

## GRADUATE ADMISSIONS CRITERIA FOR THE DPHIL IN CLASSICAL LANGUAGES & LITERATURE FOR ENTRY IN 2012-13

### 1. Criteria

Within equal opportunities principles and legislation, applications will be assessed in the light of a candidate's ability to meet the following criteria:

### 2. Academic ability

#### ***Proven and potential academic excellence.***

Applicants are normally expected to have achieved a first-class or an upper second class undergraduate degree (or equivalent international qualifications<sup>1</sup>) in Classics or a similar course of academic study with substantial course components in the area of Classics, as well as a first-class or an upper second class Master's degree in a relevant subject. Degree level competence in at least one ancient language is a requirement for admission.

For applicants with a degree from the USA, the minimum GPA we seek is 3.7 out of 4.0.

Appropriate indicators will include:

***Academic references/letters of recommendation***, which support intellectual ability, academic achievement, and motivation.

Academic transcript(s) of current and previous higher education

Curriculum vitae

***Written work and/or portfolio produced by the student:*** two pieces of written work of no more than 2000 words in length each. Longer pieces should have a section of 2000 words clearly highlighted. Where necessary, a cover note may be attached, e.g. placing an extract in a larger context. Two distinct samples of work must be submitted; one longer sample of 4000 words is not acceptable as an alternative. Work should be submitted in English; submissions in other languages may be permissible after consultation with the Director of Graduate Studies, but at least one sample of written work should be in English and translated into or written in English by the candidate. Written work will be assessed for understanding of problems in the area; relevant use of primary evidence; ability to construct and defend an argument; powers of analysis; powers of expression. Surveys of published scholarship, for instance, are less informative, although a judicious summary of a complex problem may be helpful, too.

***Research proposal*** The Research Proposal should not be longer than 1200 words and should be typically of two to three pages in length and written in English. This statement ought to describe the proposed thesis topic in some detail, explain why it is important and worthwhile, situate it within the existing research in the area in question, and provide a basic account of methodology as well as a provisional timetable. Proposals will be assessed for: your reasons for applying; the coherence of the proposal; the originality of any thesis project proposed; evidence of motivation for and understanding of the proposed area of

---

<sup>1</sup> If you hold non-British qualifications, you are advised to check with the National Recognition Information Centre for the United Kingdom (UK NARIC) [www.naric.org.uk](http://www.naric.org.uk) how your qualifications match these requirements.

study; the ability to present a reasoned case in English; commitment to the subject, beyond the requirements of the degree course; preliminary knowledge of research techniques. Your statement should focus on your academic qualifications to the extent that they are relevant to your academic plans rather than personal achievements, interests and aspirations.

**Performance at interview(s)** Interviews are not normally held as part of the admissions process.

### **3. Availability of supervision, teaching, facilities and places**

The following factors will govern whether candidates can be offered places:

- The ability of the Faculty of Classics to provide the appropriate supervision, research opportunities, teaching and facilities for your chosen area of work.
- There are minimum and maximum limits to the numbers of students who may be admitted onto Oxford's research and taught programmes.

The provision of supervision is subject to the following points.

- The allocation of graduate supervision is the responsibility of the Graduate Studies Committee for Classical Languages & Literature in the Faculty of Classics and it is not always possible to accommodate the preferences of incoming graduate students to work with a particular member of staff.
- Under exceptional circumstances a supervisor may be found outside the Faculty of Classics.

### **4. English language requirement**

Applicants whose first language is not English are usually required to provide evidence of proficiency in English at the higher level required by the University

[http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/postgraduate\\_courses/apply/internat\\_students.html](http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/postgraduate_courses/apply/internat_students.html).

### **5. Deadlines and required full set of application materials**

Please refer to the Graduate Admissions website:

[http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/postgraduate\\_courses/apply/application\\_guide.html#awh\\_en\\_to\\_apply](http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/postgraduate_courses/apply/application_guide.html#awh_en_to_apply)

for information on the deadlines which must be met, and the full set of supporting materials required, in order for applications to be guaranteed to be considered.

**6. Whether you have yet secured funding** is not taken into consideration in the decision to make an initial offer a place, but please note that the initial offer of a place will not be confirmed until the college which gives you an initial offer of a place is satisfied that you have sufficient funding to cover your fees and living costs for the standard period of fee liability for your course.

### **7. Disability, health conditions and specific learning difficulties.**

Students are selected for admission without regard to gender, marital or civil partnership status, disability, race, nationality, ethnic origin, religion or belief, sexual orientation, age or social background. Decisions on admission are based solely on the individual academic merits of each candidate and the application of the selection criteria appropriate to the programme of study. Further information on how these matters are supported during the admissions process is available here:

[http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/postgraduate\\_courses/about\\_the\\_university/graduate\\_welfare/e\\_d.html](http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/postgraduate_courses/about_the_university/graduate_welfare/e_d.html)

### **8. Other information**

- We encourage prospective applicants to communicate with us prior to submitting an application to discuss the course content, teaching, assessment and to answer any questions. Applicants are encouraged to approach specific supervisors and explain why they want to come and work in their particular field of study.
- We recommend that DPhil candidates should contact a potential supervisor(s) in the first instance before submitting an application but they should keep in mind that prospective supervisors are not in a position to make decisions about the admission of an applicant.

### **9. Assessors**

All applications will be assessed by more than one member of the academic staff with relevant experience and expertise.

### **11. Course webpage**

[http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/postgraduate\\_courses/course\\_guide/classical\\_languages.html](http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/postgraduate_courses/course_guide/classical_languages.html)