

MPhil in Celtic Studies



Course handbook 2022-23

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1. Foreword

1.1 Statement of Coverage

This handbook is designed as a guide for postgraduate students undertaking the Master of Philosophy in Celtic Studies. It applies to students starting the course in Michaelmas term 2022. The information in this handbook may be different for students starting in other years.

1.2 Version

This is version 1 of the Handbook for the MPhil Celtic Studies, published in October 2022.

1.3 Disclaimer

The *Examination Regulations* relating to this course are available at <https://examregs.admin.ox.ac.uk/Regulation?code=mopinceltstud&srchYear=2022&srchTerm=1&year=2022&term=1>. If there is a conflict between information in this handbook and the *Examination Regulations* then you should follow the *Examination Regulations*. If you have any concerns please contact the Graduate Studies Administrator at interdisciplinary@humanities.ox.ac.uk.

The information in this handbook is accurate as at September 2022, however it may be necessary for changes to be made in certain circumstances, as explained at www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/coursechanges. If such changes are made, a new version of this handbook will be published together with a list of the changes, and students will be informed.

1.4 Welcome/Introduction

We are delighted to welcome you to Oxford, and look forward very much to meeting you in person. We hope that you will enjoy your time in this enormously stimulating environment, and that you will find the course both challenging and exciting.

Celtic at Oxford is an interdisciplinary area at the interface of language, literature and history. You will encounter scholars working on an enormously wide range of material, engaging with a variety of approaches, and covering an array of geographical areas. There are also plenty of occasions for these scholars to collaborate, to explore the resonances between their different areas of expertise. It is a very exciting place to study!

Oxford can be a confusing place. Not least, trying to figure out the relationship between colleges, faculties and division is a challenge. If you have questions, do ask! The course convenor, course tutors, college advisor, and your dissertation supervisor are all here to help you navigate your way through your course. Queries can also be directed to the course administrator, interdisciplinary@humanities.ox.ac.uk.

This handbook offers a comprehensive guide to the structure of your course: the teaching, assessment and administrative arrangements. It also contains useful information on other aspects of life in Oxford as a postgraduate in Celtic Studies.

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David Willis.

1.5 Useful contacts

Course Contacts

If you have any queries, one of the following people should be able to help:

Karina Beck - Course Administrator

Email: interdisciplinary@humanities.ox.ac.uk

Phone: 01865 615264

David Willis - Course Convenor

Email: david.willis@ling-phil.ox.ac.uk

Phone: 01865 279750

Any member of the course team may be contacted by email to arrange a meeting.

Other contacts

You may also find the following contacts helpful:

IT Services

Online enquires: <https://help.it.ox.ac.uk/help/request>

Phone: 01865 (6)12345

Library

Online enquiries: <https://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/ask>

Disability Advisory Service

Email: disability@admin.ox.ac.uk

Please see section 7 for further information on who to contact for support.

1.6 Governance and Oversight of the Course

The MPhil in Celtic Studies is overseen by a Steering Committee which consists of the Course Convenor, senior academics from participating faculties, and student representatives. The Steering Committee meets once each term.

1.7 Key Places

Teaching for your courses may take place in any of the participating Faculties, or in any College.

A searchable map of Oxford University locations is available here:

<https://www.ox.ac.uk/visitors/map?wssl=1>

We anticipate your core lectures and seminars will primarily take place in the following venues. Please click on the links for location and access information:

Clarendon Institute, Walton Street

<https://maps.ox.ac.uk/embed.html#/places/oxpoints:23232620>

St Edmund Hall

<https://maps.ox.ac.uk/embed.html#/places/oxpoints:23232449>

Jesus College

<https://maps.ox.ac.uk/embed.html#/places/oxpoints:23232371>

Relevant Faculties are:

Faculty of Linguistics, Philology and Phonetics: <https://www.ling-phil.ox.ac.uk/>

Faculty of English Language and Literature: <https://www.english.ox.ac.uk/>

Faculty of History: <https://www.history.ox.ac.uk/>

In addition to the Taylor Institution Library, which houses a comprehensive collection of Celtic material, you will also have access to the specialist Celtic Library located within Jesus College. Non-members of Jesus should announce themselves at the porters' lodge on each visit to gain access:

Celtic Library, Jesus College

<https://maps.ox.ac.uk/embed.html#/places/oxpoints:32320035>

1.8 Important Dates

Dates of Full Term

The dates of Full Term in the academic year 2022–23 are as follows:

Term	From	To
Michaelmas 2022	Sunday 9 October	Saturday 3 December
Hilary 2023	Sunday 15 January	Saturday 11 March
Trinity 2023	Sunday 23 April	Saturday 17 June

Where there is reference to '1st week', '6th week', etc., this applies to the weeks of Full Term, during which classes run. '9th week', '10th week', etc. are the weeks immediately after Full Term. The week immediately before Full Term is commonly known as '0th week' (pronounced 'nought-th week'). By convention, Oxford weeks begin on a Sunday.

