UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

BLACKFRIARS

VISITING STUDENT PROGRAMME

2027–2028

BLACKFRIARS HALL
OXFORD

BLACKFRIARS
OXFORD 1221–2021

Celebrating the 800th Anniversary of Blackfriars in Oxford

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Students enjoying a class in the Aula at Blackfriars

Photo: Br. Joseph Bailham OP

WELCOME TO BLACKFRIARS

"At my time in Oxford, I had the incredible opportunity to visit colleges that were bigger than Blackfriars, older than Blackfriars, and more well known than Blackfriars. However, not once did I visit a college that had as big a heart as Blackfriars. There is a spirit of service, charity, and fraternity that permeates her halls. Modeled after the Dominican way of life, students of all backgrounds can enjoy here a hall that is not just a building, but a home."

Brandon Kriplean | Blackfriars Visiting Student 2022–23.

STUDY ABROAD AT BLACKFRIARS, UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

Every year we welcome registered visiting students to Blackfriars Hall, in the University of Oxford, for a unique life and learning experience.

Registered visiting students at Blackfriars Hall are able to follow accredited studies for one year in Theology, Philosophy, Psychology, English Literature, Classics (in translation), and British History. They enjoy access to the academic and wider social and recreational facilities of the University of Oxford, as well as those we offer in the Hall.

We also offer classes in Latin, New Testament Greek, and Hebrew.

Our programme has been running for nearly thirty years. We have highly experienced staff dedicated to making your transition to study in Oxford as successful as possible. Our visiting students are normally accommodated in nearby houses equipped for self-catering, but can choose to eat many of their meals at a nearby college of the University.

ABOUT BLACKFRIARS HALL

Blackfriars Hall is part of the University of Oxford, the most ancient University in the English-speaking world. Blackfriars is run by the English Dominican friars, who first came to the medieval University city in 1221.

The Dominican vocation is summed up in the Order's motto Veritas ('truth'), and encompasses the pursuit of truth about human life and dignity. The friars invite others to join with them in this pursuit. If you desire 'to make sense of it all', Blackfriars may be right for you.

Rev Dr Bruno Clifton OP is Director of Visiting Students and Vice Regent of Blackfriars Hall. He teaches Biblical Studies.

BLACKFRIARS OXFORD 1221–2021

Celebrating the 800th Anniversary of Blackfriars in Oxford, 1221–2021

Blackfriars Hall is on St Giles, in the heart of the city

TEACHING AT BLACKFRIARS

"My year as a visiting student was certainly one of the best, most intense and varied of my life so far. I studied more than ever before, attended more fascinating events than I ever had, and formed friendships with people from all over the world. Amid the busyness of Oxford's everyday life, Blackfriars, with its strong sense of community, always felt like a kind of home to me."

Lukas Klimke | Blackfriars Visiting Student (2024–25)

THE TUTORIAL SYSTEM

Oxford is famous for its tutorial system of teaching. Students are taught by a leading academic, either individually or with one or two other students. Visiting students normally receive two tutorials a week, and need to prepare an essay for each of these tutorials. For each tutorial meeting students write a 2,500–3,000-word essay following the reading given by the tutor.

During the tutorial, students have the opportunity to discuss in great depth with their tutors the work that they have prepared. The system is challenging and pushes them to the limits of their abilities, but every year our visiting students identify this tailored learning to be the most rewarding and productive aspect of their Oxford experience. Although some visiting students initially find the tutorials daunting, we select only students who we are confident will flourish under this system of learning.

A class in the Aula

ARRANGEMENT OF TEACHING

Oxford runs a system of three eight-week terms, and students follow two tutorial subjects each term: six courses through the year. This means that they must research and write two essays every week. It is a rigorous method geared only for the very best students. A minimum GPA of 3.7 is required. In addition to their two weekly tutorials, visiting students are invited to attend two lecture courses per term. Visiting students are able to choose from a wide range of lectures and seminars at Blackfriars, and in the wider University.

Students are expected to organise their own time, and to make use of the wealth of research facilities in Oxford. We advise our students that they should expect to complete a full 9-5 working day on their studies, in tutorials, lectures, and using the libraries.

Tutorial teaching for the year is fixed before students arrive and can be altered only in exceptional circumstances.

Our visiting students are able to read in our own specialist library, and in the Bodleian, one of the world's largest and most prestigious academic libraries. Visiting students are able to borrow books from the Theology Faculty library and the other faculty libraries relevant to their courses.

Students from our partner institutions receive credits equivalent to full-time study at their home university.

