



MPhil Egyptology Course Handbook
Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies
University of Oxford
Academic Year 2026-27 v.1

FACULTY OF
**ASIAN AND
MIDDLE
EASTERN
STUDIES**



UNIVERSITY OF
OXFORD

Master of Philosophy in Egyptology

Course Handbook

Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies

Course Director – Prof. Elizabeth Frood

THIS HANDBOOK

This handbook applies to students starting the course in Michaelmas Term 2026. The information in this handbook may be different for students starting in other years.

The information in this handbook is accurate as of Michaelmas Term 2026; however, it may be necessary for changes to be made in certain circumstances, as explained at [Changes to courses | Oxford University](#). 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.

The handbook sets out the basic framework for the MPhil Egyptology, 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.

The Examination Regulations relating to this course are available here: [Degrees of Master of Philosophy in the Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies \(ox.ac.uk\)](#)

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 Examination Conventions and Rubrics;
- 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. If you have any concerns please contact the Senior Academic Administrator.

Comments and criticism of the handbook are always welcome; they should be sent to the Director of Graduate Studies or the Senior Academic Administrator.

STUDENT HUB

The Student Hub is an ongoing project to provide a live online version of the handbook. Please check the information on the Student Hub in conjunction with this handbook as it provides you with additional important information covering:

- Support and Welfare
- Student Representation and feedback
- Examinations and Assessment information including forms and exam conventions
- Graduate Supervision (GSR)
- Graduate teaching opportunities and PLTO
- Research Ethics and CUREC approval

- Travelling abroad for study
- Financial Support
- Support for unexpected circumstances, including applying for suspensions, extensions
- Researcher training and development

You can also access the Student Hub through the 'Student Hub' button on the top bar of the Faculty Website. You may need to log in using your SSO details.

Version history

1	September 2026	Original publication
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INTRODUCTION TO THE MPhil EGYPTOLOGY

Introduction

This handbook provides an outline of the MPhil in Egyptology. It is intended to supplement and coordinate with other documents you will be given. Numbers on the course are very small and you will see the teaching staff very often. You are free to come and discuss the course and your needs throughout the academic year. Because of this frequent and close contact, this document is kept quite brief. If you need to know more, come and see one of us.

General

This course is intended for two purposes and is organised in two related syllabuses. It is presented formally in the *Examination Regulations*; what follows is intended to flesh out that description and, we hope, to clarify that document.

Syllabus A enables those with an Egyptology background to pursue their study of the subject at a higher level, to gain specialised expertise, and to begin fairly detailed research in an area of their choice right at the start. For example, students could undertake to specialise in demotic, Coptic or other areas of the subject, including some areas in material culture studies, which they could not pursue at undergraduate level. This syllabus is often focussed on the first millennium BC and the early Roman period; the teaching is dependent on availability of the options over the two years of the course. All possibilities for specialist training and research for Syllabus A should have been discussed with potential teachers and/or supervisors in advance of application to ensure availability and fit.

Syllabus B enables graduates in another discipline to convert to Egyptology through a course at graduate level that offers a certain amount of specialisation, including a significant element of independent research. The thesis presented for examination with either syllabus can be revised and incorporated into doctoral or other theses. Syllabuses and courses are tailored to individual students and student groups as far as teaching availability allows, so that a general description can cover only the structures and elements that apply to all. The guide that follows is essentially an explanation of the regulations and an indication of what stages students should expect to have reached by particular junctures in the course.

The MPhil is designed as a graduate course and is very intensive. Students must treat university vacations as integral parts of their work time and are expected to take relatively limited holidays. From the start of their courses, they should also consider whether they need to do research visits to Egypt or fieldwork elsewhere and when this will best be done. If possible, everyone who has not been to Egypt before should ideally visit there before the end of the course, even as a tourist. In the final week of Hilary Term of the second year, essays that are assessed for one element in the course must be completed and handed in. Students should then expect to spend the Easter Vacation finishing their theses, which must be submitted halfway through Trinity Term. Depending on the course design, there can also be a take-home examination at the beginning of Trinity Term of the second year. The final examinations are sat during and/or after the end of the term. Different examination provisions may be made for some students who are taking options that are offered in other faculties, such as Classics. In some cases, the syllabus may be varied to enable students to take and be examined in options that are offered at the same time for other courses.

Teaching usually takes place in the Griffith Institute wing of the Art, Archaeology and Ancient World Library, on weekdays. Teaching can be either in the morning or afternoon, and lectures and tutorials are usually 1 hour; text classes can be 2 hours. Students have access to the facilities, especially the archive of the Griffith Institute for research purposes, via separate arrangements. They may apply to their original funding bodies (if any), to their colleges, and to the Griffith Egyptological Fund

(administered by the Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies) for financial assistance with appropriate fieldwork or special expenses (such as, for example, obtaining photographs for study for a thesis).

A further vital University resource in Egyptology is the Ashmolean Museum. Students are strongly encouraged to make themselves familiar with the collections, both on display and in the stores. They may like to consider working with a specific category of material in the museum for a special field or thesis. Artefact classes for Egyptology undergraduates (2 hours a week) are held in the museum in Michaelmas and Trinity terms, and MPhil students are strongly encouraged to attend these where possible. Another Oxford museum with an outstanding Egyptian collection is the Pitt Rivers Museum. Students may wish to explore the possibility of working with its collection, as well as those of other museums in the UK, such as the British Museum.