Teaching dates

Details of your core seminars and lectures are detailed in this handbook (see Teaching and Learning, section 3), or may be confirmed early in Michaelmas Term or at your induction sessions.

Dates and times for your option course classes should be communicated to you by the relevant host faculty or option tutor; these may have to be discussed and agreed with your option tutors and fellow students at the beginning of term to avoid clashes with core teaching.

Summative Assessment Deadlines

Summative assessments will take place as follows. The submission times and dates must be strictly adhered to; please see Assessment (section 4), and the Exam Conventions for more details. One core-course assessment (normally that closest to the area of your proposed dissertation) must be submitted in Year 1; all other assessment is submitted in Year 2.

Course	Date	Assessment Method	Time
Celtic linguistics	Monday of Week 8, Hilary Term, Year 1/2 (see above)	Submission to Inspira	12 noon
Irish literature up to 1700	Monday of Week 8, Hilary Term, Year 1/2 (see above)	Submission to Inspira	12 noon
Welsh literature	Monday of Week 8, Hilary Term, Year 1/2 (see above)	Submission to Inspira	12 noon
Special subject	Monday of Week 8, Hilary Term, Year 2	Submission to Inspira	12 noon
Dissertation	Friday of Week 6, Trinity Term, Year 2	Submission to Inspira	12 noon

Special subjects follow the regulations of the Celtic Studies MPhil.

Other important deadlines

Please also note the following important dates. Unless otherwise indicated, the required information should be sent to the course administrator.

Action required	Date
Submit paper choices	Monday of Week 5, Michaelmas Term, Year 1
Submit dissertation topic and name of supervisor who has agreed to supervise (with 150-word abstract) for approval by Steering Committee	Friday of Week 4, Trinity Term, Year 1

Course Content and Structure

The Master of Philosophy in Celtic Studies is a 21 month course at FHEQ Level 7.

1.9 Course Aims

The programme is designed either to be taken in preparation for doctoral work, or to offer a terminal degree in preparation for professional work in which knowledge of Celtic languages and the literatures, history and culture of the Celtic-speaking peoples may be an advantage.

The course aims to:

- provide intensive training in one or more historical Celtic languages used in the medieval or early modern period, and to develop reading skills to attain research proficiency
- foster proficiency for academic and research purposes in at least one modern Celtic language
- develop an in-depth understanding of aspects of Celtic studies and a broad expertise in the intellectual disciplines through which Celtic topics may be studied
- enable students to pursue particular areas of specialisation through a wide range of optional courses
- foster skills in research, writing, analysis and interpretation, through a combination of lectures, tutorials, essay-writing and supervision of a thesis on a subject of the student's choice
- provide students with the opportunity to explore in more depth an area of Celtic studies in which they may hope to progress to independent research

1.10 Intended Learning Outcomes

On completion of the course, students will:

- be able to use relevant techniques, skills and knowledge to contribute to the study of the Celtic languages and their associated literatures, history and cultures; they will be familiar with a range of approaches, and be able to evaluate them critically, and to engage in advanced discussion in the field
- be able to carry out research involving conceptual innovation and the identification and use of new information
- have acquired the experience of investigating and writing up an extended research project
- have gained specialist and general skills of relevance to the continued professional development of an understanding of Celtic studies, and which are also transferable into a wide range of employment contexts and life experiences
- have developed their ability to work collaboratively in seminar and discussion contexts, as well as to work independently

1.11 Course Structure

The MPhil in Celtic Studies comprises three elements:

- A. Core Paper(s)** either one or two, one assessed in Year 1, the other (if appropriate) assessed in Year 2
- B. Special Subject Paper(s)** either one or two, assessed in Year 2
- C. Language course in a relevant Celtic language**
- D. A Dissertation**

Students must take three papers under A and B in total, in addition to their dissertation and language course: either two core and one special subject, or one core and two special subjects.

A. Core Papers

There are three core papers on offer. Students may choose to study one or two of these:

Celtic linguistics

This paper is taught through a mixture of lectures, text classes and seminars/supervisions. This course aims to introduce you to key topics in the linguistics of the Celtic languages, both synchronic and diachronic. Lectures will provide an overview of the structure of the languages (phonology, morphology, syntax) in the broader context of the world's languages, as well as an introduction to aspects of their history and sociolinguistics. Students may choose to focus on particular aspects within this for their supervision work and submitted essay, whether this involves particular linguistic levels (phonology, morphology, syntax), particular approaches (diachronic, formal, variationist, typological, corpus/textual) or particular languages. Text and language classes form an important companion to the core work in linguistics, and students may choose to incorporate digital methods into their work.