MONITORING OF ACADEMIC PROGRESS

Tutors give in-depth feedback to their students on every essay. Academic progress of visiting students is monitored throughout the year by the Director of Studies for Visiting Students. Students, or tutors and lecturers, who have any academic concerns may raise them with her. There are weekly office hours at which students may come to discuss their work and any problems they may be experiencing. If, in exceptional circumstances, a student were unable to work with the assigned tutor, the Director of Studies for Visiting Students would make alternative arrangements.

Every tutor writes a report on the student at the end of term, and the student has a meeting with the Director of Studies for Visiting Students to discuss the term's work.

PASTORAL CARE OF STUDENTS

We have a highly experienced team, dedicated to looking after the pastoral needs of students. Our two Junior Deans are on hand to welcome visiting students, and to ease them into life in Oxford.

Students may also approach the Director of Studies for Visiting Students, the Welfare Officer, the Senior Dean, or the Chaplain to discuss any issue in confidence. They may also approach any of the Moderators, the Harassment Officers, or the Tutor for Women.

In addition to the pastoral care provided by Blackfriars, visiting students have full access to the Counselling Services of the University.

CONDUCT

All visiting students are required to abide by the University's Rules and Codes of Practice and the Rules of Blackfriars. In practice, this often means no more than the common sense, courtesy and respect one mature adult would have for his or her neighbour.

It is necessary to stress the extreme seriousness with which certain infringements of the Code of Conduct are treated both by Blackfriars and by the University authorities in the areas of religious or sexual harassment or racial discrimination, and in cases of inappropriate access to material on the internet.

Access and use of the internet may be monitored by the University. Offences in these areas may result in the student's dismissal from the Programme.

Students breaking the rules or whose conduct fails to meet the expected standards may be summoned in the first instance to the Senior Dean. The Senior Dean has the right to impose small fines, or withdraw permission to use the various facilities of the Hall. If the matter cannot be resolved at that level, it will be taken up by a disciplinary panel. For more information see: https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/conduct (University Rules).

SELECTION OF STUDENTS

Enjoying the end-of-year garden party

The Hall accepts a maximum of 10 visiting students each year. The majority come from American partner universities or colleges, but we welcome applications from other suitably qualified students, undergraduate and postgraduate, from major universities globally, who share an affinity with our ethos.

The academic workload means that Blackfriars does not normally permit students to have part-time employment during term time. Permission is granted only in exceptional circumstances for reasons of financial hardship, if the student is able to satisfy the necessary visa conditions.

Candidates may be of any religious affiliation or none. They must, however, be sensitive to the Catholic religious setting of the Hall in a Dominican Priory and should be open to the Dominican intellectual tradition in Philosophy and Theology. At the same time, candidates should not expect all tutors to be Dominicans or to belong to any particular religious tradition.

As candidates are not interviewed by Blackfriars, we rely heavily on the home universities to select suitable applicants.

Undergraduate applicants should be able to demonstrate a minimum GPA of 3.7 or its equivalent, and must obtain permission from their home university to spend a year abroad at Blackfriars. Applicants need to meet Oxford University's English requirements, and obtain the appropriate visa.

Blackfriars reserves the right to reject applications deemed unsuitable. In practice this very rarely occurs as our partner universities develop a good sense of who will benefit from the programme. Occasionally Blackfriars may have to reject a candidate on the grounds of overall numbers, or because an application is submitted late.

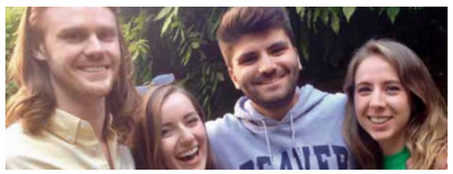
It is the responsibility of the home university to ensure that the options chosen by the student match their needs for credits at the end of the year.

GRADUATE VISITING STUDENTS

While there are no taught graduate courses available, graduate visiting students are welcome to apply to take the undergraduate course options.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

We welcome applications from students with disabilities. Please contact the the Director of Studies for Visiting Students, and let us know what your needs are: we shall seek to meet them wherever possible. We ask you to tell us only so that we can offer support, if needed, and to make reasonable adjustments to facilitate your life and work at Blackfriars. The earlier we know about your individual requirements, the sooner we can begin to meet them.



ACCOMMODATION & CATERING

"In addition to the friendly community and engaging academic tutorials found at Blackfriars, one thing that I really appreciated was the central location of its accommodation. I was only a short walk away from the many different restaurants, markets, libraries, parks, and attractions found within the city."