During the first three terms, students taking syllabus B should establish which special fields they wish to take in their second years (see below under Syllabuses) and check with their supervisors whether their proposed choice will be available. Students taking syllabus A will have established the availability of their options, such as demotic or Coptic, during their application process. These are often taught in connection with the special options of the Undergraduate course and, depending on teaching capacity, normally a maximum of three special fields and options can be offered in any one year. This means that in many years special fields cannot be customized to individual students, but are tailored as much as possible to the group of students in the year as a whole.

Applications for the approval of detailed options should then be presented, after consultation with the supervisor, to the Academic Administration team. They are due by Monday in the sixth week of Trinity Term at the end of the first year. They may be submitted by email; it is essential that the student keeps a record and also provides details to the supervisor. The following options are normally offered when teaching is available, and are taught with a mixture of text classes and essays as appropriate to the candidate and topic:

- Art and iconography
- Deir el-Medina, sources and analysis
- Coptic
- Demotic
- Egyptian grammar
- Graeco-Roman hieroglyphic texts
- Hieratic texts
- Egyptian literary and/or religious texts
- Material culture
- A selected period of history from the early dynastic to the Byzantine Period
- Egyptian society, sexuality and gender
- Multicultural Egypt in the Graeco-Roman Period
- Economy and administration in the Graeco-Roman Period

The structure of the MPhil is kept under review; minor changes and improvements may be introduced during the course with the agreement of students. Feedback is welcomed, and you are encouraged to tell us if you see how the course or this handbook could be improved.

The course reading lists reflect the current state of research on these topics, in the languages that are usually most accessible to our students. We have tried to be inclusive and to provide a diverse range of views and authors. The study of ancient Egypt developed in a colonialist context, and as a result, many relevant studies were produced in European and American institutions rather than in Egyptian ones; similarly, due to the historical gender imbalance in academia, men have often

predominated. The course addresses issues of colonialism, gender and sexuality, and some members of the staff pursue research in these areas. We welcome suggestions for making the course more diverse and inclusive.

The Syllabuses

You will sit different papers depending on your syllabus, which in turn is determined by your existing knowledge of relevant languages. An overview of both syllabuses is given below, and a summary of assessments and deadlines can be found under *Examinations and Assessments*, below.

SYLLABUS A

First year

Syllabus A is the more flexible of the two. Students will have chosen the course because they wish to gain expertise in specific areas of Egyptology. They will therefore mostly come with clear ideas about which classes they will wish to attend and what other work they will need to do. Before the beginning of the course, students discuss their plans with their supervisors. They establish whether they must acquire any basic skills; these are usually tested in a qualifying examination at the end of the first year. Such skills include the compulsory requirement of a reading knowledge of French and German needed for using secondary literature (in which courses and/or self-study options are available in the [Language Centre](#)), Coptic, and/or Greek (if needed for the options chosen). If hieratic, demotic, or Coptic is a special field (2-3 hours a week), either may require a qualifying examination. Whether or not you need to sit a qualifying examination should be discussed with your supervisor and other teachers during your first term.

In the first year, students attend the classes they need in order to acquire particular skills. Some of these may be specially arranged for them, while others may be shared with other graduate students or may be undergraduate courses in fields they have not covered previously. Students should expect to attend at least two sets of classes, typically spending five or more hours per week in class, as well as research seminars, of which there are about seven per term (held for the Egyptology and Ancient Near East subject group as a whole). Language and text classes are 2-3 hours a week. The classes will involve substantial preparation time. Students should explore other possibilities and discuss with their supervisors whether any lecture courses or seminar series given outside the subject group, in the Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies or other faculties, may be valuable for them. Graduate students sometimes organise seminars of their own in a group where they meet without a teacher.

Another essential part of the first year's work is preparation for specialisation. Students must read independently and widely in the secondary literature, major general works of Egyptology, crucial articles and chapters, and more detailed publications in areas of particular interest. They should expect to write a small number of essays, perhaps one or two per term, on the subjects of classes they are attending or on general and methodological topics; these are then discussed with supervisors or other tutors in meetings afterwards (usually 1 hour). Students can also meet with their supervisors to discuss the focus of these essays, bibliographies, and methods of work before starting work.

Before the beginning of the sixth week of Trinity Term in the first year, students must have identified and agreed with their supervisors the subject for their thesis and the special field, or combination of fields, in which they will offer an examination paper, a take-home examination, and two extended essays for assessment. The three units of assessment will typically include one or two based on primary materials and at least one focused on essays. They must discuss these options with their supervisor(s), who will arrange appropriate teaching. In some cases, such teaching may begin during

the first year, but often it is concentrated in the second year. The special fields are taught with a mixture of text classes and essays as appropriate to the candidate.

