list is available on [WebLearn](#). See further details [below](#).

At the **Faculty of Oriental Studies**, Undergraduate Student Representatives are appointed each Michaelmas to serve for the following calendar year, and up to date list is available on the Faculty Website. See further details [below](#)

Welfare and Support Services

Colleges make provision for student welfare and students should consult their college tutor, officers and JCR for details of arrangements made to support their students. In addition, the University provides the following for all students who require such support:

- a counselling service
- childcare advice
- disability assessment and advice
- a harassment advisory service

Further details of these services are included in the [Student Handbook](#), which is updated annually.

There are also two **Faculty Harassment Officers** who are the primary contacts within the Faculty of Theology and Religion for students with welfare concerns:

Justin Jones (Theology and Religion)
Pembroke College,
+44 (0)1865 610950
justin.jones@theology.ox.ac.uk

The second harassment officer for the Faculty of Theology and Religion is to be appointed for 2018-19.
You will receive an email notification.

Prof. Polly O’Hanlon (Oriental Studies)
Room 114, Oriental Institute
+44 (0)1865 278224
rosalind.ohanlon@orinst.ox.ac.uk

Prof. James Benson (Oriental Studies)
Room 204, Oriental Institute
+44 (0)1865 278229
James.benson@orinst.ox.ac.uk

Services for students and staff with disabilities

The University operates a code of practice to provide equality of opportunity for those with disabilities. The Equality and Diversity Unit offers advice and guidance to disabled students and staff on a range of issues including disability related funding, benefits and other sources of support. The Faculty is part of the [Common Framework on supporting Students with Disabilities](#). Further information and useful contact details can be found at the [University Disability Advisory Service website](#). The Disability Office work through a network of Disability Contacts at College and Departments in order to advise on the Disabled Students Allowance and appropriate study support needs.

University Disability Office
+44 (0)1865 280459
disability@admin.ox.ac.uk

If you have a disability and require support or equipment to help in some aspects of your study, every effort will be made to provide the best solution for you. It is important that you discuss your needs with your college tutors as soon as possible, preferably prior to arriving at Oxford in order that provision can be made. It is also important that the Faculty Office is made aware of any special access requirements.

At the Faculty of Theology and Religion, the Coordinator is [Alison Broadby](#) (Head of Administration and Finance) and the Lead is [Professor Anna Abulafia](#).

The Oriental Studies Faculty Disability contact is [Thomas Hall](#) (Head of Administration and Finance)

Your college is also able to provide advice, help and special facilities.

Oxford SU has a vice president with special responsibility for Welfare and Equal Opportunities. This officer is elected annually and can be contacted at vpweo@oxfordsu.ox.ac.uk

An [Access Guide](#) for People with disabilities gives details about the accessibility of virtually all buildings within the University.

Oxford University Library Services has a centre that provides support for students, primarily for those with visual impairment but also for those with specific learning disabilities (SpLD) or mobility impairment. The Accessible Resources Acquisitions and Creations Unit ([ARACU](#)) can provide texts in a range of alternative formats such as audio, digital and large print. For further information, please contact:

Disability Librarian

Teresa Pedroso

+44 (0)1865 283862

teresa.pedroso@bodleian.ox.ac.uk

Special arrangements can be made to help disabled students, including those with dyslexia, dyspraxia and other SpLDs in taking their University examinations. If you require special arrangements please discuss this with their tutors and their College Doctor as soon as possible after arriving at the University.

IT and IT Services

All members of the University are subject to the [University's Regulations Relating to the Use of Information Technology Facilities](#) and provision is managed by [IT Services](#). IT services is a large department which provides a range of services and facilities. Through them, undergraduate students are able to access training and advice and to obtain free or discounted software (subject to availability, terms and conditions). For direct help their [service desk](#) is located at:

13 Banbury Road
Oxford
OX2 6NN
+44 (0)1865 612345
help@it.ox.ac.uk

Your College handbook and the IT officer at your college will advise you on what IT provision is made for students at your college, including guidance on how to use your own devices.

WiFi

Most buildings in the University (including the Bodleian libraries and PFTL, the Faculty of Theology and Religion, the Oriental Institute and Colleges) are covered by the Eduroam and OWL WiFi networks. Please refer to the [IT Services help website](#) for information on how to access these networks. Access to Eduroam enables you to access free WiFi not only in most Oxford University buildings but in many Universities and Academic institutions around the world.

Single Sign-On (SSO)

All new University members are automatically issued with a Single Sign-On (SSO) username and password. You will need to activate this account. It provides vital access to services such as WebLearn, Student Self-service (including the self-registration system) and electronic library provision. It also allows you to access your university email account (Nexus), which you should use for all email communication with the University.

Mailing Lists and Communication

Students are automatically subscribed to a number of Faculty mailing lists which are the principal means of communicating important and urgent information. It is therefore essential that you maintain your university email account and check it at least once a day. If you think you have been missed off a relevant mailing list, please contact the relevant Faculty Office. You are also welcome to join the Faculty of Theology and Religion's [undergraduate facebook group](#) which is used for unofficial communications and news.

Libraries

The library provision in Oxford University is outstanding. During your time in Oxford, you may use a variety of lending and reference libraries. New students receive an induction into Library services and facilities during their first week but if you require any guidance subsequently, please consult the library staff, who might advise and direct you to training opportunities.

The Bodleian Library

The Bodleian is the University's main library over a number of sites in Oxford. All undergraduates are entitled to access its facilities on production of their University Card. Full details of regulations, facilities and opening times are published on the [Bodleian Libraries website](#). Many of the libraries holdings (especially on central Bodleian sites) are for reference use only and many are held in closed-access bookstacks, from where they may be ordered from the stack to any library in the Bodleian Group.

For printing, copying, and scanning, the [PCAS system](#) in operation across the Bodleian Libraries Group (which includes the PTF) offers a range of services, paid for using an online account topped up by a debit/credit card.

Oriental Institute Library

The Oriental Institute library is part of the Bodleian Libraries and is located in the Oriental Institute. It has a collection of approximately 55, 000 volumes specialising in the Middle East and Islam, Hebrew and Jewish studies, South Asia, Korea and Japan. You may borrow up to 6 books for an initial period of 2 weeks. Some books are kept on reserve behind the circulation desk; you must sign for these, and under no conditions should they leave the library. For further information and opening hours, please refer to the [website](#).

Bodleian K B Chen China Centre Library

The library is located at the new China Centre at the Dickson Poon Building, Canterbury Road. Although its foundation collection contains valuable research material on pre-modern China, the policy for some years has been to develop this library as a lending collection for undergraduates and first-year graduate students. Apart from selected academic journals, it also provides current newspapers from China, Hong Kong and Taiwan in printed or online versions. For further information and opening hours, please refer to the [website](#).

Bodleian Japanese Library

The Bodleian Japanese Library is located in the Nissan Institute, 27 Winchester Road, Oxford, OX2 6NA. The library combines the Japanese collections from the Bodley and the Nissan Institute Library. It holds one of the best research collections in Japanese studies in Europe. It is an open access library with seating space for thirty two users. For further information and opening hours, please refer to the [website](#).

Leopold Muller Library

The Leopold Muller Library contains important collections for work in Hebrew and Jewish Studies. It also contains the Foyle-Montefiore Collection and the Louis Jacobs Library. The library is located at the Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies at the Clarendon Institute Building. For further information and opening hours, please refer to the [website](#).