Irish literature up to 1700

This paper is taught through a mixture of text classes and seminars.

This course is designed to introduce and enable work at depth in the field of medieval Irish literature. The area is vast, so the initial focus is on four areas: saga and history, poets and poetry, origin legend and synthetic history, and finally myth and the otherworld. Students will write four formative essays, one in each of these areas, allowing them to investigate several narrative genres alongside poetics and Irish law, so that they can get to grips with major strands in medieval Irish literary and intellectual culture.

Welsh literature

This paper is taught through a mixture of text classes and seminars/supervisions.

This course aims to provide you with the core skills to analyse Welsh literature in its linguistic, cultural and historical context through close reading of a range of texts in the original language. Text classes will focus on acquiring a reading knowledge of earlier varieties of Welsh through close reading of a range of key Old and Middle Welsh texts in both verse and prose. Students will be encouraged to investigate the broader context of these texts in seminar work, where we will also look at later texts and themes.

For these core papers, students will normally write a formative essay of up to 2500 words on each of four areas. It is then necessary, in discussion with the tutor, to formulate a topic for a summative essay of 8000 words, which can either grow out of one of the formative

essays or be something new. This summative essay is submitted and forms part of the assessment of the MPhil. It is advisable to draft the 8000-word essay in the term immediately following the term in which the formative work has been done, even if it may not be due for formal submission for some time. This will leave you sufficient time to devote to work on the dissertation towards the end of the course.

B. Special Subjects Courses

The list of special subjects from which you can choose is as follows:

- The Latin literature of the British Isles
- The records of Continental Celtic
- Irish and Welsh origin legends
- The Celtic context of Old and Middle English literature
- The history of Ireland up to 1216
- Late medieval Wales
- The history of the Celtic-speaking peoples from c. 400 to c. 1100
- Medieval Welsh law
- The Ulster Cycle of tales
- Middle Cornish language and literature
- Middle Breton language and literature
- Twentieth-century Scottish Gaelic literature
- Literature of the modern revival in Irish
- Welsh literature since 1900
- Medieval Celtic palaeography
- Comparative syntax of the modern Celtic languages
- Language contact and the Celtic languages
- Language, literature and politics in Wales since 1600
- Language variation in Wales

You may also propose a special subject of your own if suitable tuition is available. This should be discussed with the Course Convenor as early as possible. Formal approval must be sought from the Steering Committee for Celtic Studies as part of the submission of paper choices.

These papers are predominantly provided by tutors from across the range of faculties that participate in the course. They will usually be taught through tutorials or one-to-one supervisions, but teaching practices may vary across options as best accommodates the content being taught, or the number of students taking the course.

Please note that you are not guaranteed to get a place on your preferred options: some options may be oversubscribed, others may not run because of insufficient numbers. In such circumstances the course convenor will make every effort to ensure that you are able to take papers that are appropriate to your interests.

C. A Dissertation

All students will write a dissertation of between 20,000 and 25,000 words on a topic within the scope of Celtic studies. You should approach potential supervisor or supervisors in Trinity Term of Year 1 to discuss possible topics and approaches with them, as you will need to submit your title and a brief description for approval by the end of Week 4 of that term. Where your proposed topic is interdisciplinary or comparative, it may be necessary to appoint two supervisors, each dealing with distinct aspects of the research. Having identified and refined a suitable topic in consultation with your supervisor, you should expect to spend a significant amount of time working on the dissertation during the summer vacation. This will also be a good opportunity to visit libraries and archives or conduct fieldwork if necessary. During Year 2, the amount of time you spend on your dissertation will increase. After you have completed seminars/supervisions for your core and special papers at the end of Michaelmas Year 2, you should expect to spend the majority of your time on your dissertation. You should agree a timetable with your supervisor(s) to submit work, ensuring that you give them sufficient time to provide useful feedback. Supervisors are not expected to read drafts submitted after Friday of week 4 in Trinity Term.

Supervisors' primary responsibility is to advise you on the programme of work necessary to complete your dissertation or thesis. To this end, they should maintain a general overview of your course work and academic development. They should help you to identify and acquire the knowledge and skills needed to complete your dissertation or thesis, and to further your aims for study or employment, insofar as these build upon the programme of graduate study. The dissertation will be distinct from the topic of the essays submitted for core and special papers, but may have developed out of them. It must demonstrate originality, but that originality may be demonstrated in any of a number of ways, whether by looking at new material, looking at existing material from a new perspective, or by bringing together previously unconnected material.