Throughout the course students must maintain a broad reading ability in Egyptian language, in particular in the phases of Egyptian which they have already studied, usually Middle and Late Egyptian; this is tested in an unprepared translation paper in the final examination. Classes in unprepared text reading are available every year, typically in Trinity term; some special tuition in this area, may be arranged during the second year.

Second year

The second year is devoted primarily to work on the special fields and the thesis. The amount of time spent in class in Michaelmas Term is similar to that in the first year, but classes diminish in number in Hilary Term; in Trinity Term they are confined mainly to revision work.

In addition to the examination papers in unprepared translation and in the special field, the final examination includes a general paper, which is shared between the two syllabuses, as is the unprepared translation paper. The general paper requires a broad knowledge of the field of Egyptology, of methodological issues, and of the history of the subject. Lecture and seminar attendance and reading are the basic prerequisites for this paper; there are normally classes in the final Trinity Term at which relevant methods are discussed. Students may wish to discuss approaches with their supervisor or another teacher. The best time for writing such essays is Trinity Term, quite close to the examinations, but earlier preparation and reading about issues of method and disciplinary history are essential. For examination conventions, see under Syllabus B below.

SYLLABUS B

First year

Syllabus B is taken by students who have little or no experience in Egyptology. Because they are starting the subject more or less from the beginning, the first year of their course is largely the same as the first year of the BA. More than BA students, MPhil students must work during their first two and a half terms on acquiring a broad and sophisticated grasp of the secondary literature; in particular they must study towards selecting the options they wish to take for the final examination. They therefore need both to attend classes and to read independently, intensively, and purposefully in Egyptology in order to make an informed selection of their special field in Trinity Term. They must also attend the subject group's research and graduate seminars, and they may be invited to attend the object handling classes in the Ashmolean Museum which are regularly offered to undergraduates (2 hours a week for two terms). The class load for the first year is typically nine or ten hours per week. Of these, three or four require extensive preparation and the remainder background reading and essay writing.

The classes for the first two terms are the elementary language class in Egyptian (3, occasionally 4 hours per week) and the lecture course in Ancient Near Eastern Civilisation and History (4 hours per week). If invited to attend, the museum classes usually run for two hours a week for two terms each year. Students must complete all the exercises for the language class. The grammar of Middle Egyptian is broadly covered in the first term, and in the second term an initial selection of texts is read (3 hours a week).

In addition, MPhil students write about two to three essays per term, mostly together with the undergraduates but sometimes on different topics. These are then discussed with their supervisors or other tutors in meetings. Students can also meet with their supervisors to discuss the focus of these essays, bibliographies, and methods of work before starting work.

The text reading continues in the first part of Trinity Term. Both the lecture courses and language classes finish around its sixth or seventh week. Students must choose their special field by the sixth week of Trinity Term of the first year. It is also important to decide a thesis topic at the same time so work for that can begin in the summer. In the ninth week of Trinity Term of the first year they sit a qualifying examination; this is the same as the two language papers of the First Public Examination for the BA in Egyptology.

As for Syllabus A, there is a compulsory requirement to possess the reading knowledge of French and German necessary for using secondary literature. Courses and/or self-study options for this are available in the Language Centre. They may be required to sit a qualifying examination in these languages, arranged with the Language Centre, often just before the start of Michaelmas Term of the second year, and so students may wish to develop any such competence that they do not already possess over the summer vacation.

Second year

For the second year, Syllabus B includes work for: one final examination paper on prepared texts, in Middle and either Old or Late Egyptian (depending on which of these two phases of the language are being taught that year); two topics in a special field; and a thesis. The prepared texts normally constitute around half of the BA syllabus in Middle Egyptian and two-thirds to all of that in Old/Late Egyptian. The final selection of texts from complete lists is normally made when 'examination conventions' (or 'rubrics') are released at the end of Hilary Term in the second year; a larger initial group is therefore generally presented near the end of the first year, when the choices of thesis and options are submitted for approval. One of the topics in the special field may be examined in a take-home examination in the first week of Trinity Term or (exceptionally) as a sit-down examination toward the end of Trinity Term depending on the design of the degree overall (this is discussed in your first year). The second topic in the special field is examined through two assessed essays. Some students have taken a course on Egyptian art and architecture, which has often been available as a special subject for second-year undergraduates, as one of the two units in their special field (taught with pre-recorded lectures and essays). The special field is usually taught through a mix of text classes and essays as appropriate to the candidate and topic.

There are generally a few introductory classes in Old/Late Egyptian before the end of Trinity Term in the first year. These are intended to enable students to make a serious start with that phase of the language over the Summer Vacation. The vacation should also be used for as much preparatory work on the thesis as is practicable.

During Michaelmas and Hilary terms work is also done on the two units in the special field (as against three for Syllabus A); work on the thesis continues. Teaching for the special field varies considerably: it is in whatever form is appropriate for the topics selected. Because topics are broad and the areas that can be covered are difficult to predict, the final selection of material for examination in prepared texts and special topics is normally made during Hilary Term, and is presented to each student in the form of 'examination conventions'.