Noah Groll | Blackfriars MSt Student 2022–23

Visiting students at Blackfriars are accommodated in two historic houses, at the very heart of the city

ACCOMMODATION

At present, all our visiting students are accommodated in two adjacent comfortable and historic houses in St. John Street, just outside the back gate of Blackfriars. Accommodation is in single or twin rooms, according to preference and subject to availability, but most visiting students are expected to share a room. Bed linen is provided, but students are responsible for laundering their own linen and clothes, as well as cleaning their own room. An inventory is done at the beginning of the year.

Students have the use of their room throughout the academic year, from their arrival at the start of October through to late June. They may receive guests, but only with the permission of the Junior Dean and the agreement of their housemates.

Each house has a washing machine and tumble dryer, together with a fully-equipped kitchen. A cleaner is employed for the common areas of the houses.

In the event that not all students can be accommodated in St John Street, Blackfriars will arrange alternative nearby accommodation with similar facilities.

The community welcomes students to join them for meals on special occasions throughout the year

CATERING

Given the nature of Blackfriars Priory as a religious house for Dominican friars, we can offer dining facilities to student members only on a few occasions during the year.

Arrangements have been made for all our students, including visiting students, to dine at another nearby college of the University.

Visiting students are accommodated in these two adjacent historic houses in nearby St. John Street

Photo: Fr. Lawrence Lew OP

FEES & PAYMENT

'My time at Blackfriars was amongst the most intellectually and spiritually fruitful of my life.'

Matthew Sweeney | Blackfriars Visiting Student, 2018–19; DPhil student 2020–present

Teaching is offered through tailored tutorials

Course fees are normally arranged through each student's home university. Arrangements for payment of fees for accommodation and food differ from one home university to another. Home universities are responsible for the payment of all course fees. If a student accepted for the programme fails to arrive, or leaves during the course of the year, the home university will be invoiced for any course fees that remain due.

All fees are invoiced in July, and are payable in pounds sterling at the start of term, according to the deadline stated on the invoice. It is preferable for payments to be made by International Bank Transfer, and the appropriate details are included with the invoice.

For details of fees for 2027/28 contact the Study Abroad office at your home institution.

Blackfriars' Library specialises in theology and philosophy, with over 35,000 volumes

Photo: Br. Joseph Bailham OP

The Priory Church offers a space for prayer, worship, and quiet reflection

Photo: Br. Luke Doherty OP

Br. Joseph Bailham OP

VISITING STUDENT PROGRAMME

THEOLOGY

BIBLICAL STUDIES

The different courses in Biblical Studies consider the main sections of the Old and New Testaments. Each course will foster the ability of students to interpret the texts theologically and perform detailed exegesis.

TH01 | Old Testament: Pentateuch
Introduces the Pentateuch, the first five books of the Bible, otherwise known as the Torah, and introduces the most commonly held theories regarding its formation.

TH02 | Old Testament: Historical Books
An introduction to the historical books of the Old Testament from the book of Joshua to those of Maccabees; the content of the material, theories as to the authorship, and historical background to these books.

TH03 | Old Testament: Prophets and Prophecy
Introduces students to the content of the prophetic literature of the Old Testament, and to theories of biblical prophecy in general, as well as of the particular historical prophets and the creation of the prophetic books in their canonical form.

TH04 | Old Testament: The Writings
Considers a range of texts found in the Old Testament, which are grouped together as 'the Writings' in the Hebrew Bible after the Pentateuch, Historical Books, and Prophets; introduces the student to the Wisdom books, the Psalms, the Song of Songs and to the short stories of the Bible, in particular, Esther, Judith and Tobit.

TH05 | New Testament: Synoptic Gospels: Matthew and Mark
Introduces students to the Gospels of Mark and Matthew, their theology and ethics, literary and historical problems, and the historical research concerning Jesus.

TH06 | New Testament: Luke and Acts
Considers the books of Luke and Acts, their theology and ethics, literary and historical problems.

TH07 | New Testament: John's Gospel and Epistles
An introduction to the Johannine Literature, chiefly the Gospel, but also including the Epistles. It will examine critical questions such as authorship, dating, composition and ecclesial/missionary/polemical contexts, as well as the theological themes of John's Gospel.

TH08 | New Testament: Epistles of Paul
An introduction to the complete Pauline corpus, including the Pastoral Epistles. The course aims to relate particular letters to the broader themes of Pauline theology, to consider theories about the historical background to various letters, and to investigate the question of authorship where it is disputed.

TH09 | Hebrews, the Catholic Epistles and the Apocalypse
The course aims to introduce the student to the content of the Letter to the Hebrews, the Catholic Epistles, and the Apocalypse, and to theories regarding the authorship and historical background, as well as to the history of interpretation and reception of these texts in the Christian tradition.

