

# Master of Studies in Asian and Middle Eastern Studies

## Course Handbook

Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies

Academic Year 2022-23 v.1

Course Director – Various, according to subject

The Examination Regulations relating to this course are available here:

<https://examregs.admin.ox.ac.uk/Regulation?code=mosiistudandhist&srchYear=2022&srchTerm=1&year=2022&term=1>

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 Senior Academic Administrator, Chris Mitchell ([christine.mitchell@orinst.ox.ac.uk](mailto:christine.mitchell@orinst.ox.ac.uk)).

The information in this handbook is accurate as at Michaelmas Term 2022; however, it may be necessary for changes to be made in certain circumstances, as explained at [www.ox.ac.uk/coursechanges](http://www.ox.ac.uk/coursechanges). If such changes are made the faculty will publish a new version of this handbook together with a list of the changes and students will be informed.

## THIS HANDBOOK

The handbook sets out the basic framework for the MSt in Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, and what to do should you encounter delays, setbacks, or need to make changes. It provides basic advice about writing your thesis and submitting it for examination.

You should consult the current edition of the [Examination Regulations](#) for information regarding your course. The information in this handbook should be read in conjunction with:

- the Faculty's general Masters handbook;
- the Examination Regulations;
- the [University Student Handbook](#)
- your college handbook.

**If there is a conflict between information in this handbook and the Examination regulations, then you should follow the Examination regulations.**

Comments and criticism of the handbook are always welcome; they should be sent to the [Director of Graduate Studies](#) or the Senior Academic Administrator, [Chris Mitchell](#).

### Version history

1	December 2022	Original publication
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## Outline

The MSt in Asian and Middle Eastern Studies aims to provide tailor-made courses for training graduate students at the beginning of their research in different areas of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies. This course is available only in consultation with the teachers in the area to be studied. Some sections of the Faculty offer fixed MSt courses, which they expect most or all of their graduate students to follow. The fixed MSt courses, which have their own examination regulations and handbooks, are as follows:

- Bible Interpretation
- Chinese Studies
- Classical Armenian Studies
- Classical Hebrew Studies
- Islamic Art & Architecture
- Japanese Studies
- Jewish Studies in the Græco-Roman Period
- Jewish Studies
- Korean Studies
- Syriac Studies

The MSt in Asian and Middle Eastern Studies is designed for those students whose subject is not covered by one of the fixed MSt courses.

## Course Content

The precise content of the course followed by each student is fixed by the supervisor in consultation with each student in order to provide the most useful training for that student. The course content is in each case designed to advance the student's progress towards a research degree after the completion of the MSt. The student may therefore be required by the supervisor, under the direction of the Faculty Board, to attend lecture courses, seminars, language classes and tutorials, and also to write more extended pieces of written work. Students discuss with their supervisors at the beginning of the course which form their course will take and the options selected will need to be formally approved.

The course may be taught in a variety of ways, depending on the needs of the student. Students who wish to learn languages are normally taught in classes. Students who wish to concentrate on historical issues may be taught primarily in regular tutorials for which they are expected to write essays. Evaluation of the course takes place entirely during the third term.

## Teaching Staff

- MSt Asian and Middle Eastern Studies students will be taught by various staff members, depending on their individual course of study. A list of Faculty staff can be found [here](#).

## Examinations and Assessments

You will offer all of the following three papers:

Option paper 1

Option paper 2

- These will each be three-hour sit-down examinations and may be any combination of approved language or non-language papers.

#### Research methods and materials essay

- This will be a take-home essay. You will write an essay of between 5,000 and 7,000 words on research methods and materials relating to the area of study relating to the approved option papers 1 and 2. You will have seven days to submit this essay from the date on which the topic is set.

**Additionally, you will be required to offer one of the following two:**

#### Option paper 3

- two essays of between 5,000 and 7,000 words in length each, on approved topics. They may be any two of the following:
  - a. what might become part of a thesis for the MLitt or DPhil;
  - b. an essay on the theoretical issues raised by the subject which you are proposing for the thesis;
  - c. an essay on a topic relevant to the subject of the thesis;
  - d. a discussion of the historical and literary background or of the source material which is relevant to the proposed subject.

#### A substantial draft chapter or chapters of a proposed thesis for the MLitt or the DPhil

- between 12,000 and 15,000 words, on an approved topic.

You may be required to attend a viva.

Please refer to the annual [rubrics](#) for MSt and MSc examinations for an explanation of the specific assessment standards for this course. The rubrics set out how examined work will be marked and how the resulting marks will be used to arrive at a final result and classification of an award.

#### Examination entry – core and optional papers

If you are taking examinations (sit-down examinations or submitted assessments) and you are required to select the options you wish to take, you will be invited by email to enter for your examinations in Student Self Service when the examination entry window for your examination opens. If your examination exists purely of core assessments then your assessments will be visible in Student Self Service in due course. Any options requiring Faculty approval will need to be approved in order for you to enter for this examination on Student Self Service. Please use the relevant application form for approval of optional papers and for thesis subject/title approvals [here](#).

#### Submissions

Submissions are via the University's electronic exams site, Inspera. Links and information will be sent by the Academic Administration office five weeks prior to the submission deadline.

## Deadlines

Hilary Term	Week 0, Monday	Applications for approval of all option papers/proposed thesis.	Email completed form to the <a href="#">academic administration office</a> .
Trinity Term	-	Examinations for option papers 1a and 1b. Dates will be published five weeks before the examination.	
Trinity Term	To be confirmed by the course director	<b>Submission</b> of Research methods and materials essay (paper 1c). You will have seven days to submit this essay from the date on which the topic is set.	Via Inspera.
Trinity Term	Week 3, Friday, 12 noon	Option paper 3 (two essays) <b>released</b> .	Via Inspera.
Trinity Term	Week 4, Friday, 12 noon	Option paper 3 (two essays) <b>submission</b> .	Via Inspera.
Trinity Term	Week 4, Friday, 12 noon	Proposed draft thesis <b>submission</b> .	Via Inspera.

### Canvas

Click [here](#) for the MSt Asian and Middle Eastern Studies Canvas page.

## Examination Regulations

The Examination Regulations relating to this course are available at

<https://examregs.admin.ox.ac.uk/Regulation?code=mosiaamiddeaststud&srchYear=2022&srchTerm=1&year=2022&term=1>

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