Middle East Centre Library

The library of the Middle East Centre at St Antony's College specializes in the modern (post-1800) period in history and social sciences; it is open to all students reading Islamic Studies. For information and opening hours, please refer to the [website](#).

Sackler Library

The Sackler Library specialises in the ancient history and archaeology in the Near East. It houses the principal collection of books on Egyptology and Ancient Near Eastern Studies, as well as general archaeology, Classical Civilisation, Western and Eastern Art. It is located at 1 St John St, Oxford OX1 2LG, next door to the Oriental Institute.

The Sackler Library also houses the Eastern Art Library (3rd Floor) which contains books on Islamic and Chinese art. Book selection and cataloguing are carried out by staff of the Department of Oriental Collections, Bodleian Library. The books may not be borrowed.

For further information and opening hours, please refer to the [website](#).

Philosophy and Theology Faculties Library (PFTL)

The PFTL is open to all current students and staff of the University and provides a popular lending collection to support the wide range of taught courses in the Faculty of Philosophy and the Faculty of Theology and Religion. The collection includes multiple copies of core text books, monographs, reference material and journals. The Library aims to acquire the materials necessary to support the teaching and, to some extent, research needs of its Faculties. Currently, it holds over 30,000 volumes, with a further 20,000 outhoused in the Bodleian's Book Storage Facility, making c.100,000 loans per.annum. Recently, the library has started trialling an e-first policy, so many of the books needed by theology students are now available as ebooks. The collection reflects the University's undergraduate courses, although it also caters for graduate students, senior members and academic visitors. For more information, including full details of opening times, regulations and facilities please visit the [PFTL website](#).

The PFTL is located at [Radcliffe Humanities](#) near to the Theology Faculty, and full details of opening times, regulations and facilities are published on the [PFTL website](#). The library staff can offer expert guidance in the resources available and useful to students of Theology, Religion and Philosophy. Book requests (for items not held in the Bodleian Libraries) should be made either by email to hilla.wait@bodleian.ox.ac.uk or using the [Recommend a Book form](#) on the PFTL website. For general library enquiries, please email pftl@bodleian.ox.ac.uk. Specialist subject enquiries should be directed to the subject librarian.

Philosophy and Theology Subject Librarian

[Dr Hilla Wait](#)

PTFL Librarian in Charge

[Dr Colin Cook](#)

The Philosophy and Theology Faculties Library provides a number of networked PCs to allow users to access online e-resources, databases, including BibleWorks, e-journals and the internet, as well as the full suite of Microsoft Office. These reader workstations are also set up with access to the Bodleian's Electronic Legal Deposit collections. Printing is available from all PCs via PCAS. Laptop computers may be used anywhere in the library. [Wi-Fi access](#) is available in the Faculty Library as well as in the Bodleian.

Other Libraries

There are over 100 separate libraries within the University, some of which will contain holdings that are relevant to your studies. For example, the [History Faculty Library](#) (for works on Western History); the [Taylor Institution Library](#) (for general works on linguistics); the [English Faculty Library](#) (for literary theory/criticism), The [Firdousi library](#) – the Persian collection of Wadham College Library will be useful for those interested in Persian classical literature and history of medieval and modern Iran. Students studying certain areas of Theology may also benefit from the collections of the [Pusey House Library](#), which is not part of the Bodleian but undergraduate may apply to register as a reader.

College Libraries

You will have access to your college library, although you might gain access to the libraries of other colleges only by special permission. The most extensive range of books and journals is available from relevant University libraries. Your college library may also hold a range of key texts and resources relevant to your course.

Library catalogues

The main union catalogue for library holdings in the University and Colleges is [SOLO](#) and a selection of Faculty reading lists are available via WebLearn or directly from [ORLO](#) (Oxford Reading Lists Online)

Research Centres and Institutes

The Faculty of Oriental Studies also includes several research centres and institutes:

The Griffith Institute

Sackler Library

1 St John Street

Oxford

OX1 2LG

<http://www.griffith.ox.ac.uk>

Institute for Chinese Studies

University of Oxford China Centre

Dickson Poon Building

Canterbury Road

Oxford, OX2 6LU

<http://www.chinacentre.ox.ac.uk>

Khalili Research Centre

3 St John Street

Oxford

OX1 2LG

<http://krc.orient.ox.ac.uk/krc/>

Research Centre for Japanese Language and Linguistics

41 Wellington Square

Oxford

OX1 2JF

<http://www.orinst.ox.ac.uk/research-centre-japanese-language-and-linguistics>

Other related research centres/institutes which are not formally part of the Faculty of Oriental Studies:

The Middle East Centre

St Antony's College

Oxford

OX2 6JF

<http://www.sant.ox.ac.uk/mec/>

Nissan Institute of Japanese Studies

27 Winchester Road,

Oxford

OX2 6NA

<http://www.nissan.ox.ac.uk/>

Some Faculty members have offices in one of these research centres/institutes. Depending on the course you are following, you may have some of your teaching in these buildings. The lecture list will tell you the location of your lectures and classes.

WebLearn

The [Faculty of Theology and Religion's WebLearn area](#) contains a lot of information. From the Faculty's homepage you will be able to access two publically accessible sections, the Lecture List and Course Handbooks (including schedules of papers). After logging in with your Single Sign On you will also be able to access the [Undergraduates' section](#) (access to the Graduates section is restricted to graduate students). The Undergraduates section is organised by course and contains Examination Conventions, Examiners' Reports, forms, Faculty Booklists and other important Faculty documentation. Lecturers and Tutors may also post teaching resources, e.g. lecture slides and handouts. It also provides information about student representatives and the minutes of the [UJCC](#).

The [Oriental Studies WebLearn area](#), onto which some courses upload handouts. All students have their own password-protected 'My WebLearn' site on WebLearn which provides calendars and some file storage. For help with WebLearn, contact Richard Carpenter (it-support@orinst.ox.ac.uk).

IMPORTANT DATES

Dates of term

The academic year at Oxford University runs from October to June. The year is divided into three eight week terms, Michaelmas (autumn), Hilary (spring), and Trinity (summer).

2018-19	<i>Michaelmas 2018</i>	Sunday 7 October – Saturday 1 December
	<i>Hilary 2019</i>	Sunday 13 January – Saturday 9 March
	<i>Trinity 2019</i>	Sunday 28 April – Saturday 22 June

Calendar of Important Dates for the Preliminary Examination in Religion and Oriental Studies

Michaelmas 2018	
Wk 0, Thursday 4 th Oct 2018 3-5 p.m.	Induction for Freshers at the Faculty of Theology and Religion
Wk 0, Friday	Bodleian and Faculty Library Induction – details available from your college tutor
Trinity 2019	
Wk 5, Friday 31 st May 2019 5 p.m.	Deadline for (Prelims) students to submit form to the Faculty of Theology and Religion declaring preferred paper options for study in 2018-19 (first year of FHS). Instructions will be circulated by the Faculty of Theology and Religion.
Wk 7, Friday 14 th June 2019	Confirmed FHS paper allocations announced for study in 2019-20.
Wk 8	Preliminary Examinations - dates to be confirmed.
Long Vacation 2019	
First week of Sept 2019	<i>Provisional</i> date for resit of Preliminary Examinations, as required.

2. THE COURSE CONTENT AND STRUCTURE

The BA in Religion and Oriental Studies is a qualification of FHEQ Level 6 award (see the [University Awards Framework](#)). You may wish to consult the [QAA subject benchmark statement for Theology and Religious Studies](#). The BA comprises two examinations: the First Public Examination (Preliminary) and the Second Public Examination (Final Honour School). The duration of the course is three years, except for those students who are admitted as Senior Status and thereby exempted from the first year of study and the Preliminary Examination.