CHURCH HISTORY AND HISTORICAL PERIODS OF CHURCH TEACHING

TH10 | Early Christian History and Doctrine
Introduces the student to the Early Church of the first six centuries, its evolution and theological concerns, through the study of key figures, regions, and texts.

TH11 | Theology of Augustine
Examines the philosophical theology of St. Augustine and enables the student to engage with his writings.

TH12 | Theology of Aquinas
Considers Aquinas' theological vision. The course's objective is to introduce students to Aquinas' theology, especially through an examination of his major work the *Summa Theologiae*, and to emphasise the scriptural and patristic roots of Aquinas' theological vision.

TH13 | Medieval Church History
A course dealing with key developments in the medieval Western Church between 800 and 1450. The course aims to foster understanding of the political and theological ideas which inspired these developments as well as teach students how to read different sources from the period. ►

If your programme of study at your home University requires a different selection of subjects from those above, please consult the Director of Visiting Students at Blackfriars, since it may be possible to provide a pattern of courses to suit your needs.

THEOLOGY *continued*

TH14 | Medieval Theology
Outlines the history of medieval theology from Boethius to Ockham. The course's objective is to introduce students to the major figures and themes in medieval theology through an examination of the major works of the authors concerned.

TH15 | Renaissance & Reformations
Explores the religion and society in Europe *c.*1450-1600. Topics may include the pre-reformation Church, the renaissance papacy, renaissance humanism, the Reformations in Germany, Switzerland, England, the Catholic/Counter-Reformation, and features of Early Modern Catholicism.

TH16 | Modern Church History
Explores the Western Catholic Church in the 19th and 20th centuries, with particular attention to the English Catholic Church and to developments in English Protestantism and the Church in Western Europe.

TH17 | Twentieth Century Theology
Introduces students to the variety of theological approaches which have been dominant over the last hundred years. Students will become familiar with both those trends which have sought continuity with the past, and those which consciously adopted a more modern method, including political, liberation and feminist theologies.

TH18 | The One God
Explores the revelation of the One God as presented in the Bible, and considers arguments for God's existence, and accounts of the nature of God, as these have been developed in classical Christian theology, such as the work of Thomas Aquinas, as well as earlier and more modern periods.

SPECIAL TOPICS IN THEOLOGY AND SPRITUALITY

TH19 | Trinity and Creation
Explores the fundamental Christian doctrine of God as Trinity, as it emerged in the New Testament and in subsequent discussions in Christian theology, including those controversies and heresies which arose over the centuries; considers the creative role of God as Trinity as understood in Christian thought.

TH20 | Christology and Soteriology
This course enables a student to reflect on what Christian faith understands to be the nature and role of Jesus Christ. It examines how Jesus is portrayed in the Bible, and moves on to consider the development of Christian doctrine about the nature of Christ and his work, from the Fathers to modern theology.

TH21 | Grace
An introduction to the Christian doctrine of divine grace and to the different reasons why grace is needed for the full flourishing of human beings. The course will deepen the student's understanding of how Catholic and Protestant teachings have differed, as well as treating classic debates among Catholic theologians on such matters as the relationship between grace and freedom.

TH22 | Ecclesiology
An introduction to Catholic reflection on the Church in its different aspects taking as its starting-point the theology of the Church set out at Vatican II.

TH23 | Sacramental Theology
Introduces the student to the central actions of Christian faith and practice, considering the use of the rites and the accounts given of their meaning. The course examines the individual Sacraments, paying special attention to Baptism and the Holy Eucharist.

TH24 | Eschatology
Introduces the student both to the subject of Christian eschatology, with its biblical foundations and dogmatic developments, and to the contemporary context for Christian hope, as a basic aspect of Christian faith.

TH25 | Fundamental Moral Theology
Enables students to reflect in an informed and critical way on the fundamental themes of Catholic Moral Theology, placing emphasis on the sources of moral theology, particularly Scripture, and on using these sources to reflect on moral issues.

TH26 | Catholic Social Teaching
Explores the development of the Church's teaching on social justice and traces the development of that teaching from its Jewish roots to its contemporary expression in the Compendium of Social Doctrine of the Church.

TH27 | Spirituality
An introduction to Christian Spirituality in its various historical forms and explores its value for contemporary life.