2. Teaching and Learning

2.1 Organisation of Teaching and Learning

This section of the handbook aims to clarify how teaching and learning will take place on the MPhil in Celtic Studies.

If you have any issues with teaching or supervision please raise them with the course convenor/ director, or with the administrators, as soon as possible so that they can be addressed promptly. If you remain dissatisfied, details of who to contact are provided in section 7.2 complaints and appeals.

As an interdisciplinary programme, the degree is administered by the Humanities Division, who is responsible for the organisation and delivery of the course. The teaching is delivered by academic staff who are based in faculties or departments. The course is managed by the MPhil in Celtic Studies Steering Committee.

The role of colleges is primarily supportive. You will be allocated a college advisor who will provide a focal point for your relationship with the college, and general academic or pastoral advice and assistance throughout your course of study.

The course convenor will usually be your general supervisor. They will provide you with regular information as to your progress and, where problems arise, provide guidance and assistance as to necessary corrective action.

You will be allocated a dissertation supervisor who may be the same person as the general supervisor, or another person. They will support you in the writing of your thesis through a pattern of regular meetings and ensure that you work to a planned framework with clearly agreed stages.

Induction

At the start of the academic year, in the week before the beginning of formal classes (this is called 0th week), there will be induction sessions to introduce you to the course and to life as a Masters student at Oxford.

Michaelmas Term

Session	Day	Weeks	Time	Venue
IT induction	Mon.	0	2pm	Teams Click here to join the meeting
Careers induction	Mon.	0	3pm	Teams Click here to join the meeting
Celtic Studies induction	Thurs.	0	11–12	Memorial Room, Jesus
Library induction	Fri.	0	10am	Taylorian Library
Introduction to Old and Middle Irish: <i>Scéla Mucce Meic Dathó</i>	Weds.	1–5, 7–8	10.15– 11.15	St. Edmund Hall
Introduction to Middle Welsh: <i>Math uab Mathonwy</i>	Weds.	1–5, 7–8	9–10	St. Edmund Hall

Celtic linguistics	Thurs.	1–6	10–11	Room 206, Clarendon Institute
Old and Middle Irish: <i>The Táin</i>	Thurs.	1–6	11–12	Room 206, Clarendon Institute
Old and Middle Welsh: <i>Canu Aneirin</i>	Thurs.	1–6	12–1	Room 206, Clarendon Institute
Irish language	to be arranged with the Irish-language instructor			
Welsh language	to be arranged with the Welsh-language instructor			
Irish literature to 1700 seminar/supervision	to be arranged with supervisor			
Celtic Research Seminar	Thurs.	1–8	5 or 5.15	Various, see programme
O’Donnell Lecture	Fri.	tbc	tbc	English Faculty
Annual Oxford–Cambridge Celtic Colloquium	Sat.	tbc	tbc	Cambridge

Hilary Term

Session	Day	Weeks	Time	Venue
Intro to Old and Middle Irish: Poems	Weds.	1–5	10.15–11.15	St. Edmund Hall
Intro to Middle Welsh: Dafydd ap Gwilym	Weds.	1–5	9–10	St. Edmund Hall
Texts for history of the Welsh language	Thurs.	1–8	11–12	tba
Introduction to Middle Breton	Thurs.	1–8	12–1	tba
Irish language	to be arranged with the Irish-language instructor			
Welsh language	to be arranged with the Welsh-language instructor			
Celtic linguistics or special option seminar/supervision	to be arranged with supervisor			
Celtic Research Seminar	Thurs.	1–8	5 or 5.15	Various, see programme

Trinity Term

Session	Day	Weeks	Time	Venue
Irish language	to be arranged with the Irish-language instructor			
Welsh language	to be arranged with the Welsh-language instructor			
Special option seminar/supervision	to be arranged with supervisor			

2.2 Expectations of Study

Students are responsible for their own academic progress. Very roughly about eight hours a day should be spent on academic work, with sensible break at weekends. Oxford terms are notoriously intense, and much of each vacation will be taken up with reading and preparation, as well as the opportunity for uninterrupted research time in libraries. It is completely normal to feel under pressure; if you find that your workload feels unusually heavy, please do contact the Course Convenor who can provide advice and point you in the direction of support.

For students who wish to undertake paid work during their time at Oxford please refer to the Paid Work Guidelines at academic.admin.ox.ac.uk/policies/paid-work-guidelines-graduate-students.

3. Assessment

3.1 Assessment structure

The course is assessed through:

- Core Paper – One or Two, each worth 20% of final overall mark
- Special Subjects – One or Two, each worth 20% of final overall mark
- Dissertation, 40% of final overall mark

Students must submit 3 papers in total.