This handbook covers the Preliminary Examination in Religion and Oriental Studies which will be examined in Trinity term 2019.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES FOR UNDERGRADUATE COURSES

All BA programmes at the Faculty of Theology and Religion aim to enable students to:

- read widely, acquiring knowledge of the history and literature of at least one religious tradition;
- pursue a curriculum that is broad and balanced in respect of historical and generic range, analytical approach, depth, and conceptual sophistication;
- develop their critical, analytical and comparative skills by engagement with a wide range of texts;
- acquire competence in at least one languages of a sacred text
- think critically and in an historicised manner about the complex relationship between religious texts and their social, political, cultural and other relevant contexts;
- select and analyse appropriate examples to investigate, analyse, and assess competing historical and critical viewpoints;
- develop as independent learners and thinkers;
- develop skills in the marshalling and deployment of evidence, and in the oral and written exposition of complex ideas through discursive analysis and argument;
- engage and enhance their enthusiasm for the subject and their awareness of its social and cultural importance; and
- be appropriately prepared for further academic work in related disciplines, or for a range of other careers.

INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

Knowledge and Understanding

On completion of the Bachelor of Arts all students will have:

- gained knowledge and understanding of the Christian tradition, through study of the Bible, the development of Christian doctrine in its historical context, and the thought of modern theologians, and been given the opportunity to study another world religion;
- been enabled to form their own judgement on the main themes in their field of study, drawing upon insights from the various sub-disciplines in which they have been engaged;
- been enabled to make connections between the different disciplines they are studying and with other modern intellectual developments;
- developed critical and analytical skills, and the ability to combine insights from such disciplines as history, the reading of texts in their cultural contexts, and the examination of the coherence of truth claims in religion;
- become familiar with key concepts and principles in Religion and Oriental Studies.
- developed independence of learning and of approach, and a faculty for critical thinking;
- developed the ability to read with sensitivity texts from different ages and/or traditions, through following a structured programme of regular reading assignments;
- developed and presented (usually in writing) to their tutors their own critical understanding of the issues studied, acquiring good written communication skills, the ability to formulate arguments clearly, and good organizational skills;
- received regular tutorials (and/or seminars) with specialist tutors;
- received regular oral or written feedback on written work;
- had the opportunity to attend lectures designed to complement their other teaching on their chosen core and specialist papers;
- taken an active role in planning a path through their programme.

In addition, students of the BA in Religion and Oriental Studies will have:

- acquired knowledge of at least one sacred text and been given the opportunity to develop the skill of reading a sacred text in the original language and of commenting on it critically.

Intellectual skills

On completion of the Bachelor of Arts all students will have the ability to:

- demonstrate comprehension of, and intelligent engagement with, the richness of at least one religious tradition in its varied and central forms;
- state clearly, discuss, and demonstrate critical comprehension of some of the following: the political, social, textual, intellectual, historical, theological, ritual, ethical, institutional or aesthetic expressions of the religion(s) studied;

- discuss and demonstrate, where appropriate, critical comprehension of the religion's or religions' classical sources and their subsequent articulations by some interpreters of the tradition(s) in different historical periods and in different social or geographical settings;
- evaluate and critically analyse a diversity of primary and secondary sources, including materials from different disciplines;
- demonstrate comprehension and critically analyse a range of themes, debates and methods of the discipline and where appropriate related disciplines from, for example, the humanities or social sciences and evaluate a range of critical scholarship associated with these disciplines;
- represent views other than the student's own sensitively and intelligently with fairness and integrity, while as appropriate expressing their own identity without denigration of others, through critical engagement in a spirit of generosity, openness and empathy;
- demonstrate with sensitivity awareness of the passion and claims to certainty that may arise in religious traditions, with their positive and negative effects demonstrate sophisticated understanding of the multi-faceted complexity of religions, for example in the relationship between specifically religious beliefs, texts, practices and institutions, and wider social and cultural structures, norms, aesthetics and aspirations;
- demonstrate intellectual flexibility through the practice of a variety of complementary methods of study (e.g., philosophical, historical, systematic, dogmatic, phenomenological, linguistic, hermeneutical, empirical, speculative, social scientific, archaeological);
- demonstrate awareness of and critical assessment of religious contributions to debate in the public arena about, for example, values, truth, beauty, identity, health, peace and justice; and
- demonstrate a sophisticated understanding of how personal and communal identities and motivations are shaped by religion, how this has both constructive and destructive effects, and how important such identities are.

Practical skills

On completion of the Bachelor of Arts all students will have the ability to:

- find information, organize it well, and deploy it effectively;
- utilize material critically and analytically;
- make appropriate use of advanced literacy skills;
- communicate ideas clearly in diverse written and oral formats;
- work well independently, with a sense of self-direction;
- work constructively with others; and
- organize and utilize time effectively, and work under pressure to deadlines.

Transferable skills

Students will have the opportunity to develop the ability to:

- communicate information, ideas, arguments, principles, theories, and develop an argument by a variety of means, for example essays of various lengths and dissertations which are clearly and effectively organized and presented;

- communicate information, ideas, principles and theories and develop an argument effectively by appropriate oral and visual means, and relate materials to an intended audience;
- identify, gather and analyse primary data and source material, whether through textual studies or fieldwork;
- attend to, reproduce accurately, reflect on and interact with the ideas and arguments of others;
- engage with empathy, integrity and critical reflection with the convictions and behaviours of others;
- work collaboratively as a member of a team or group in a way which allows each individual's talents to be utilized effectively;
- undertake independent/self-directed study/learning (including time management) and reflect on one's strengths and weaknesses as a learner;
- make discriminating use of a full range of library resources in order to identify appropriate source material, compile bibliographies, inform research and enhance presentations;
- use IT and computer skills for data capture, to identify appropriate source material, support research, and enhance presentations; and
- show independence in thought, and critical self-awareness about one's own beliefs, commitments and prejudices.

TEACHING AND RESEARCH

The University is committed to 'ensuring that students at all levels experience the intersection of research and teaching' (University Strategic Plan 2013-2018, para 31). A distinctive feature of the University's educational provision is the high level engagement from senior academics who use their current research practice to enhance the learning of the students they teach.

The Faculties of Theology and Religion and of Oriental Studies provide all students with several opportunities for direct experience of the research environment in undertaking the thesis/dissertation and other extended essays. Students may thereby learn how to draw on available resources and employ the latest methodologies in their own research. Tutorial work for all papers allows students to develop independent study skills in reading and writing, which will be further employed in the Thesis and/or extended essay papers.

Several papers, especially those designed for the Final Year of the Final Honour School, draw on the current research of senior members of the faculty. These papers provide students with a perspective on how knowledge and understanding in Theology and Religion is currently developing and being articulated.

Students are warmly encouraged to attend the public and special lectures which showcase new research by Faculty Members. Students may also follow news and developments on the Faculty Website and social media. Undergraduate students do not normally attend Faculty Research Seminars but if you have a particular interest – especially in your final year – you are welcome to contact the seminar convener for information.

COURSE STRUCTURE

Please read this information in conjunction with the current [Examination Regulations](#). For students sitting their examination in 2019, these are the *Examination Regulations* published in Michaelmas Term 2018.

The Preliminary examination is the normal route to the Honour School of Religion and Oriental Studies.