TH28 | Japanese Church History
This course deals with key developments in the Japanese Catholic Church between the 1549 arrival of St Francis Xavier and the beatification of Blessed Takayama Ukon in 2017, introducing students to some of the socio-cultural and political-economic aspects that shaped Catholic missionary work at the macro and micro levels of a changing Japanese society. The course also highlights transnational aspects of Catholic missionary work, drawing attention to relations between Japan and Europe.

TH29 | World Religions
Explores the great religions of the world other than Christianity, with particular attention to Judaism, Islam, Hinduism and Buddhism, and allows students to engage in some depth with key topics that reflect the central beliefs and practices of these religions.

PHILOSOPHY AND PSYCHOLOGY

HISTORY OF PHILOSOPHY: PERIODS AND KEY HISTORICAL FIGURES

PH01 | Ancient Philosophy
Offers the student an overview of Ancient Philosophy, and describes the historical, literary, and religious context in which Greek philosophy arose, as well as introducing its most celebrated thinkers. The course is designed to bring out the continuity between Greek and later Roman philosophy.

PH02 | Plato
Introduces students to Plato's major dialogues in their historical context, the leading ideas which they contain concerning reality, knowledge, and goodness, and his philosophical method.

PH03 | Aristotle
The course's objective is to introduce students to the major themes and critical issues in the study of Aristotle's philosophy through an examination of Aristotle's major works.

PH04 | Medieval Philosophy
The aim of this course is to introduce students to some of the major medieval philosophers and to some of the main themes of philosophical discourse in the middle ages.

PH05 | Philosophy of Aquinas
Introduces students to texts from St Thomas, covering a variety of philosophical topics, to provide students with knowledge of St Thomas' philosophy through examination of these texts, and to develop the skills needed for independent reading of St Thomas.

MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY PHILOSOPHY

These courses provide students with an understanding of some of the major movements and philosophers of the modern and contemporary periods. Students may currently focus on the following significant periods and figures:

PH06 | Descartes to Kant
Covers major early enlightenment thinkers such as Descartes, Hobbes, Locke, Leibniz, Berkeley, Hume, and Kant and their contribution to modern thinking.

PH07 | Wittgenstein
This tutorial course considers the central themes of Ludwig Wittgenstein's thought, focusing on his mature work. Topics include the nature of meaning and understanding, normativity, the 'private language argument/s', the inner and the outer, the self, religious belief, scepticism and necessity.

SPECIAL TOPICS IN PHILOSOPHY

PH08 | Philosophy of Religion
Introduces students to the key concepts and theories of the philosophy of religion, such as consideration of proofs for the existence of God and the relationship between such proofs and a philosophical understanding of God.

PH09 | Philosophy of Mind
Introduces students to the key concepts and theories of the philosophy of mind. Theories of the human mind are examined against a wider understanding of what it means to be human, and what is distinctive about the human animal.

PH10 | Theory of Politics
Provides an overview for students of the development of western political theory, and introduces them to key topics in the field. Students will gain knowledge of the principal political theories which have shaped political debate over the ages, and learn to analyse the terms used in the contemporary debate.

PH11 | Knowledge and Reality
This course will enable students to reflect on and engage with epistemological and metaphysical issues such as the nature of reality and our conception of its structure, matter, mind, things and their properties, necessity, events, causation and the nature of knowledge. ►

PHILOSOPHY AND PSYCHOLOGY *continued*

PH12 | Science and Religion
Provides students with a basic knowledge and understanding of the relationship between science, religion and philosophy. Major scientific theories are presented and students are shown how to reflect philosophically upon the claims of these theories.

PH13 | Anthropology
This course will give students an opportunity to study human cultures and societies around the world and to develop a familiarity with the theories and techniques developed by the modern discipline of anthropology.

PH14 | Moral Philosophy
The course aims to introduce students to the principal concepts and theories of moral philosophy, as found in the natural law tradition and a range of historical and contemporary theories. The connections between moral philosophy and other divisions of philosophy will be examined.

PH15 | Bioethics
Examines some concepts relevant to bioethics, some important biomedical technologies and developments, and the ethical issues which arise from these developments. The course aims to introduce students to the breadth of the contemporary debate in bioethics amongst Catholic and non- Catholic scholars.

PH16 | Business Ethics
An introduction to key themes in the theory and practice of business ethics. It may be possible to request other business and economics topics.

PSYCHOLOGY

PH17 | Introduction to Psychology
Provides a general introduction to modern psychology, in order to allow an appreciation and balanced appraisal of its strengths, practical applications, limitations, and metaphysical blind-spots.

Students may also opt for more specialist courses in:

PH18 | Developmental Psychology
Samples selected topics in cognitive, social, and emotional psychological development with a particular emphasis on a lifespan perspective and moral development. Students embarking on this course will normally be expected to have taken an introductory course in psychology or to be able to show a basic understanding of its methods and assumptions.