3.2 Formative Assessment/Feedback on learning

Formative assessment is provided in the following ways:

- A. Oral feedback in seminars, supervisions and language classes
- B. Written feedback on formative essays
- C. Oral and written feedback in dissertation supervisions

3.3 Summative Assessment

Full details of the procedures for summative assessment are given in the Examination Conventions and Regulations. **You should read these carefully before embarking on any examined work.**

Examination regulations are the formal register of the structure of the examinations of the course. **The examination regulation are at**

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

Examination conventions are the formal record 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 your award. They include information on: marking and classification criteria, scaling of marks, progression, resits, use of viva voce examinations, penalties for late submission, and penalties for over-length work. **The examination conventions are in Appendix D and on Canvas.**

Marks for individual assessments will be released with the publication of the degree outcome. You will receive assessors' feedback on the thesis at the end of the examination cycle.

The structure and timetable for the examined elements of the course are as follows:

Course	Date	Assessment Method	Time
Celtic linguistics	Monday of Week 8, Hilary Term, Year 1/2 (see above)	Submission to Inspira	12 noon
Irish literature up to 1700	Monday of Week 8, Hilary Term, Year 1/2 (see above)	Submission to Inspira	12 noon
Welsh literature	Monday of Week 8, Hilary Term, Year 1/2 (see above)	Submission to Inspira	12 noon
Special subject	Monday of Week 8, Hilary Term, Year 2	Submission to Inspira	12 noon
Dissertation	Friday of Week 6, Trinity Term, Year 2	Submission to Inspira	12 noon

Core Paper

Core papers are assessed via an essay of up to 8,000 words, submitted either at the end of Hilary Term in Year 1 (first core paper) or at the end of Hilary Term in Year 2 (if two core papers are chosen). The title for the essay should be agreed with the supervisor for the core paper in question, and submitted by email to the course administrator by Friday of week 4 of Hilary term in year of submission. Each essay is worth 20% of your overall mark.

Special Subject Papers

Special papers are assessed via an essay of up to 8,000 words, submitted at the end of Hilary Term in Year 2. The title for the essay should be agreed with the supervisor for the core paper in question, and submitted by email to the course administrator by Friday of week 4 of Hilary term in year 2. Each essay is worth 20% of your overall mark. Note that, while submission of the essay is not required until Hilary Term of Year 2, you are advised to complete at least a draft much earlier than this, to allow adequate time for work on the dissertation.

Language course

Attendance at a language course in a Celtic language that has not previously been acquired to a high level is a compulsory element of the programme. Failure to complete the course, including any coursework or activities required by the course instructor, will result in failure in the MPhil overall.

Dissertation

The dissertation should consist of between 20,000 and 25,000 words. It must be accompanied by a short abstract which concisely summarises its scope and principal arguments, in about 300 words.

Questions about what is, and is not, included in this wordcount are natural and important, and the following list should resolve any ambiguities:

- your list of references or bibliography, title page and abstract do not count
- the table of contents and lists of tables, figures, maps or illustrations (if there are any) do not count
- any table or figure titles and captions do not count
- any tables or images do not count.
- translations or glosses of text in languages other than English do not count (but the text in the original language does)
- footnotes do count
- appendices do count, but, in this case, special permission can be sought to exceed the wordcount (see below)

Part of the exercise of writing a dissertation lies in devising a topic that can be effectively handled within the word limit. However, in exceptional circumstances – for example if a large section of your dissertation is taken up with lengthy appendices – you can apply to the Chair of Examiners for permission to exceed the word limit, by contacting the Course Administrator. This should be supported by an email from your supervisor and should be done in good time (in Hilary or very early in Trinity of Year 2).

You should agree a definitive title/topic with your supervisor(s) and submit this to the course administrator for approval by **week 4 of Trinity Term** in Year 1. Significant modification of your dissertation title is only possible up to fourteen days before the submission deadline, and requires the permission of your supervisor. Once permission has been obtained, the new title should be sent to the Graduate Studies Administrator by email. We do not need to be informed about very minor changes of wording done for the sake of style: if you want to change (for example) 'Politics and kingship in *Breuddwyd Rhonabwy*' to '*Breudwyt Ronabwy: A tale of politics and kinship?*', the change is unimportant; common sense applies.