All students **must** offer the following the following **compulsory paper** delivered by the Faculty of Theology and Religion:

1301 Religion and Religions

Additionally, students must **choose one** of the following languages:

Pali

Tibetan

Sanskrit

Hindi

Arabic

Hebrew

Greek

The language component comprises a number of different elements, all of which shall be assessed. See details in the [Individual Paper Descriptions](#) below.

There is **no restriction** on students' choice of language.

Students express an interest in a particular language at application and this is confirmed with their College Tutor before the course commences.

Final Honour School Course Structure

Students sitting the Preliminary Examination in 2019 would normally expect to sit the Final Honour School in 2021. A new handbook for the Final Honour School 2019-2021 will be issued in Michaelmas term 2019. Until then, the current handbook may be used cautiously as a guide to the Final Honour School; it can be found in the [Undergraduate Handbooks section of the Theology and Religion WebLearn area](#). The Final Honour School comprises eight papers, including a compulsory Theology and Religion thesis or O.S. Dissertation.

INDIVIDUAL PAPER DESCRIPTIONS AND RECOMMENDED PATTERNS OF TEACHING

In Religion

The Faculty of Theology and Religion produces a [Schedule of Papers](#), which contains the descriptions of paper 1301, amplifying, where appropriate, what is in the [Examination Regulations](#). These descriptions detail the aims and objectives of the paper, which define the skills, knowledge and competencies that you should have acquired through its completion. The course delivery is a summary of recommended patterns of teaching. The lecture, class and tutorial descriptions are indicative and may vary from what is listed, in terms of timing, number and content. The Schedule of Papers is supplemented with information found on [WebLearn](#) including: specimen examination papers, book lists, notices, forms and other useful resources.

Recommended Patterns of Teaching for all Theology papers offered is also presented in a table near the end of the Schedule of the Papers.

In Oriental Studies

All candidates must also offer **ONE** of the following six options, each comprising three elements:

Pali

Candidates will be required to offer three three-hour papers.

1. *Texts I*

Candidates will be expected to comment on set texts from the Pali Canon.

2. *Texts II*

3. *Grammar*

Candidates will be expected to show knowledge of Pali grammar, syntax and vocabulary.

Tibetan

Candidates will be required to offer two three-hour papers and an oral/aural examination.

1. *Set texts*

Candidates will be expected to translate and comment on Tibetan set texts.

2. *Unseen translation, prose composition and grammar*

Candidates will be expected to show knowledge of Tibetan grammar and an ability to translate unseen texts from Tibetan into English and to compose a passage in Tibetan.

3. *Oral/aural examination*

Sanskrit

Candidates will be required to offer three three-hour papers.

1. *Texts I*
2. *Texts II*
3. *Grammar*

Hindi

Candidates will be required to offer three three-hour papers.

1. *Texts I*
2. *Texts II*
3. *Grammar and Translation.*

Arabic

Candidates will be required to offer two three-hour papers and an oral/aural examination.

1. *Translation and precis into English*
2. *Comprehension, composition, and grammar*
3. *Oral/aural examination (to be done at the Oriental Institute)*

You will prepare for Papers 1, 2 and 3 by attending intensive language instruction for about 10 hours per week, backed up by thorough preparation in your own time. The course integrates the four language skills of reading, writing, listening and speaking in Modern Standard Arabic. Weekly tests are set, and are intended to provide feedback on your progress.

Hebrew

Candidates will be required to offer three three-hour papers.

1. *Hebrew Texts I: Biblical and Rabbinic Hebrew*
2. *Hebrew Texts II: Medieval and Modern Hebrew*

For both these papers there will be passages for translation from the specified texts (all of which will have been taught in classes). There may also be some questions that ask for comment on or explanation of aspects of the language and related matters arising from the texts.

The list of set texts approved for examination in the *following* academic year will be published on this [webpage](#) by Friday of 3rd week, Hilary term.

3. *Grammar and Translation into Hebrew*

In this paper, in which all questions must be attempted, there will be:

- Five questions on specific grammatical topics in Biblical Hebrew
- One passage for translation from English into pointed Biblical Hebrew
- One passage for translation from Modern Hebrew into English

The first three terms of the course comprise intensive class instruction in the Hebrew language in all its main periods. The aim is to cover basic grammar in the first term and to consolidate this information in the second and third terms, when simple texts in each form of the language are also taught. This demanding objective is essential in order to achieve a level of reading proficiency that will stand you in good stead for the rest of the course. There are three class hours a week in both Classical (Biblical) and Modern Hebrew. Readings in Rabbinic, Medieval and Modern Hebrew texts are introduced in the second and third terms.

Greek

Candidates will be required to offer three three-hour papers.

1. *Classical Greek texts*
2. *New Testament Greek*
3. *Greek language*

If you have any issues with teaching or supervision please raise these as soon as possible so that they can be addressed promptly. Details of who to contact are provided in your course handbook.

Set Texts

Some of your teaching will be devoted to the study of prescribed texts (“set texts”), on which you will be examined. Lists of these set texts are available on the faculty [WebLearn](#) site, usually by Friday of 3rd Week of Hilary Term in the year of your final examinations.

3. TEACHING AND LEARNING

ORGANISATION OF TEACHING AND LEARNING

In Religion and Theology

Papers are taught in one or more of the following ways:

- Tutorials** Tutorials are provided by your college and normally organised by your college tutor. The purpose of a tutorial is to develop an individual student's capacity to think in depth about a subject area, and to operate with growing confidence within its techniques and methodologies, with the expectation that the process will promote increased understanding of the subject for both tutor and student. You will normally have one tutor for each paper you are studying and may have tutorials alone with your tutor, or share them with one or two other students. You are likely to attend tutorials with tutors in your own college but equally likely to have tutorials at other colleges, depending on the specialism of different tutors. Each tutorial typically lasts one hour and normally requires students to undertake independent reading and to write an essay (c. 2,500 words) in preparation. Attendance at tutorials is compulsory and absence normally incurs College academic disciplinary procedures.
- Classes** Classes are provided by the Faculty. Classes may be delivered by one tutor or several to a small group of students (c. 10). Classes typically last 60-90 minutes and involve the active participation of students and, in many cases, preparation in advance. Students are expected to attend Faculty classes for the papers they are studying (they are the principal if not the only means of delivering some papers) and a record of attendance may be taken. Absence may be reported to your college tutor.
- Lectures** Lectures are provided by the Faculty. Lectures may be delivered by one or more lecturers to a large group of students. Lectures typically occupy 60 minute slot but traditionally begin 5 minutes past the hour and conclude 5 minutes to the hour, allowing time for questions and commuting between lectures. Records of attendance at lectures are not normally kept but students are expected to attend the lectures relevant to the papers they are studying.

Lectures and classes are scheduled by the Faculty of Theology and Religion and the [Theology and Religion Lecture Schedule](#) (including details of lecture venues) is published online. Although every effort is made to produce an accurate and reliable schedule, some updates and changes are inevitable. Please check the online schedule on a regular basis.

In Oriental Studies

Colleges have the primary responsibility for students while they are at the university. They are responsible for monitoring their academic progress and taking care of their day-to-day problems. Unlike most courses in the Humanities Division, the Faculty has a central role in organising tuition. Your teaching in Oxford will consist of a combination of language classes, seminars, lectures and tutorials. Tutorials are an important part of teaching at Oxford. You will usually have a tutorial with a tutor by yourself or with a small group of students. You are usually set some work before the tutorial, for example, a passage of text for study, an essay topic for which specific reading is set, or a “prose passage” (a passage of English to be translated into your language of study). You must then prepare the text or write the essay or translation for discussion at an arranged tutorial. It is through the directed reading, textual study, essay writing, translation and discussion involved in classes and tutorials that you will gain essential understanding of your subject.

