

PART-TIME MST IN

Literature and Arts



EXPLORE OUR PAST
THROUGH THE LENS OF
HUMAN CREATIVITY.

A transformative
part-time
master's with
Oxford University

Welcome

Join a curious, international community exploring how literature, art, architecture and ideas illuminate the past.

Through Oxford residences, online learning and independent research, you will develop the confidence to work across disciplines and make meaningful connections between texts, images, objects, buildings and ideas.



Dr Carly Watson

Course Co-Director

'The MSt in Literature and Arts is the perfect course for anyone with a passion for learning more about the social, cultural, and intellectual worlds of the past and an interest in tracing ideas and developments across traditional disciplinary boundaries.'



Dr Pippa Byrne

Course Co-Director

'The most exciting feature of the MSt in Literature and Arts is its interdisciplinary approach. The course is an opportunity to bring different intellectual traditions into dialogue, and an invitation to ask new questions about the past.'

Cover: Marianne Dorothy Harland (1759–1785), Later Mrs. William Dalrymple by Richard Cosway. Oil on canvas.

This portrait embodies the interconnectedness of art, music, and other aspects of culture, and thus encapsulates the interconnectedness of the disciplines through which we study the past.

At a glance

The **MSt in Literature and Arts** is an interdisciplinary, two-year part-time programme for people who want to pursue advanced humanities study while continuing with work and other commitments.



Master's level

Postgraduate MSt



Study part-time

Alongside other commitments



2 years

Starts October 2027



Locations

Central Oxford



4

Residential teaching weeks



2

Online modules

Who is this course for?

This part-time master's is designed for humanities graduates who want to progress to postgraduate study while balancing professional or family commitments. It is particularly relevant to teachers, librarians, archivists and others working in humanities-related fields, as well as graduates seeking an intellectually ambitious return to study.

The degree can be taken as a stand-alone qualification and also provides excellent preparation for doctoral research.

Read more about studying at Master's level: [lifelong-learning.ox.ac.uk/course-type/masters-programmes](https://www.lifelong-learning.ox.ac.uk/course-type/masters-programmes)



Lucy King

2023-25

'What I loved most about the academic side of the course was its historical breadth and inherent interdisciplinarity. I've always enjoyed viewing works of art and literature as historical artefacts as well as analysing them in their own right, and found the ethos of the course to be enormously helpful in identifying topics and methods for research that wouldn't have been as evident using a more restrictive approach.'

Read Lucy's story: www.lifelong-learning.ox.ac.uk/student-spotlights/lucy-king

What you'll gain

SEE CULTURE FROM NEW PERSPECTIVES

Explore British history and culture from the early modern period to the long nineteenth century through literature, history, art and architectural history, philosophy and the history of ideas.

BUILD INTERDISCIPLINARY CONFIDENCE

Learn how to interpret unfamiliar forms of evidence – from poems and paintings to buildings, objects, and texts of all kinds – and make rigorous connections across disciplines.

PLACE BRITAIN IN A GLOBAL CONTEXT

Examine how British culture has been shaped by exchange and interaction with the wider world, drawing on Oxford's international collections and cultural resources.

DEVELOP ADVANCED RESEARCH SKILLS

Progress from guided case studies in the first online module to independent research, academic writing, collaborative publishing and an original dissertation.

JOIN A COLLABORATIVE ACADEMIC COMMUNITY

Exchange ideas with fellow students and tutors, contribute to the online journal, and benefit from specialist dissertation supervision.



How you'll study

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

The programme combines residential teaching in Oxford with supported online learning. Students attend seminars and lectures during five-day residences in October, February, and June of year one, and in October of year two, in addition to an induction day before the first residence.

The first residence forms a core course exploring British history and culture in a global context. For the three subsequent residences, students choose from optional courses spanning literature, history, art and

architectural history, and philosophy and political thought, with each residence focused on a major historical period: the early modern era, the long eighteenth century, and the long nineteenth century.

ASSESSMENT

Assessment is through four assignments of 5,000 words, submitted after residential modules, and an 11,000-word interdisciplinary dissertation.

The assignments contribute 40% of the final mark and the dissertation 60%.