3.4 Good Academic Practice and Avoiding Plagiarism

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. For further guidance, please see Appendix D below. More information about on plagiarism may be found here: www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/guidance/skills/plagiarism

Properly referencing your sources in written work can not only help you to avoid breaking the University's plagiarism rules, but can also help you to strengthen the arguments you make in your work. Advice on referencing may be found in Appendix E below. Further general guidance on referencing may be found here:

<https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/guidance/skills/referencing>

3.5 Entering for University examinations

The Oxford Students website gives information on the examination entry process and alternative examination arrangements: www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/exams.

Awaiting responses from 4 potentiaDeadlines for submitting your assessments are above.

All assessments will be submitted online via Inspira. Ensure you are familiar with the online submission process in advance of any deadline. Full information is provided on the Oxford students website (www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/exams/submission). Please note:

- All submitted files must be in PDF format.
- The submission time (noon) and date must be strictly adhered to unless you have been given permission by the Proctors (via your college) to submit at a later time and date. Penalties will be imposed by the Board of Examiners for work that is submitted after the deadline.
- Hardware or internet connectivity problems unrelated to the Inspira system will not be accepted as mitigating factors for late submission. **Make frequent backups of your work, and give yourself plenty of time to make your submission.**
- You will need to use the the course coversheet (provided online) as first page of the work. Remember to put your **candidate number, assignment title and word count on the front page** of your work. **Do not** add your name, student number, college or supervisor to any part of the work.
- Take time to check your submission before submitting it online. Make absolutely sure that the file you are submitting is the correct and final version.

Awaiting responses from 4 potentiaThere 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. Full information is available on the Oxford students website

(www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/exams/problems-completing-your-assessment).If you are late in handing work in or believe you will not meet a deadline, you should consult your college senior tutor as a matter of urgency.

3.6 Examiner's Reports

Past examiner's report can be accessed on the course Canvas site. Students are strictly prohibited from contacting external examiners directly. If you are unhappy with an aspect of your assessment you may make a complaint or appeal.

4. Skills and learning development

4.1 Academic Progress

At the end of each term, the relevant tutors/supervisors will submit a report, on the Graduate Student Reporting system (GSR), about your academic progress.

Within GSR you have the opportunity to contribute to your termly reports by reviewing and commenting on your own progress. You are strongly encouraged to take the opportunity to do this, and to record also any skills training you have undertaken or may need to undertake in the future, and your engagement with the academic community (e.g. seminar and conference attendance).

Students are asked to report in weeks 6 and 7 of term. Once you have completed your sections of the online form, it will be visible to your tutors and to your College Advisor. These GSR reports proved a shared channel for recording and reflecting on your progress, and for identifying areas where further work is required.

Please note that if you have any complaints about the supervision you are receiving, you should raise this immediately with the Course Convenors, with whom the overall responsibility for monitoring and reporting on student progress.. Do not wait for the end-of-term supervision reporting process.

If you have any questions or concerns that are not of an academic nature, please email the course administration as and when you need.

4.2 Opportunities for skills training and development and to engage in the Humanities Division's research community

There are a number of services and programmes across the University that provide support in developing yourself both personally and professionally. These opportunities complement the development opportunities provided through your own activities – within and beyond your research – and those provided within the degree programme.

Training in IT skills for study and research is available at <http://www.skillstoolkit.ox.ac.uk/>.

The Bodleian Library holds workshops on information discovery, referencing, impact, intellectual property, open access and data management:

<http://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/using/skills>.

Humanities Researcher Development and Training Programme

The Humanities Researcher Development and Training Programme is a comprehensive personal and professional development programme of events, opportunities, workshops and resources to support and develop Humanities researchers at all stages of their career from postgraduate level upwards. Some opportunities are bespoke and developed in-house; others are provided through external partners, student support services or in partnership with faculties. The programme serves all the faculties of the Humanities Division and any researchers working in Humanities-related subject areas.

The aims of the programme are:

- To train our postgraduate students and postdoctoral researchers to become research leaders of the future
- To empower postgraduate students and postdoctoral researchers to become pioneers in a range of careers and professions, within and beyond the sphere of higher education
- To enhance our postgraduate students' and postdoctoral researchers' disruptive voice as active citizens who are confident speaking truth to power, and as ambassadors for the Humanities

Experiential, hands-on learning is fundamental to our approach, with student-led and early career researcher-led initiatives and projects being generated and supported through a range of funds and initiatives such as the AHRC–TORCH Graduate Fund, Student Peer Review College, and the annual Public Engagement with Research Summer School. All of these mechanisms are in turn run (with support from the Researcher Development and Training Manager) by early career researchers themselves.