Learning one or more languages is a matter of regular preparation and revision, not of cramming at the last moment for a collection or examination. It is very easy to drop behind, but much more difficult to make any lacunae up again. The terms themselves are too full for such revision and preparation, and therefore the vacation is not just holidays, but should also be used for revision, reading in advance for tutorials, preparing for dissertations and so forth.

The Oriental Studies lecture list is published termly on this [Faculty of Oriental Studies Intranet Lecture Lists](#).

Responsibilities

If you have any issues with teaching or supervision please raise these as soon as possible so that they can be addressed promptly. Details of who to contact are provided in the [Complaints and Appeals section](#) of this handbook.

Many papers combine two or three different modes of teaching, which complement one another. Other papers are taught exclusively by class or tutorial. It is important that you receive and attend the appropriate teaching for the paper you are studying and that you understand how to integrate what you learn in the different ways. Consult your subject tutors for the most appropriate advice for the papers you are studying. For example, on the one hand, in certain papers lectures might supply introductory and background information which can then be assumed in tutorials. On the other hand, lectures might provide alternative or cutting edge approaches, designed to provoke thought and consolidation of your understanding. In no case do lectures replace tutorials or tutorials replace lectures. For certain papers, classes are the sole method of teaching and students will be expected to make substantial preparations for and contributions to each class, including the preparation of essays and/or presentations.

University Policy on Recording Lectures and Other Formal Teaching Sessions

Recording devices, such as smart phones and computers are now commonplace. The university has a [Policy on the Recording of Lectures and other Formal Teaching sessions by Students](#). Students are required to take note of this policy; breaches of this policy may be considered a disciplinary offence.

EXPECTATIONS OF STUDY AND STUDENT WORKLOAD

Although you can always rely on the support of your tutors, you are responsible for your own academic progress. In order to balance appropriately the competing demands of academic work and other responsibilities, please consider the following guide to expectations which is based on the University's [Policy and Guidance for Undergraduate Learning and Teaching](#). If you are to make the most of the academic opportunities available here, you are expected to work hard. However the demands placed on you should always be reasonable and permit you to maintain a healthy 'work-life balance,' taking advantage of the other things that Oxford has to offer.

Full-Term

During Full Term it is the University's expectation is that undergraduate students treat academic study as a full-time commitment, with approximately 40 hours per week typically being spent on focussed academic work during; including both scheduled contact time (lectures, classes and tutorials) and private study. The balance between contact time and private study will vary according to the paper being studied but a clear indication of the contact time recommended for each paper is included in the Schedule of Papers and Recommended Patterns of Teaching Grid. Private study time during Full Term will mainly be spent in preparation for classes and tutorials but you might also need to accommodate other academic necessities, such as revision, consolidation and wider reading.

Overwork

Workloads will vary from week to week, and students will sometimes need or wish to work for longer. However, if you find it impossible to meet your academic obligations without spending significantly longer than 48 hours per week on academic study on a regular basis (rather than occasionally, or for a limited time period), you should seek advice immediately. In the first instance, it is a good idea to discuss the matter with your college tutor but students are welcome to contact the Faculty's [Director of Undergraduate Studies](#) for advice. Please do not suffer in silence! In most cases tutors will be able to suggest practical strategies or take measures to reduce your workload.

Vacations

During vacations, the University expects students to consolidate learning from the last term and to 'read around' their subject. They may also need to undertake pre-reading or work in preparation for the next term, or to revise for examinations (which may be college collections or University examinations).

Paid Work

Term-time employment is not permitted except under exceptional circumstances and in consultation with your tutor and senior tutor. During vacations you will be required to complete academic work and this should take priority over other commitments. However, you can find information on placements and paid work [here](#).

GOOD ACADEMIC PRACTICE AND AVOIDING PLAGIARISM

It is important to adopt good academic practice in all of your teaching and learning as well as in examination. Poor academic practice undermines learning and scholarship and may constitute a disciplinary offence by the University and/or your college.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is presenting someone else's work or ideas as your own, with or without their consent, by incorporating it into your work without full acknowledgement. All published and unpublished material, whether in manuscript, printed or electronic form, is covered under this definition.

Plagiarism may be intentional or reckless, or unintentional. Under the regulations for examinations, intentional or reckless plagiarism is a disciplinary offence.

Plagiarism is a breach of academic integrity. It is a principle of intellectual honesty that all members of the academic community should acknowledge their debt to the originators of the ideas, words, and data which form the basis for their own work. Passing off another's work as your own is not only poor scholarship, but also means that you have failed to complete the learning process. Deliberate plagiarism is unethical and can have serious consequences for your future career; it also undermines the standards of your institution and of the degrees it issues.

The [Plagiarism section of the Oxford Students website](#) provides an extensive and regularly updated definition of different forms of plagiarism, with examples; together with, guidance on how to avoid it. The site also explains the possible consequences of plagiarism and seriousness with which the University views the practice.

The Faculty also strongly recommends that all students complete the brief [Online Tutorial, 'Avoiding Plagiarism'](#) on WebLearn (you will need to sign in).

Developing Good Academic Practice

Developing good academic practice at the outset both ensures the avoidance of plagiarism and enables students to make the most of their study. The University supplies guidance on e.g. time management, note-taking, research and library skills and much more on the [Oxford Students Website: Study Skills and Training](#).

Referencing

The Faculty of Theology and Religion does not mandate the use of any particular referencing system, either for examined work or in the work you do throughout the course. There are a number of acceptable referencing styles and it is generally advisable to choose whichever referencing style is commonly used by scholars in the area on which you are working. Above all you should endeavour to be accurate and consistent in your employment of a referencing style (do not combine different styles in the same essay). You are advised to consult your subject tutor about which referencing style they advise you to use in your tutorial essays and for any examined work.

The Oxford Students Website includes a brief guide to [Citation and Referencing](#), including links to helpful websites hosted by other Universities.

The Bodleian Libraries provide good guidance in the LibGuide on [Managing your references](#), including a section on [Referencing Styles](#) with links to books, ebooks and a database with comprehensive advice. The LibGuide also includes information on different Reference Management Software that you might wish to employ. You can also access training workshops on different software packages.

Referencing Advice is also available in a number of Style Guides:

[MHRA Style Guide](#), published by the Modern Humanities Research Association.

The [SBL Handbook of Style](#) and the [Student Supplement for the SBL Handbook of Style](#), both published by the Society of Biblical Literature.

4. ASSESSMENT

ASSESSMENT STRUCTURE

Students who have passed the First Public (Preliminary) Examination may progress to the Final Honour School.

No candidate shall be admitted to examination in the Honour School of Religion and Oriental Studies unless he or she has either passed or been exempted from the First Public Examination.

The languages, subjects, and papers, in the examination shall be under the joint supervision of the Boards of the Faculties of Theology and Religion, and of Oriental Studies, which shall appoint a standing joint committee to make, and to submit to the two boards, proposals for regulations concerning the examination.

A candidate shall be deemed to have passed the examination when he or she shall have satisfied the Examiners in all the papers associated with one of the languages specified in the [Examination Regulations](#), and Paper 1301.