PH19 | Philosophy of Psychology
Considers philosophical questions about psychological theory and practice including the nature of: unconscious mental life, therapeutic action, self-knowledge, interpersonal understanding, mental illness, anxiety, and the mind's relation to brain, body and culture.

PH20 | Debates in Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience
The relations between the brain and mental and emotional functioning are the focus of this course. It aims more particularly to provide a philosophical foundation to a range of cognitive and affective impairments, and their implications. It also examines the complex connections between modes of knowing and attending and important intellectual and cultural themes. Students embarking on this course will normally be expected to have taken an introductory course in psychology, and/or an introductory course in cognitive psychology.

PH21 | Philosophy of Mental Health
This tutorial course considers distinctly philosophical issues regarding: mental illness, delusion and irrationality, mind and brain, pharmacotherapy, psychotherapeutic action, unconscious emotional life, inner unity and disunity, disability studies, addiction, culpability and weakness of will.

ENGLISH LITERATURE, CLASSICS (IN TRANSLATION), AND BRITISH HISTORY

ENGLISH LITERATURE

EL01 | Early Medieval Literature *c.*650–1350
An introduction to Medieval Studies, in both Old English and Middle English. Commentary work is integral to this course, with a focus on the grammatical, literary, and cultural features.

EL02 | Literature in English 1350–1550
Chaucer's *The Canterbury Tales* and other works, such as *Troilus and Criseyde*, in their fourteenth century literary and historical context; Malory's *Le Morte Darthur* and writers of the early Tudor period (such as More, Skelton, Surrey, and Wyatt). Areas for investigation may include: authorship and authority; verse types (lyric, ballad, romance); the Wars of the Roses; kingship; chivalry; and economic and social change.

EL03 | Shakespeare
An in-depth study of a range of Shakespeare's plays and poetry.

EL04 | Literature in English 1550–1660
A focus on Jonson, Marlowe, Middleton, and Webster, and the development of genre (such as Revenge Tragedy); the epic poetry and pastoral of Spenser; sonnets by Sidney; and metaphysical and religious poetry (Donne, Herbert, and Vaughan); Milton's work in its historical and literary context; and Cavalier poetry (Carew, Herrick, Lovelace, and Suckling).

EL05 | Literature in English 1660–1760
Considers the work of writers such as Defoe, Dryden, Fielding, Goldsmith, Pepys, Pope, Richardson, Sterne, Swift, and such topics as the rise of the novel as a popular literary form; satire; science and literature; gender and genre; mock-epic.

EL06 | Literature in English 1760–1830
Explores literature of the period in its socio-political contexts, including the epistolary novel, Gothic fiction, Revolutions, liberty, sensibility, the sublime, landscape, and the rise of historical fiction, are studied alongside the major poets of the period—Blake, Byron, Coleridge, Hemans, Keats, Landon, P. B. Shelley, and Wordsworth—and the socio-political environment in which they were writing.

EL07 | Literature in English 1830–1910
In this course, students will explore works by a range of major poets, novelists, and playwrights of the period, and their treatment topics such as sexuality; the 'Condition of England' novel; sensationalism; the rise of the crime novel; social realism; Victorian Gothic; Medievalism; science; and religion.

EL08 | Literature in English 1910 to the present
Explores topics in drama such as melodrama, performance issues, revolutionary theatre, and theatre of the absurd; the work of some of the major poets of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries; and topics such as the Edwardian novel, modernism, post-colonialism, post-modernism, popular culture, and concepts of literary value.

EL09 | Classical Literature in Translation
Through this course students will be able to engage critically with some of the most significant examples of the main literary genres and authors (in translation), and trace their influence on writers to the present day. Topics studied may include epic, tragedy, comedy, pastoral, and myth in Greek and Roman literature.

BRITISH HISTORY

These courses require students to consider the history of the societies which have made up the British Isles over an extended period of time. They aim to encourage appreciation of the underlying continuities as well as the discontinuities within each period, and to explore the relation between political, gender, economic, social, and cultural developments in determining the paths followed by the societies of Britain, severally and together:

BH01 | History of the British Isles I *c.*300–1087
BH02 | History of the British Isles II 1042–1330
BH03 | History of the British Isles III 1330–1550
BH04 | History of the British Isles IV 1500–1700
BH05 | History of the British Isles V 1685–1830
BH06 | History of the British Isles VI 1815–1924
BH07 | History of the British Isles VII Since 1900

If your programme of study at your home University requires a different selection of subjects from those above, please consult the Director of Visiting Students at Blackfriars, since it may be possible to provide a pattern of courses to suit your needs.