How to get involved

The Humanities Researcher Development and Training Programme is open to all postgraduate students (Master's and DPhil) and early career researchers (including college appointments and those on teaching-only contracts) in the Humanities Division. An extensive programme of opportunities runs throughout the academic year, arranged into a number of 'pathways':

Business and Entrepreneurship – pitch an idea to the Humanities Innovation Challenge Competition and win £2,000, or find out what history can teach us about entrepreneurship through the Said Business School's series of lectures on 'Engaging with the Humanities'

Career Confidence – explore your options, develop your CV, draft cover letters for roles within or beyond academia, practise fellowship interview techniques, enhance your digital profile or learn how to give a teaching presentation. We work closely with the Careers Service, who offer tailored support for postgraduate and postdoctoral researchers (see below)

Digital Humanities – learn how to encode text, 3D-scan museum objects and write code, or participate in the world-leading Digital Humanities at Oxford Summer School

Heritage – network with industry leaders in the heritage sector, learn how to set up a research collaboration with a heritage organisation, take a tour of a museum under development with a lead curator, or contribute to [Trusted Source](#), the National Trust's research-led online knowledge bank.

Public Engagement with Research – create a podcast, practise on-camera interviews, learn the techniques of 'storytelling' when talking about your research, apply for funding to support a public engagement project for your research through the Graduate Fund, or participate in the annual [Public Engagement with Research Summer School](#).

Preparation for Academic Practice – attend workshops on writing journal articles, preparing for the DPhil viva, organising a conference, or using EndNote. Pitch your idea for a

monograph to editors from world-leading publishing houses, and prepare a fieldwork application for ethical review.

Creative Industries – participate in workshops led by organisations in the creative industries, develop a research collaboration, or learn about career opportunities in this sector

Teaching – build on the training offered by your faculty (Preparation for Learning and Teaching at Oxford) and gain accreditation to the Staff and Educational Development Association by enrolling in [Developing Learning and Teaching](#) seminars. Attend workshops on applying your teaching experience to the job application process, or learn how to teach with objects at the Ashmolean Museum.

All our events and opportunities are **free** to attend, and a number of workshops, particularly those in the ‘Preparation for Academic Practice’ pathway, are repeated each term. See www.torch.ox.ac.uk/researcher-training for the calendar of upcoming events and for more information about the programme. You can also email the Humanities Researcher Development and Training Manager, Caroline Thurston, at training@humanities.ox.ac.uk if you have any queries.

4.3 Opportunities to engage in the research community

A weekly Celtic Research Seminar is held jointly with the Centre for Advanced Welsh and Celtic Studies at the University of Wales Trinity St David in Michaelmas and Hilary Terms. Speakers including both early-career and established researchers from across the globe. An annual Oxford–Cambridge Celtic Colloquium brings together staff and students from Oxford and Cambridge in May of each year in an informal, friendly and student-focused atmosphere. You may be asked to present your dissertation research at this forum in your second year. The O’Donnell Lecture is an annual event, also in May, and provides an opportunity to hear and talk to a leading figure in current research in Celtic Studies. Beyond Celtic studies, there is a wealth of research seminars, workshop, reading groups and lectures in related areas (linguistics, literature and history). Note especially the highly active medieval studies community whose activities are listed in the termly Medieval Studies Booklet, which will be sent to you at the start of each term; you will also find regularly updated information on the TORCH website (<https://torch.ox.ac.uk/medievalstudies#tab-899116>). You are strongly encouraged to take advantage of these opportunities to engage more widely with the research community at Oxford and beyond. Since postgraduate courses involve more independent study than you may be used to, these seminars and workshops provide useful structure and intellectual stimulation. You will have opportunities to discuss with the convenor which seminars are most suited to your interests.

4.4 Employability and careers information

Information and advice on careers can be found on the Student website at <https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/life/experience> and the University Careers Service (www.careers.ox.ac.uk).

5. Student Representation, Evaluation and Feedback

5.1 Student Representation

The MPhil in Celtic Studies is run by a Steering Committee, on which members of all faculties involved in the course are represented. The Committee is chaired by the Course Convenor. Students must provide a representative to serve on the steering committee. They may be chosen by discussion and agreement, or if necessary by an election.

The representative will attend the 'Open Business' section of Steering Committee meetings: they will be invited to offer an oral report relaying the students' sources of satisfaction and/or concerns with the course at that point in time, and to discuss these with Committee members.

The Humanities Division hosts a Graduate Joint Consultative Forum to discuss issues of common interest to students across the Humanities as well as to seek student views on a range of topics relevant to them. Meetings are normally held once per term. Membership will be established at the start of the academic year.

5.2 Division and University Representation

Student representatives sitting on the Divisional Board are selected through a process organised by the Oxford University Student Union (Oxford SU). Details can be found on the Oxford SU website, <https://www.oxfordsu.org/> along with information about student representation at the University level.