Candidates must offer all subjects at one examination provided that: (i) in languages for which four assessments are required, a candidate who fails in one or two assessments may offer those subjects at one subsequent examination, and a candidate who fails three or four assessments must offer all four subjects at one subsequent examination; and (ii) in languages for which three assessments are required, a candidate who fails in one assessment may offer that subject at one subsequent examination, and a candidate who fails two or three assessments must offer all three subjects at one subsequent examination.

Papers are assessed according to the [Examination Conventions](#).

In the case of candidates who have satisfied the Examiners in all the assessments at a single examination, the Examiners may award a distinction to those of special merit.

Students and tutors should consult the assessment information provided in the [Individual Paper Descriptions](#) and always check the relevant section from the current [Examination Regulations](#). For students sitting their examination in 2019 these are the Examination Regulations that will be published in Michaelmas Term 2018

Some papers are assessed by written examination; others by aural/oral examination.

Forms of assessments may be used in different combinations to:

- reflect the academic practices within the subject;
- formally assess knowledge, understanding, skills and attitudes which must be tested and confirmed as having been acquired;
- provide an opportunity for students with different academic strengths to demonstrate the level of their knowledge, understanding, skills and attitudes in different ways.

All examinations take place in Trinity Term.

FEEDBACK ON LEARNING AND ASSESSMENT

Assimilating feedback on the progress of your learning is really important for your academic development. For further information on the role and importance of feedback at Oxford University and beyond, please see the [University's Policy and Guidance on Undergraduate Learning and Teaching](#). During your course you will receive different kinds of feedback.

Informal Formative Feedback

The nature of a tutorial is to provide immediate oral feedback on your understanding arguments and expression. Tutorial discussion involving other students also provides the opportunity to receive feedback from and supply feedback to your peers. The same is true of teaching in a class context.

Tutors also provide some written feedback on your tutorial essays. This may complement the tutorial discussion and address opportunities for improvement in your tutorial essay composition, as well as providing advice which is relevant to writing examination essays (although a tutor may not necessarily employ formal Examination Conventions when marking tutorial work, which is not for examination).

If submitted written work or presentations are required for classes. Tutors should indicate how they intend to provide any written feedback on this work.

Language classes typically require students to complete tests and exercises which will be marked and corrected (by the tutor or by the student, under supervision) and so provide an indication of progress and areas for improvement.

Formal Formative Feedback

Tutors for tutorials are required to submit a report to your college at the end of week 7 through the online system, [OxCORT](#) (Oxford Colleges On-line Reports for Tutorials). Your college will normally allow you to read these reports and you can find a Student Guide to using OxCORT on its homepage.

At the beginning of each term, Colleges typically arrange practice examinations, called 'Collections' on study completed in the previous term. Collections encourage you to consolidate and revise the terms work, allow you to practice answering questions under exam conditions and provide the opportunity for feedback on examination performance.

Summative Feedback

The marks you achieve in your Preliminary and Final examinations constitute the individual summative feedback you will receive. As well as receiving an overall "outcome" or degree classification, we release a numerical mark for each paper you sit. Qualitative written feedback on individual examination performance is not normally available but the [Examiners' Report](#), which is published on WebLearn during the term after the examination, includes anonymous feedback on the performance of your cohort. You may find it helpful to consult the Examiners' Reports from previous years for generic advice on successful performance and common pitfalls.

Feedback after failure of the F.P.E.

Beginning in 2018-19, the small number of students who fail any papers at the FPE (Preliminary Examination) and are planning to re-sit are permitted to see their examination scripts for any paper which they have failed.

In order to make the experience of seeing examination scripts as helpful as possible for students, students shall have the opportunity to discuss their script with a tutor. They may be able to view their script in conjunction with the Examination Conventions, which were used to mark it and comment sheets referring to their examination script.

Following the release of examination results, any student who has failed 1301 Religion and Religions may apply to the Director of Undergraduate Studies at the Faculty of Theology and Religion, to see script. The Director of Undergraduate Studies will liaise with the Examination Board and college tutors to make the necessary arrangements on an individual basis.

To see failed scripts from language papers, students may apply to [Edyta Karimi](#) at the Faculty of Oriental Studies.

ADVICE CONCERNING EXAMINATIONS

You can find comprehensive information on the examinations and assessments process at the University from entering for examinations through to accessing your results on the [Examinations and Assessments](#) Website. In particular, please note the sections relating to [Examination Entry](#) and [Alternative Examination Arrangements](#).

Past Examination papers are available on [OXAM](#).

Examination dates and Timetables

Preliminary Examination will take place towards the end of Trinity Term. Paper 1301 is normally timetabled in week 8. The timing of other examinations will vary by language.

Timetables are published [here](#) as early as possible, and no later than five weeks before the start of the examination. *Provisional* dates for the start of exams are published in a spreadsheet on the [Examination Entry](#) website

Sitting your examination

Detailed information on (a) the standards of conduct expected in examinations and (b) what to do if you would like examiners to be aware of any factors that may have affected your performance before or during an examination (such as illness, accident, or bereavement) are available in the [Sitting your Examinations](#) section of the Oxford Students Website. Before you attend your examination, please ensure that you are familiar with this information, which will be reiterated in a letter you will receive from the Chair of your Examination Board.

EXAMINATION CONVENTIONS

Examination conventions are the formal record of the specific assessment standards for the course or courses to which they apply. They set out how your examined work will be marked and how the resulting marks will be used to arrive at a final result and classification of your award. They include information on: marking scales, marking and classification criteria, scaling of marks, progression, resits, use of viva voce examinations, penalties for late submission, and penalties for over-length work.

Examination Conventions are agreed by the Board of Examiners each year. You will receive a copy of the Examination Conventions which will apply to your Examination in 2019 not less than one before term before your examination takes place, when they will also be published on the [Examination Conventions page of WebLearn](#).

Last year's Examination Conventions remain available on WebLearn and *may be used cautiously as a guide to standards*. They are not binding or necessarily representative in every particular of the Conventions that will be published for your examination in 2019.

Note that from 2018-19, failure to attend a Preliminary Examination will result in the failure of the Preliminary Examination and the mark for any resit of the assessment will be capped at a pass.

EXTERNAL EXAMINER'S AND EXAMINERS' REPORTS

Each year a board of examiners will be convened to carry out the examination of your course. The membership of the Examination board will be published with the Examination Conventions for your exam (see above). The names of all examiners are included in the [Examination Conventions](#), which you will receive not less than one whole term before your examination. When the examination is completed, the internal and external examiners are required to submit reports on the examination.

Examiners' reports (including for previous examinations) remain in the [Examiners' Reports section of the Faculty of Theology and Religion's WebLearn area](#). It is a good idea to consult reports on past examinations as these frequently include comments on individual papers or questions, which might enable you to prepare more effectively for your examination (see [Summative feedback](#), above). You can expect the report of your own examination to be available in the term after the results have been released.

Students are strictly prohibited from contacting external examiners directly. If you are unhappy with an aspect of your assessment you may make a complaint or appeal (see [below](#)).

PRIZES

On the recommendation of the Board of Examiners, several prizes are awarded for excellent performance in examination. No special application is required. The terms and value of the prizes are subject to change but the following details are correct for 2018-19.

Gibbs Prize

£150

Awarded for the best overall performance in the Preliminary Examination in Religion and Oriental Studies.

James Mew Junior Prize

£50

For outstanding performance in Arabic language or Rabbinical Hebrew language papers.

This prize may not be awarded annually; it is shared with FPE and therefore prizes awarded are dependent on the performance of candidates at both Prelims and FHS and the amount available in the fund for the particular year.