Examination Conventions (or Rubrics)

The 'examination conventions' are gathered in a document which describes the number and range of questions that will be set and must be answered in each paper in the examination, along with any omission of material from the lists prescribed when the special field and lists of prepared texts were first selected. The document also notes any departure in a particular year's examination papers from the practice of earlier years. Except for options that are being examined for the first time – as is relatively common because the range of options is wide – such innovations are minor: significant changes can only be introduced through alterations in the printed *Examination regulations*, and for

these a notice of at least a year is required. You can therefore be confident that there will be no unpleasant surprises.

Teaching Staff

- Prof [Elizabeth Frood](#) – Associate Professor of Egyptology; Fellow of St Cross; Honorary Fellow of The Queen's College
- Prof [Maren Schentuleit](#) – Associate Professor of Egyptology and Coptic Studies; Lady Wallis Budge Fellow, University College
- Dr [Robert Simpson](#) – Lecturer in Egyptian and Griffith Egyptological Fund Research Fellow
- Dr Anne-Claire Salmas – Departmental lecturer in Egyptology (during Prof. R. B. Parkinson's sabbatical)

Faculty Officers

- [Prof. Jim Mallinson](#) – Director of Graduate Studies
- [Prof. Henrietta Harrison](#) – Faculty Board Chair
- TBC, Faculty Equality and Diversity Officer
- [Elizabeth Frood](#) - EANES Group Equality and Diversity Representative
- [Thomas Hall](#) and [Edmund Howard](#) - Disability Coordinators
- [Edmund Howard](#) - Welfare Contact
- [Leyla Najafzade](#) - Harassment Officer

Other Faculty Officers and Committee Chairs are listed on the Faculty's webpages [here](#).

Academic Administration Staff

- [Thomas Hall](#) – Head of Administration and Finance
- [Edmund Howard](#) – Senior Academic Administrator
- [Aalia Ahmad](#) – Academic Administrator (Undergraduate Studies)
- [Caroline Davis](#) - (MMES Programme Administrator)
- [Jane Kruz](#) – Academic Administrator (Graduate Studies)
- [Xiaobo Wang](#) – Academic Administrator (Examinations)

Other Professional Services staff are listed on the Faculty's webpages [here](#).

EXAMINATION AND ASSESSMENT STRUCTURE

Syllabus A	Syllabus B
General paper (sit-down examination) SECTION 1	General paper (sit-down examination) SECTION 1
Unprepared Translation (sit-down examination) SECTION 1	Unprepared Translation (sit-down examination) SECTION 1
Special field 1 (take-home paper, 5,000 words) SECTION 2	Special field 1 (take-home paper, 5,000 words OR sit-down examination if available) SECTION 2
Special field 2 (assessed essays, 5,000 words each) SECTION 2	Special field 2 (assessed essays, 5,000 words each) SECTION 2
Special field 3 (sit-down examination) SECTION 2	Middle and Old/Late Egyptian texts (sit-down examination) SECTION 3
Thesis (25,000 words)	Thesis (25,000 words)

Important dates and deadlines

Year 1	Trinity Term	Week 6, Monday	Submit approval of Special Field options	Email Exams Administration team <u>You must also enter for these approved options as part of the examination entry process</u>
Year 1	Trinity Term		Qualifying examination	Written examination
Year 2	Hilary Term	Week 0, Monday	Submit your approval of thesis subject/ title form.	The online form can be found here .
Year 2	Hilary Term	Week 8, Thursday, 12 noon	Special Field 2: submission. Word limit: 5,000 each	Submission via Inspira
Year 2	Trinity Term	Week 1, Monday	Special Field 1: question released	Submission via Inspira
Year 2	Trinity Term	Week 2, Monday, 12 noon	Special Field 1: submission Word limit: 5,000	Submission via Inspira
Year 2	Trinity Term	Week 4, Thursday, 12 noon	Thesis submission. Word limit: 25,000	Submission via Inspira
Year 2	Trinity Term		Final examinations	Written examination

Thesis

Approval of Thesis Subject/Title

Departure from approved titles or subject matter will be penalised. The penalty applied will increase the greater the departure from the approved title or subject matter is.

Ethics Approval

The University is committed to ensuring that its research involving human participants is conducted in a way that respects the dignity, rights, and welfare of participants, and minimises risk to participants, researchers, third parties, and to the University itself.

As set out in [its research ethics policy](#), the University requires that all such research be subject to appropriate ethics review.

The Central University Research Ethics Committee (CUREC) has overall responsibility for the development of this policy and for the University's ethics review process. The following [chart](#) will help you check whether you need to apply for ethical review here.

More information can be found at the [Research Ethics website](#) and the [Research Integrity core course](#) explains the key responsibilities you have as a researcher; identifies the challenges you could face in meeting those responsibilities; applies a range of strategies to deal with the challenges you may face.

It is your responsibility to ensure you obtain any ethics approval you may need before undertaking research. The application process can be lengthy, do not leave it to the last minute.

Requesting a change

After your thesis subject/title is approved there may need to be changes made before submitting. These should be done in consultation with your supervisor and a request to change your thesis title should be emailed to [Exams Administration team](#), with your supervisor copied in for approval.

Changes cannot be made once your thesis is submitted. Examination-related forms, including thesis approval forms, are available on the Student Hub [here](#).