HOW TO APPLY

Suitable candidates should complete the application form, which must be signed and stamped by their home institution as indication of its approval of the candidate's application.

The completed forms should be sent to Blackfriars together with:

- a sample essay
- an academic reference
- a personal statement by the student explaining why he/she wishes to study at Blackfriars
- an official transcript
- two passport sized photographs (not electronic scans).

Applications should be received no later than 1st March 2027.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

These requirements subject to change

Emergency Contact
Students must provide Blackfriars with names, addresses and phone numbers of next of kin, for use in an emergency.

Health Insurance
Students who need a Student visa will be charged an Immigration Health Surcharge when they apply for a visa which will cover them for NHS healthcare for the duration of their stay but only in the UK.
If you are an EU/EEA or Swiss national who has pre-settled or settled status under the EU Settlement Scheme you will also be covered for NHS healthcare. If you do not have this status you will need to apply for a visa and pay the surcharge. Visiting students register at a local health centre upon arrival.

Other Insurance
Students are strongly advised to obtain travel insurance before leaving for the UK. They are encouraged to take out contents insurance to cover their belongings while in Oxford.

Immigration
Non-UK students (also excludes Ireland) coming to Oxford to study a full-time course of more than six months must obtain Entry Clearance (a visa) under the Student Route before coming to the UK to start their course. If you do not have Entry Clearance when you arrive, you will not be allowed to enter the UK. EU, EEA and Swiss nationals who do not have pre-settled or settled status under the EU Settlement Scheme will also need to also apply under the Student Route.
The UK government, UK Visas and Immigration, requires you to be formally sponsored by a licensed UK higher education institution, the University of Oxford in our case. Once your offer to study is unconditional (you have met all academic and financial conditions) the University will contact you by email about the preparation of your Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS). This is a unique number which will enable immigration officers to access information which your College and the University has provided.

Working
Students with a Student Visa are permitted to take some kinds of employment during the course of their studies. Visiting students at Blackfriars should understand, however, that they are only allowed to work subject to the express permission of the Hall. Requests should be made to the Director of Visiting Students.

Residence Requirement
Students are normally expected to be resident in Oxford throughout the academic term. Permission is required from the Vice-Regent of Studies for students to absent themselves from Oxford overnight during the week or for more than 24 hours at weekends.

English Language Requirements
All teaching at Oxford University is carried out in English (with the exception of some language-specific teaching) and tutors must be convinced that you have sufficient fluency in written and spoken English to cope with your course from the start. Therefore, all non-native English-speaking applicants must satisfy one of the requirements detailed on page 13.
An exemption from this requirement will be considered for applicants who have been educated full-time in the medium of the English Language throughout the two most recent years, and who remain in full-time education conducted in the English Language until the start of their course.

APPLICANTS' NOTES

ENGLISH LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

All non-native English-speaking applicants must enclose evidence that they satisfy one of the following requirements:

Qualification	Overall Score	Minimum Component Scores
IELTS*	7.5	7.0 *(per component)*
TOEFL	110	Listening: 22 Reading: 24 Speaking: 25 Writing: 24
CAE *(Cambridge Certificate of Advanced English)*	91	185 *(per component)*
CPE *(Cambridge Certificate for Proficiency in English)*	191	185 *(per component)*
English Language GCSE**	Grade B/Grade 6	
International Baccalaureate Standard Level (SL)	5 in English***	
European Baccalaureate	70% in English	

* We recommend that you take the IELTS Academic option. The IELTS General, IELTS UKVI General and IELTS life skills options are not suitable for admission. The IELTS UKVI Academic test can be accepted but is not recommended, as this is more expensive than the IELTS Academic test and is not offered in as many countries or centres worldwide, so it may be difficult to book an appointment. This UKVI version of the test is required for students taking courses below degree level but is not required for courses at degree level or above, and IELTS recommend that university applicants do not apply for this version of the test as it will fill up spaces required by other students (below degree level) who do have to take this version of the test.

** We do not accept IGCSE in either First Language English or English as a Second Language as proof of English proficiency.

*** As Language A or B.

SPECIAL NEEDS

Special Needs

Blackfriars welcomes students with disabilities and will try to meet your needs wherever possible. The information you give on the application form will help in this. It will also be used to monitor progress in equal opportunities.

If you have a disability, special needs (including dyslexia or another specific learning difficulty) or a medical condition, please select the most appropriate code(s) and enter it in the box labelled 'Special Needs' at section three of the application form. If you do not have a disability, special need or a medical condition, use code 0.