Joseph Schacht Memorial Junior Prize

£50

For outstanding performance in Islamic religion, law or history.

This prize may not be awarded annually; it is shared with FHS and therefore prizes awarded are dependent on the performance of candidates at both Prelims and FHS and the amount available in the fund for the particular year.

5. SKILLS AND LEARNING DEVELOPMENT

ACADEMIC PROGRESS

Your college is responsible for monitoring your academic progress, which may be recorded on OxCORT, (see [Formal Formative Feedback](#), above). Your college will provide further detailed information on how your academic progress is monitored. In the case of classes organised by the Faculty, class tutors and instructors will monitor your work and may report to your college.

If you are concerned about any aspect of your academic progress, speak with your college tutor, in the first instance, or your college's Senior Tutor. You may also discuss your progress with the Director of Undergraduate Studies. at either the [Faculty of Theology and Religion](#) or of [Oriental Studies](#).

LEARNING DEVELOPMENT AND SKILLS

Students on the Faculty's BA programme are expected to develop a range of intellectual, practical and transferable skills (outlined [above](#)).

Essential, generic undergraduate study skills include: literature searching and review (including appropriate IT literacy), note-taking, good academic practice (including appropriate citation and referencing), critical thinking, essay-writing, problem-solving, argumentation (both oral and written), use of language, time management and revision.

The University provides a wide range of information and training materials are available to help you develop study skills and other relevant training.

[Oxford Students Website: Study Skills and Training](#) Extensive guidance and training resources including on: plagiarism; managing your workload; research and library skills; referencing; revision and examination preparation; tutorial skills and academic writing

[The Language Centre](#) Provides courses and resources for language learning, including improvement of English and Academic English for non-native speakers

[Student Welfare and Support Services](#) Personal support intended to enable individual students to fulfil their potential.

[IT Services Training](#) IT Services provide a range of classroom based training courses as well as online courses for you to study at your own pace. Many courses are free or discounted for students.

[Oxford LibGuides](#) Access to guides and training courses on using a wide variety of library resources and facilities, including facilities for disabled readers and the use of reference Management software.

Your college may provide further opportunities for skills training. The Faculty is keen to provide skills training, where appropriate, and you will receive notification by email of skills training arranged by the Faculty. This will include advanced library and research skills to support FHS students in writing their Thesis.

INDUCTION

All new students will participate in an induction programme, most of which is organised by colleges. There is a Faculty Induction session for new students in week 0, of Michaelmas Term, to which you will receive an invitation. The Bodleian Library also arranges a library induction session for all students in week 0, your college will provide information about your library induction session.

CAREERS INFORMATION AND ADVICE

The academic and college environment at Oxford University is rich with opportunities for you to develop many transferable skills that are eagerly sought by employers. Undertaking an intellectually demanding academic course will equip you for the demands of many jobs. Your course will enable you to research, summarise, present and defend an argument with some of the best scholars in their subject. Under the direction of an experienced researcher, you will extend their skills and experiences through practical or project work, placements or fieldwork, writing extended essays or dissertations. In college and university sports teams, clubs and societies you will have the chance to take the lead and play an active part within and outside the University.

Surveys of our employers report that they find Oxford students better or much better than the average UK student at key employability skills such as Problem Solving, Leadership, and Communication. Hundreds of recruiters visit the University each year, demonstrating their demand for Oxford undergraduate and postgraduate students, fewer than 5% of whom are unemployed and seeking work six months after leaving.

Comprehensive careers advice and guidance is available from the Oxford University Careers Service, and not just while you are here: our careers support is for life. We offer tailored individual advice, job fairs and workshops to inform your job search and application process, whether your next steps are within academia or beyond. You will also have access to thousands of UK-based and international internships, work experience and job vacancies available on the [Careers Service website](#). See also the [Skills and Work Experience](#) page of the Oxford Students website.

6. STUDENT REPRESENTATION, EVALUATION AND FEEDBACK

DEPARTMENT REPRESENTATION: UJCC OF THE FACULTY OF THEOLOGY AND RELIGION

Role of the Committee

The Undergraduate Joint Consultative Committee (UJCC) provides an official channel of communication between undergraduates and the Board of the Faculty of Theology and Religion. It consists of up to five junior members, elected by the undergraduates, and three senior members: the Chair of the Faculty Board, the Director of Undergraduate Studies and Outreach and the Secretary of the Faculty.

The UJCC receives a report from the Chair on matters affecting undergraduates that are currently being discussed by the Faculty Board. It can also discuss any other issues of concern to undergraduates such as student welfare, the syllabus, teaching arrangements, library facilities and the general aspects of examinations, including examiners' reports. UJCC Minutes and recommendations are received and considered by the Undergraduate Studies Committee and the Faculty Board. Major faculty committees may refer questions to UJCC and undergraduate representatives also sit on the Faculty Board, the Undergraduate Studies Committee and the Committee for Library Provision and Strategy.

Nomination and Election of Undergraduate Representatives

Junior members of the UJCC hold office from the beginning of Trinity Term for one year (for no more than two successive terms) and are elected by students annually in Hilary Term.

Students studying the BA in Theology and Religion; BA Philosophy and Theology and BA Theology/Religion and Oriental Studies are eligible both to stand for election and to vote in the election.

At the beginning of Hilary Term, the Faculty Office will circulate a call for nominations, to be received before the end of week 2. Nominations are usually gathered electronically and each nominee requires two other undergraduates who are willing to serve as nominators.

If more than five nominations are received, an election will be conducted by electronic survey before the end of week 4 of Hilary Term.

Full details of the process and eligibility will be circulated by the Faculty Office in Hilary Term.

Meetings and Business

UJCC meets each term on Tuesday of week 4. [Current Representatives](#) are listed on WebLearn. If you have concerns or business you wish to be raised at UJCC, please contact one of the representatives.

[Minutes from UJCC](#) meetings are posted on WebLearn.

DEPARTMENT REPRESENTATION: UJCC AT THE FACULTY OF ORIENTAL STUDIES

The Faculty of Oriental Studies also has a Joint Consultative Committee which meets once a term. It comprises of academic members and four student representatives, two undergraduates and two graduates. The agenda of the committee is driven by the student representatives who are asked to submit items for discussion. If you have any issues you would like to raise about your course or life as a student at Oxford, please raise it with your student representatives. Student representatives are elected in Michaelmas Term for the following calendar year. An email will be sent by the Academic Administrator for undergraduate studies asking for potential representatives. If there are more than two students who have come forward, an election will be held.

The student representatives also sit in the Undergraduate Studies Committee and Faculty Board. Representations concerning the programme are often made by or on behalf of the JCC. For more details please refer to the Oriental Studies Undergraduate Student Handbook

DIVISION AND UNIVERSITY REPRESENTATION

Student representatives sitting on the Divisional Board are selected through a process organised by the Oxford Student Union (Oxford SU). Details can be found on the [Oxford SU website](#) along with information about student representation at the University level.

OPPORTUNITIES TO PROVIDE EVALUATION AND FEEDBACK

University wide Feedback

Students on full-time matriculated courses are surveyed once per year on all aspects of their course (learning, living, pastoral support, college) through the **Student Barometer**. Details and previous results can be viewed by students, staff, and the general public by following the links from the [Oxford Student Surveys](#) website.

Final year undergraduates are surveyed instead through the **National Student Survey**. Details and results from previous NSS can be found on [Unistats website](#).