Word Limit

Your submissions should not exceed the word limit given in your examination regulations and rubrics. The word count includes text and footnotes/endnotes but excludes appendices and bibliography. Original language source text is not part of the final word count and quotations in the original language do not count towards the word count (but translations of these quotations do).

General Guidelines for Thesis Writers

The faculty has provided students with guidance and information about producing a thesis in the [General Guidelines for Thesis Writers](#) which covers:

- Planning and choice of topic
- Your thesis supervisor's role
- Hallmarks of a good thesis
- Format of your thesis (e.g., length, acknowledgements, contents, footnotes, references, bibliography, tables and illustrations)

EXAMINATIONS AND ASSESSMENT GUIDANCE

Examination Regulations

Examination Regulations are the immutable framework of study and assessment of University degrees to which students must adhere. The regulations for the MPhil Egyptology can be found here: [Degrees of Master of Philosophy in the Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies \(ox.ac.uk\)](#)

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

Examination Conventions and Rubrics

These are the formal record and explanation 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 an award. They are approved and published by the Faculty each year and include information on:

Conventions

- Marking conventions and scaling
- Verification and reconciliation of marks
- Qualitative marking criteria for different types of assessment
- Penalties for late or non-submission; for over-length work and departure from approved title/subject matter; for poor academic practice; for non-attendance
- Progression rules and classification conventions
- Use of viva voce examinations

- Re-sits
- Consideration of mitigating circumstances
- Details of examiners and rules on communicating with examiners

Rubrics

- type and structure of examination (e.g. in-person or online examination)
- submission instructions
- weightings of paper
- time allowed
- instructions on the use of dictionaries and other materials
- instructions on the use of different scripts
- instructions on word limits
- instructions on handwriting

The conventions and rubrics will be published on the [Graduate \(Taught\) Examinations and Assessment](#) page on the Student Hub not less than one whole term before your examination takes place or, where assessment takes place in the first term of a course, at the beginning of that term.

You should take careful note of the dates for submission of essays and theses laid down in the Examination Regulations, course handbook, conventions, or rubrics. It is the candidate's responsibility to comply with these dates. The University Proctors, who have overall control of examinations, will not give leave for work to be submitted late except for cases of exceptional circumstances.

If there is any discrepancy in information, you should always follow the Examination Regulations and please contact the [Exams Administration team](#).

Examination Entry, In-person and Online Examinations

Information on the examinations and assessments process at the University is covered on the University's [Examinations and assessment](#) webpages from entering for examinations through to accessing your results.

Entering for your exams

You will be invited by email to enter for your examinations when the examination entry window opens and it is your responsibility to ensure that you are entered for the correct number of papers and correct options, please speak to your college's academic office or the [Exams Administration team](#) if you are unsure about what these are. If you do not enter by the required deadline for your programme then you will need to pay a late entry fee. Please check the University's [Examination entry](#) webpages for full examination entry and alternative examination arrangements.

Timetable

Your personal timetable showing your papers and the dates, times and location at which they will take place will be published online at least two weeks before your first examination. If you have not received your timetable, or discover any problems such as a clash of papers, contact your college as soon as possible. It is your responsibility to ensure that you sit the correct examination and misreading of information will not be considered an acceptable reason for non-attendance.

In-person examinations

The University's [Completing an exam](#) webpages provide practical information on how in-person exams will work, including In-person exams on a computer, what you should do in advance of the exams and what to expect on the day. Your in-person exam(s) will be either handwritten or typed

and the majority of in-person examinations take place at either the Examination Schools or Ewert House.

Online examinations

Online exams are taken in Inspira and you must familiarise yourself with this platform prior to taking an online exam. The University's [Online exams](#) webpage provides guidance on completing your online exam including how to set up for your exam, the expectations regarding standards of behaviour and good academic practice for online open-book exams.

Online exams require you to adhere to the University's [Honour Code](#) for open-book and closed-book remotely invigilated online exams and you should read this in advance of any online exams.

Submissions via Inspira

Coursework submissions are via the University's online assessment platform, [Inspira](#). Ensure you are familiar with the online submission process in advance of any deadline. Full information is provided on the University's [Submission of coursework assessments](#) webpage. An Inspira link and information will be sent by the [Exams Administration team](#) prior to the submission deadline.

Your candidate number

A candidate number is created for examinations to ensure anonymity and you are responsible for ensuring you are not identifiable in all assessments either by self-referencing or including personal details such as your name or student number. The Exams Administration team will not do redaction for you if you identify yourself in your assessments.

You can find your candidate number on the Examination and Assessment Information page in [Student Self Service](#) or by looking on the top of your individual timetable.

Your candidate number is not your student number.

Do not put your name or student number anywhere on your submissions or written exams.

Problems Completing Your Assessments

There are a number of University processes in place to help you if you find that illness or other personal circumstances are affecting your assessments or if you experience technical difficulties with an online exam or submission and it is your responsibility to take action if you experience problems.