The Oxford experience

GLOBAL REPUTATION FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Study within a world-leading university and a vibrant community of adult learners. Oxford's academic environment encourages ambitious thinking, careful scholarship and fresh perspectives.

LEARN FROM SPECIALISTS

Teaching is provided by experienced academics working across literature, history, art and architectural history, and philosophy.

OXFORD'S CULTURAL RESOURCES

Make use of Oxford's exceptional libraries, museums, historic buildings, and digital resources. The programme is designed to turn these resources into raw material for interdisciplinary enquiry.

OXFORD COLLEGE AFFILIATION

As a matriculated postgraduate student, you will become a member of one of Oxford's multidisciplinary colleges, creating opportunities to meet students and academics from many fields.

LIBRARY ACCESS

Students have access to Oxford University Library Services, including the Bodleian Libraries and relevant faculty libraries, both online and in person.

VIDES: COLLABORATIVE PUBLISHING

In year two, students contribute to VIDES – the Volume of Interdisciplinary Essays. Working in small committees, they take part in peer review, proofreading, copy-editing and journal design, gaining insight into the collaborative process of academic publishing.

Discover more:
lifelong-learning.ox.ac.uk/about/mla-vides



Caitlin Murphy-Hurrell
2023-2025

'Being immersed in studying at Oxford during my time on the programme are some of the best memories that I will carry with me. Not only was I engaging in subject matters that I had never encountered before, like Art History, but my curiosity was supported and encouraged. I never thought my research would focus on what it did and that's as a result of the broad but detailed studies we were able to explore.'

Read Caitlin's story: www.lifelong-learning.ox.ac.uk/student-spotlights/caitlin-murphy-hurrell



Simon Lamoon
2020-2022

'If you are interested in what humans have achieved from a cultural viewpoint, then you will not be disappointed with the programme. If you are insatiably curious and need a focus for your enquiries, look no further, as this course can't be beaten. You will also meet some extraordinary people who are brilliant, helpful, interesting, and kind, with the occasional genuine eccentric genius thrown in.'

Read Simon's story: www.lifelong-learning.ox.ac.uk/student-spotlights/simon-lamoon

How to apply

APPLICATION DETAILS

For information about entry requirements and how to apply, please visit:

lifelong-learning.ox.ac.uk/mst-in-literature-and-arts

Deadlines

12:00 midday UK time on:

- Stage 1: Wednesday 27 January 2027 (Latest deadline for most Oxford scholarships)
- Stage 2: Tuesday 2 March 2027 (Final deadline for 2027 entry)

If you have any questions about the progress of your application, please contact the Course Administrators: mla@conted.ox.ac.uk.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Applicants should normally hold, or be predicted to achieve, a first-class or strong upper second-class undergraduate degree with honours in a humanities subject, or an equivalent international qualification.

Applicants whose first language is not English may need to demonstrate English proficiency at the University's higher level.

HOW TO PREPARE

- Allow enough time to gather transcripts and other supporting documents.
- Ask referees early and give them sufficient time to submit references.
- Review the Graduate Admissions guidance carefully before submitting.
- Check individual scholarship criteria and deadlines.

FEES AND FUNDING

Course fees and estimated costs are published on the course page on the University of Oxford [Graduate Admissions website](#).

Applicants should also consult Oxford's fees, funding and scholarship search tools. Many scholarships require an application by the January deadline, and some have separate requirements or earlier closing dates.

Further details can also be found on the University's Fees and Funding page: www.ox.ac.uk/students/fees-funding

MSt in Literature and Arts students, 2025



GET IN TOUCH

Course enquiries: mla@conted.ox.ac.uk

Course page: lifelong-learning.ox.ac.uk/mst-in-literature-and-arts



Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, 2025

Oxford Lifelong Learning

Oxford Lifelong Learning brings the quality of an Oxford University education within reach of everyone. We inspire people across the world to fulfil their potential – whether by studying for a qualification to change direction, enhancing their career with new skills, or learning simply to satisfy intellectual curiosity.

Our courses, provided in Oxford and online, are led by tutors selected for their expertise and dedication to the exceptional teaching you expect from a world-class university.

Offering a transformational learning experience, we encourage and empower our vibrant community to achieve their goals and make a difference by sharing their knowledge.



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