The Faculty discusses feedback from University-wide surveys when it becomes available at meetings of the UJCC, the Undergraduate Studies Committee and the Faculty Board. Student commentary on these survey results is always appreciated.

Faculty of Theology and Religion Feedback

In 2018-19 the Faculty will trial the use of two equivalent feedback mechanisms:

1. The Undergraduate Suggestion and Comment Box

This is located on the main corridor of the Faculty next to the Book Exchange. Paper is available and students are encouraged to supply anonymous feedback to the Faculty, which could be praise, criticism or constructive suggestions. Your comments might apply to particular lecture series, facilities, information supplied to students and faculty procedures. Please include your course, year group and the name of lecture series, if relevant.

2 The Virtual Undergraduate Suggestion and Comment Box

This [Google Form](#) is an electronic version of the Comment Box. This is an opportunity to submit free text and anonymous feedback. A link to the form will be circulated at the beginning of the year and at regular intervals throughout.

These will be checked on a regular basis and comments submitted will be considered by the Undergraduate Studies Committee and UJCC, the minutes of which are received by the Faculty Board. It is hoped that students will find this flexible method a convenient and appropriate way to convey their feedback to the Faculty.

At any time you are welcome to contact the [Director of Studies](#), the [Administrative Staff](#) or to make a [formal complaint](#). Faculty staff and members invest a lot of time and effort in the provision for students. Please let your teachers know what they have done well and how they might improve. Comments on Faculty Teaching are particularly encouraged.

Faculty of Oriental Studies Feedback

The Faculty of Oriental Studies takes student feedback seriously. Feedback helps the Faculty to improve its provision of courses to students. At the end of each term, during Week 7, students are invited to complete a short feedback questionnaire covering the lecture courses and session. Students are encouraged to complete and return these, all comments are anonymous. The results are then looked through by the Director of Undergraduate Studies and the Undergraduate Studies Committee, making it an important part of quality assurance procedures for the continuing review and development of the course.

7. STUDENT LIFE AND SUPPORT

WHOM TO CONTACT FOR HELP

Every college has its own systems of support for students. Please refer to your college handbook or website for more information on whom to contact and what support is available through your college.

Details of the wide range of sources of support that are available more widely in the University are available from the [Oxford Students website](#), including in relation to mental and physical health and disability.

If you are taken ill at the Faculty, please inform a member of staff, preferably in the main administrative office, immediately.

If you are unwell or otherwise unable to attend a Faculty Class, please endeavour to inform your tutor in advance. You may send a message via the relevant [Faculty Office](#), if necessary.

COMPLAINTS AND ACADEMIC APPEALS

The University, the Humanities Division and the Faculties of Theology and Religion and Oriental Studies all hope that provision made for students at all stages of their course of study will result in no need for complaints (about that provision) or appeals (against the outcomes of any form of assessment).

Where such a need arises, an informal discussion with the person immediately responsible for the issue that you wish to complain about (and who may not be one of the individuals identified below) is often the simplest way to achieve a satisfactory resolution.

Many sources of advice are available from colleges, faculties/departments and bodies like the Counselling Service or the [Oxford SU Student Advice Service](#), which have extensive experience in advising students. You may wish to take advice from one of those sources before pursuing your complaint.

General areas of concern about provision affecting students as a whole should be raised through Joint Consultative Committees or via student representation on the faculty/department's committees.

Complaints

If your concern or complaint relates to teaching or other provision made by the faculty/department, then you should raise it with the Director of Undergraduate Studies, [Dr Mary Marshall](#) (Theology and Religion) or [Prof. Linda Flores](#) (Oriental Studies). Complaints about departmental facilities at the Faculty of Theology and Religion should be made to the Faculty of Head of Administration and Finance, [Ms Alison Broadby](#), or at the Faculty of Oriental Studies to the Facilities Administrator, [Ms Trudi Pinkerton](#). If you feel unable to approach one of those individuals, you may contact the Chair of the Faculty Board, [Prof. Graham Ward](#) (Theology and

Religion) or [Ulrike Roesler](#) (Oriental Studies). The officer concerned will attempt to resolve your concern/complaint informally.

If you are dissatisfied with the outcome, then you may take your concern further by making a formal complaint to the Proctors under the University Students Complaints Procedure. The procedures adopted by the Proctors for the consideration of complaints and appeals are described on the [Proctors' Website](#), the [Student Handbook](#) and the [relevant Council regulations](#).

If your concern or complaint relates to teaching or other provision made by your college, you should raise it either with your tutor or with one of the college officers, such as the Senior Tutor. Your college will also be able to explain how to take your complaint further if you are dissatisfied with the outcome of its consideration.

Academic appeals

An academic appeal is an appeal against the decision of an academic body (e.g. boards of examiners, transfer and confirmation decisions etc.), on grounds such as procedural error or evidence of bias. There is no right of appeal against academic judgement.

If you have any concerns about your assessment process or outcome it is advisable to discuss these first informally with your subject or college tutor, Senior Tutor, course director, director of studies, supervisor or college or departmental administrator as appropriate. They will be able to explain the assessment process that was undertaken and may be able to address your concerns. Queries must not be raised directly with the examiners.

If you still have concerns you can make a formal appeal to the Proctors who will consider appeals under the [University Academic Appeals Procedure](#).

The Proctors will only consider complaints about the conduct of examinations, not appeals against examiners' academic judgement. The Proctors will only authorise the re-checking of marks if there is evidence of an irregularity having occurred or if some other sufficiently serious justification is in play. Papers will be re-marked only if investigation by the Proctors has found a serious problem in the original examination process.

STUDENT CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

The University boasts a huge number of diverse student clubs and societies; you can find a complete list [here](#).

POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

The University has a wide range of policies and regulations that apply to students. These are easily accessible through the A-Z of University regulations, codes of conduct, and policies available on the [Oxford Students website](#).

Equality and Diversity at Oxford

“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.” [Equality Policy \(2013\)](#).

Oxford is a diverse community with staff and students from over 140 countries, all with different cultures, beliefs and backgrounds. 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, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion and/or belief and sexual orientation. Visit [the Equality & Diversity Unit website](#) for further details or contact us directly for advice at equality@admin.ox.ac.uk.

The Equality and Diversity Unit also supports a broad network of harassment advisors in departments/faculties and colleges and a central Harassment Advisory Service. For more information on the University’s Harassment and Bullying policy and the support available for students visit the [Harassment Advice website](#).

There is range of faith societies, belief groups, and religious centres within Oxford University that are open to students. For more information visit [Faith societies, belief groups, or religious centres within Oxford University](#)

Student Welfare and Support Services

The Disability Advisory Service (DAS) can provide information, advice and guidance on the way in which a particular disability may impact on your student experience at the University and assist with organising disability-related study support. For more information visit the [Disability Advisory Service website](#)

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. For more information visit the [Counselling Service website](#).

A range of services led by students are available to help provide support to other students, including the peer supporter network, the OUSU Student Advice Service and Nightline. For more information visit the [Student Led Support website](#).

OXFORD SU also runs a series of campaigns to raise awareness and promote causes that matter to students. For full details, visit: [the Oxford SU Campaigns website](#).

There is a wide range of student clubs and societies to get involved in - for more details visit the [Clubs and Societies website](#).

CREDITS

This handbook includes much material lifted from publications issued by the University of Oxford, particularly from sections of the ox.ac.uk website. Material is quoted verbatim and in paraphrase, in whole and in part. The original source of the material is usually linked in the relevant section of the handbook.