The University's [Problems completing your assessment](#) webpages provides a summary of the different processes that are available including:

- When you can't submit coursework on time (*self-certification, extensions, submitting late, incorrect submissions*)
- When you can't attend an exam
- Problems with online exams (*submitting late, replacing an incorrect exam response, online exams with typed answers only, starting an online exam late*)
- Mitigating circumstances notices to examiners (MCE)
- Academic appeals

If you experience unexpected circumstances that may affect your performance, you must discuss your circumstances with your College first as any application to the Proctors will come from them. They can advise on the best course of action for your circumstances.

Fixed Dates for the Consideration of Submissions with Extension

If you receive an extension which takes your submission beyond the standard Final Exam Board Meeting, you will need to wait until the next date your Exam Board meets for your final results and classification to be considered and released.

Typical dates are as follows:

Final Exam Board Meetings (standard dates)

- **MPhil and MSt courses ending in Trinity Term:** Trinity Term weeks 11 and 12.
- **MSc MMES ending in Long Vacation:** Late September.

Dates for consideration of late assessments (extensions):

- **Intermediate date:** Michaelmas Term week -3 (4th week before the start of Full Term).
- **Last date:** Michaelmas Term week 7.

Assessments received after this last date will be deferred for consideration until the next Final Exam Board meeting at the end of Trinity Term of the following year.

If you do apply for an extension, especially towards the end of your degree, please take note of this policy and the dates above as your date of final completion may have implications for your next steps after your course.

Please note that time is also required for marking assessments. For work received outside the normal assessment period (e.g. due to an extension), we cannot guarantee that submissions less than 3 weeks before the consideration date above will be ready to be considered on that occasion.

The faculty remains committed to supporting our students through challenging circumstances throughout their degree programmes. This policy does not affect the process for applying for an extension nor the support available. If you are struggling to complete your work, please do not hesitate to reach out to your tutor, college or the academic administration team.

Vivas and Resits

You may be required to attend a viva voce examination after you have completed your written examinations. This is to enable your examiners to clarify any matters in your answers, and it gives you the opportunity to improve upon your performance, should that be necessary.

Information about when resits take place can be found in your Examination Conventions and you enter for resits in the same way as the first attempt. Please contact your College with any questions about resits.

When making any travel arrangements for the post-exam period, it is your responsibility to bear in mind attendance at a viva and when resits may take place.

Infringements for Examinations and Submitted Assessments

Please refer to the [examination conventions](#) for penalties for infringements of word limit, late submission, plagiarism and non-adherence to rubrics.

Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies students should note that interpretation of the electronic word count is at the discretion of the Examiners, in view of the fact that most languages

taught in the Faculty are not written in alphabetic scripts and the electronic word count may not be as accurate when taking these scripts into account.

Examiners' Reports and Previous Exam Papers

Examiners' reports from past exams are normally available from Hilary Term and will be uploaded to the [Graduate \(Taught\) Examinations and Assessment](#) page on the Student Hub. These reports give you an idea of how the exams were conducted and the performance of the cohort. Due to small class sizes for some degrees, it is not always possible to provide Examiners' reports for them. In these cases, please consult with your Course Director for some feedback.

Previous examination papers can be viewed on [Search Oxford Libraries Online \(SOLO\)](#), the online catalogue platform provided by the Bodleian Libraries.

GOOD ACADEMIC PRACTICE AND AVOIDING PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism

The University's definition of plagiarism is:

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.

It is important that you take time to look at the University's guidance on plagiarism here: <https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/guidance/skills/plagiarism>.

You should refer to the University's guidance on referencing (<https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/guidance/skills/referencing>). If, after having done so, you are still unsure how to reference your work properly, you should contact your supervisor for guidance.

The University employs software applications to monitor and detect plagiarism in submitted examination work, both in terms of copying and collusion. It regularly monitors online essay banks, essay-writing services, and other potential sources of material.

SET TEXTS

Lists of prepared texts for examinations are devised individually for students and are normally agreed in Trinity Term in the first year or Michaelmas Term in the second year. For Syllabus B they overlap with the texts prescribed for the BA, a list of which is kept and revised from year to year; this may be had on request. Sample lists for Syllabus B are given below.

A final list of set texts will be published not later than Friday of 8th week, Hilary Term of the second year, for the final examination. Below are earlier lists, as used in the academic year 2013.

SAMPLES

Prescribed (Set) Texts for Examination in the FHS in Egyptology, and for Final Examination MPhil Egyptology in Trinity Term 2013

* Texts that may be set in photographic or line facsimile. Middle Egyptian

As the order of the texts read in class cannot be fixed in advance, the following list is identical with the one for the FHS in Asian and Middle Eastern Studies (EANES). But only those texts that have been read by the end of Hilary Term 2013 will form part of the examinations.

K. Sethe, *Ägyptische Lesestücke* (2nd ed.), nos. 15a*, 17, 18*, 23, 26*, 29, 34*.

R. Anthes, *Die Felsinschriften von Hatnub*, no. 14.

W. Helck, *Historisch-biographische Texte der 2. Zwischenzeit und neue Texte der 18. Dynastie*, no. 98*.

P. Lacau, *Stèles du Nouvel Empire*, pls. ii-iii*.

K. Sethe, *Urkunden der 18. Dynastie*, 645-67.

W. Helck, *Urkunden der 18. Dynastie*, 1276-83, no. 372.

R. Koch, *Die Erzählung des Sinuhe*, 1-59, line 5.

A. M. Blackman, *The Story of King Cheops and the Magicians*.

R. O. Faulkner, *Journal of Egyptian Archaeology* 42 (1956), 22-6 (Dispute of a man with his *ba*). G. Posener, *L'Enseignement Loyaliste*, 51-139; K. Sethe, *Ägyptische Lesestücke*, no. 13* (Loyalist Instruction).