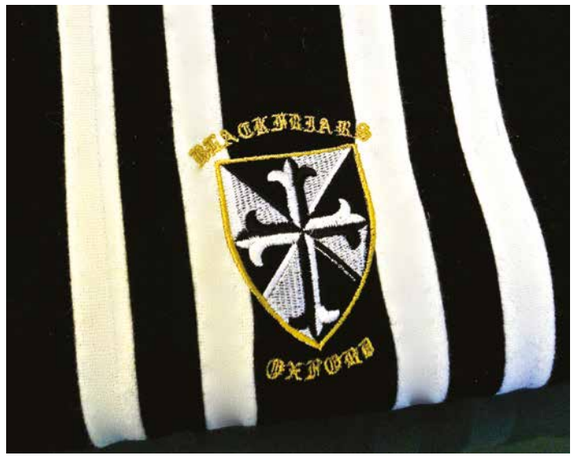
0 No disability or special need
1 You have dyslexia
2 You are blind or partially sighted
3 You are deaf or hard of hearing
4 You use a wheelchair or have mobility difficulties
5 You need personal care and assistance
6 You have mental health difficulties
7 You have a disability that cannot be seen, for example diabetes, epilepsy, or a heart condition
8 You have a disability, special need, or medical condition not listed above

Criminal Convictions

If you have any criminal convictions enter 'Y' in the box labelled 'Convictions' at section three of the application form. Otherwise enter 'N'.

You do not need to declare any convictions for UK motoring offences for which you received only a fine or three penalty points, nor spent convictions as defined by the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974.

Failure to disclose a conviction may lead to the withdrawal of any offer made.



VISITING STUDENT PROGRAMME
APPLICATION FORM

1. ABOUT YOU

Surname

Forename(s)

Date of Birth
D D M M Y Y Y Y

Home University/College

University/College Address

University/College Email Address

Home Address

Home Telephone

Personal Email Address

2. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

Please enclose:

- ✓ One piece of written academic work of no more than 5,000 words;
- ✓ An academic reference;
- ✓ A personal statement (about 500 words) explaining why you wish to study at Blackfriars;
- ✓ An official transcript: applicants should be able to demonstrate a minimum GPA of 3.7 or its equivalent;
- ✓ Two passport photos;
- ✓ Evidence of English language qualifications (if necessary—see applicants' notes page 13).

3. SPECIAL NEEDS

Please read the notes on special needs and monitoring on page 13, and enter the appropriate codes in the boxes.

Special Needs

Convictions

4. PREVIOUS UK STUDY

Have you studied in the UK before?

Institution

Qualification

Dates

5. COURSE PREFERENCES

Visiting Students take six tutorial courses, two per term. Blackfriars will make every effort to see that students are offered their top choices, but this is not always possible. Please refer to full course descriptions on pages 7 to 11.

Please list your chosen courses in order of preference:

1st		6th	
2nd		7th	
3rd		8th	
4th		9th	
5th		10th	

6. LANGUAGE CLASSES

This section is optional. If you would like to study a language, please tick one of the following boxes. These courses last a full academic year.

- ☐ **Latin**
- ☐ **Biblical Hebrew**
- ☐ **New Testament Greek**

7. SIGNATURES

I hereby apply for admission to Blackfriars Hall, Oxford as a Visiting Student for the academic year 2025–26. If accepted I agree to abide by the regulations of Blackfriars Hall and the University of Oxford insofar as they apply to me.

Signature of Applicant

Date
D D M M Y Y Y Y

As this student's supervisor and *(delete preceding words if you are not the student's supervisor)* on behalf of the home University/College, I support this application.

Signature of Supervisor or Other Official

Date
D D M M Y Y Y Y

Name *(Please Print)*

College Stamp

Position in University

Email Address

Telephone Number

WHAT NEXT?

After completing the form applicants should ask their Study Abroad Director to countersign it. The form should then be sent via email to vice.regent@bfriars.ox.ac.uk, together with the supporting documents listed in 2., to the Director of Studies for Visiting Students at Blackfriars.

Blackfriars will contact applicants directly to inform them of the outcome of their application.

For more information, please contact:
The Director of Studies for Visiting Students
Blackfriars
33-35 St. Giles
Oxford OX1 3LY
UNITED KINGDOM

T | +44 (0)1865 278441
E | vice.regent@bfriars.ox.ac.uk
W | www.bfriars.ox.ac.uk

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BLACKFRIARS HALL
OXFORD
2027–2028

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