A. de Buck, *The Egyptian Coffin Texts*, vii, sp. 1130.

J. Assmann, *Der König als Sonnenpriester*, 17-19.

E. Naville, *Das ägyptische Tottenbuch der XVIII. bis XX. Dynastie*, i, pl. xv; ii, 22-8; J.

J. Assmann, *Liturgische Lieder an den Sonnengott*, 405-11.

E. Hornung, *Der ägyptische Mythos von der Himmelskuh*, verses 1-202.

Late Egyptian

A. H. Gardiner, *Late-Egyptian stories*, no. iv (Horus and Seth); no. v (Wenamun).

A. H. Gardiner, *Late-Egyptian miscellanies*, 12 no. 1 (with 40-41 no. 10); 25 no. 5; 28-9 no. 9, 445 no. 14 (with parallels); 45-6 nos. 15-16; 60 no. 5; 85-6 no. 9.

M. V. Fox, *The Song of Songs and the ancient Egyptian love songs*, 378 (11) - 380 (9).

Journal of Egyptian Archaeology, 22 (1936), pls. xii-xvi.

J. Cerný, *Late Ramesside letters*, nos. 4, 15, 16, 21, 35.

A. H. Gardiner, *Ramesside administrative documents*, no. xxiv.

Journal of Egyptian Archaeology 31 (1945), pls. viii-xii.

A. H. Gardiner and Kurt Sethe, *Egyptian letters to the dead*, pls. vii-viii.

Alan H. Gardiner, *Hieratic papyri in the British Museum, third series: Chester Beatty Gift*, pl. 8, ll 10-19 of the first column of text on the plate.

I.E.S. Edwards, *Oracular amuletic decrees of the late New Kingdom*, pls. 1-3a (L1 = P. BM EA 10083) OR pls. 18a-21 (T1 = P. Turin 1983).

Middle Egyptian texts prescribed for Moderations (EANES) and Qualifying Exams MPhil Egyptology (Syllabus B)

Only texts that have been read in class will be part of the examination. One or two texts are alternatives; again, among these only texts that have been read in class will form part of the examination.

Adriaan de Buck, *Egyptian Readingbook* (Leiden: Nederlandsch Archaeologisch-Philologisch Instituut voor het Nabije Osten 1948):

p. 46 (Canal inscription of Thutmose III, Coronation decree of Thutmose I);

pp. 53–6 (Poetical stela of Thutmose III).

Kurt Sethe, *Urkunden der 18. Dynastie I* (2nd edition; *Urkunden des Ägyptischen Altertums IV*; Leipzig: Hinrichs 1930):

pp. 1–11 (Biography of Ahmose son of Ibana);

pp. 111–23 (Biography of Paheri)*;

pp. 130–3 (Inscription of Djehuti);

vol. III (1907), pp. 889–97 (Biography of Amenemhab).

Kurt Sethe, *Ägyptische Lesestücke zum Gebrauch im akademischen Unterricht* (2nd edition; Leipzig: Hinrichs 1928):

no. 12, pp. 65–7 (Hymns to Sesostris III);

no. 14, pp. 70–71 (Stela of Ikhnofret);

no. 17, pp. 76–7 (Stelae of Amenisonbe);

no. 27, p. 87 (Harper's songs);

no. 28 a–i, pp. 87–9 (Appeals from funerary inscriptions);

no. 32, pp. 96–7 (Temple documents from Illahun);

no. 33, p. 97 (Letters from Illahun).

A. M. Blackman, *Middle-Egyptian Stories* (Brussels: Fondation Egyptologique Reine Elisabeth 1932), pp. 41–8 (The Story of the Shipwrecked Sailor).

EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

In accordance with our [Statement of Values](#), the Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies is committed to creating a teaching, learning, and research environment in which every member of our community – at every academic level from undergraduate to senior academic, and among library and administrative staff – can achieve their full professional potential without discrimination on the basis of age, disability, gender, marriage or civil partnership, nationality, pregnancy or parenthood, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation.

We welcome suggestions for making our courses more diverse and inclusive. In general, you are encouraged to tell us if you see any ways in which the courses or this handbook might be improved. Staff and students are welcome to contact the Equality and Diversity team with any suggestions or concerns:

WELFARE AND SUPPORT

Our community aims to encourage and support all students. The student experience at Oxford offers lots of opportunities for you to thrive, grow, and look after your own wellbeing, but we know that sometimes there can be stresses and challenges too.

We want to give you the agency to navigate welfare support, and to make your own decisions. This includes by:

- Keeping in touch with your College and Department, and letting them know if you need help
- Seeking support when needed
- Supporting your fellow students
- Registering with Disability Advisory Service for structured support if you have a disability

Should you have any concerns, or for guidance and support, please do not hesitate to contact the Faculty's Disability Coordinators, Welfare Contact and Harassment Officers.

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

COMPLAINTS AND ACADEMIC APPEALS WITHIN THE FACULTY OF ASIAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES

The University, Humanities Division, and the Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies all hope that provision made for students at all stages of their course of study will make the need for complaints (about that provision) or appeals (against the outcomes of any form of assessment) infrequent.

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 Graduate Studies as appropriate.

Complaints about departmental facilities should be made to the Departmental administrator ([Trudi Pinkerton](#)). If you feel unable to approach one of those individuals, you may contact the Head of Administration or the Faculty Board Chair. The officer concerned will attempt to resolve your concern/complaint informally.

If you are dissatisfied with the outcome, you may take your concern further by making a formal complaint to the Proctors under the University [Student Complaints Procedure](#)

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, Senior Tutor, Tutor for Graduates (as appropriate). 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's [Academic Appeals Procedure](#)

PROGRAMME AIMS AND LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR MPhil COURSES OF STUDY AT ASIAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN STUDIES

The MPhil is a degree awarded on the successful completion of a course of directed study leading to an examination, which is normally taken after two years; as part of their coursework students normally also submit a thesis, the regulations for which are specified under individual subject headings in the Examination Regulations.

In addition to this the Asian and Middle Eastern Studies Board is jointly responsible for the MPhil in Late Antique and Byzantine Studies (with options in Arabic, Armenian and Syriac) and for the MPhil in Judaism and Christianity in the Graeco-Roman World. The MPhil is at the FHEQ level 7.

Students enter for the MPhil Qualifying and Final examinations through their College. Students who wish to defer taking the examination beyond the two years must apply for permission to the Asian and Middle Eastern Studies Board.

The MPhil is available in the following subjects:

- Buddhist Studies
- Classical Indian Religion
- Cuneiform Studies
- Eastern Christian Studies
- Egyptology
- Islamic Art and Architecture
- Islamic Studies and History
- Jewish Studies
- Jewish Studies in the Graeco-Roman Period
- Modern Middle Eastern Studies
- Tibetan and Himalayan Studies
- Traditional East Asia

Educational Aims of the Programme

The programme aims to enable its students to:

- Develop the practice of analytical enquiry;
- Achieve a high level of competence in a relevant language where a study of language is part of the course;
- Achieve a good level of competence in the textual and historical analysis of texts in the relevant language;

- Gain a wide-ranging critical knowledge of relevant secondary literature and of current developments in the field;
- Reflect on relevant issues of method;
- Develop skills in written and oral communication, including sustained argument, independent thought and lucid structure and content;
- Develop the ability to identify, understand and apply key concepts and principles
- Where appropriate, prepare students for further research in the field.

Assessment

Formative assessment is provided by tutorial feedback and interaction with the Supervisor and/or tutor, by the discussion of prepared class-work, and by the Supervisor's termly report, which is discussed with the student in the Faculty and separately in the College

Summative assessment is provided at the end of the course by written examinations, submitted essays, portfolio, a thesis and *viva voce*, depending on the course.

Programme Outcomes

A. Knowledge and understanding

On completion of the course students will have:

- Acquired relevant linguistic and textual knowledge;
- Acquired some specialist knowledge of relevant primary and secondary literature;
- Gained enhanced understanding of how primary evidence is employed in philological, textual, historical and literary analysis and argument.

Related Teaching/Learning Methods and Strategies

The main learning strategy is that a student should practise the relevant skills under close supervision, receive constant feedback, and have the chance to see the same skills practised by acknowledged experts in a manner which can be emulated. The methods used to achieve this aim include:

- Language and/or text-reading classes, for which students are expected to prepare
- Lectures
- Seminars with peers and senior academics
- Tutorials (individual) for which students prepare a substantial piece of written work for discussion with their tutor(s)
- Museum classes (small-group), held in the Ashmolean Museum and designed around object handling – for Egyptology

B. Skills and other attributes

1. Intellectual Skills

The ability to:

- Exercise critical judgement and undertake sophisticated analysis
- Argue clearly, relevantly and persuasively
- Approach problems with creativity and imagination
- Develop the exercise of independence of mind, and a readiness to challenge and criticize accepted opinion

Teaching/Learning Methods and Strategies

As above.

Assessment

As above.

2. Practical Skills

All practical skills acquired are also transferable skills; see below.

3. Transferable Skills

The ability to:

- Find information, organise and deploy it;
- Use such information critically and analytically;
- Consider and solve complex problems with sensitivity to alternative traditions;
- Work well independently, with a strong sense of self-direction, but also with the ability to work constructively in co-operation with others;
- Effectively structure and communicate ideas in a variety of written and oral formats;
- Plan and organise the use of time effectively, and be able to work under pressure to deadlines;
- Make appropriate use of language skills;
- handwrite in non-Roman script.

Teaching/Learning Methods and Strategies/Assessment

Since all these skills are essential elements of the course, they are taught and assessed in the same ways as at A above.