5.3 Opportunities to provide evaluation and feedback

At the end of the course, there will be an opportunity for students to provide feedback on the course toward the end of the academic year.

Students on full-time and part-time matriculated courses are surveyed once per year by the university on all aspects of their course (learning, living, pastoral support, college) through University sponsored surveys. Previous results can be viewed by students, staff and the general public at <https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/life/student-engagement?wssl=1>

Feedback gathered from both of these is taken to the Steering Committee meeting in Michaelmas Term of the following year for analysis and any appropriate action in response.

6. Student Life and Support

6.1 Who to Contact for Help

Email addresses and phone numbers for your key course contacts are listed in section 1.5.

The course convenor will make themselves available at specific times as listed in your termly timetables, but can also be contacted at any time to arrange a meeting or discuss a problem with which you need support.

Every college has its own system of support for students, please refer to your College handbook or website for more information on who to contact and what support is available through your college.

Details of the wide range of sources of support available more widely in the University are available from the Oxford Students website (www.ox.ac.uk/students/welfare), including in relation to mental and physical health and disability.

6.2 Complaints and Appeals

Complaints and academic appeals within the Humanities Division

The University, the Humanities Division and the Steering Committee for the MPhil in Celtic 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 within colleges, within faculties/departments and from bodies like Student Advice Service provided by OUSU or the Counselling Service, which have extensive experience in advising students. You may wish to take advice from one of these 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 Steering Committee for MPhil in Celtic Studies then you should raise it with the course convenor. They will attempt to resolve your concern/complaint informally.

If you are dissatisfied with the outcome, then you may take your concern further by making a formal complaint to the Proctors under the University Student Complaints Procedure (<https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/complaints>)

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.

If your concern or complaint relates to 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 defined as a formal questioning of a decision on an academic matter made by the responsible 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, supervisor or college or 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 Academic Appeals Procedure (<https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/complaints>)

6.3 Student Societies

There are over 200 clubs and societies covering a wide variety of interests available for you to join or attend, including clubs and societies for music, sports, dancing, literature, politics, performing arts, media, faiths, national and cultural groups, volunteering and many more. Many of these societies are represented at the OUSU Freshers' Fair, which is held in 0th week of Michaelmas Term at Oxford University Exam Schools. For lists of clubs and societies and for more information visit: <http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/life/clubs>.

6.4 Policies and Regulations

The University has a wide range of policies and regulations that apply to students. These are easily accessible through the A-Z of University regulations, codes of conduct and policies available on the Oxford Students website www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/regulations/a-z

Please note the Policy on recording lectures here:

academic.admin.ox.ac.uk/policies/recording-lectures-other-teaching-sessions.

7. Facilities

7.1 Social Spaces and Facilities

The University and individual colleges have numerous social facilities and students are encouraged to consult their College handbook and websites such as <http://www.ox.ac.uk/students> for further details.

7.2 Workspace

You should consult individual faculty libraries and your College for details of dedicated graduate workspaces that might be available. Many graduate students tend to work in the study areas provided by University, faculties and college libraries for use by all students and researchers. There is some, but limited, graduate study space on the ground floor of the Humanities building in the Radcliffe Observatory Quarter. Please contact the course administrator if you wish to use this.

7.3 Libraries and Museums

Library resources for Celtic languages and literatures are primarily located in the Taylorian Library. A smaller collection is maintained in the Celtic Library in Jesus, to which students at other colleges have access and borrowing rights. Details can be found here:

<https://www.jesus.ox.ac.uk/about-jesus-college/history/libraries-and-archives/the-celtic-library>. New Celtic studies students should have been granted access, but if you find that you do not have access, please contact the Jesus College librarian librarian@jesus.ox.ac.uk.

A fuller guide to Celtic library resources can be found at

<https://libguides.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/celtic>. Suggestions for new acquisitions are welcome and should be sent to the relevant librarian.

7.4 IT and Email

All users of the University's computer network should be aware of the University's rules relating to computer use, which can be found on the website at <http://www.it.ox.ac.uk/rules>.

Once you have received your University Card and activated your Oxford SSO account, you will be able to find out your email address from IT Service's registration website:

https://register.it.ox.ac.uk/self/user_info?display=mailin. Access to email is available through Nexus webmail (<https://owa.nexus.ox.ac.uk/>), using a desktop client such as Outlook, Thunderbird or Mac Mail, or using a mobile device such as an iPhone/iPad, Android phone/tablet or Blackberry. For client configuration information see the web pages at <http://www.it.ox.ac.uk/welcome/nexus-email>. The email system is controlled by Oxford University's IT Services and problems should be referred to them.

You are encouraged to use your University email address as your main email address and should check your University account regularly. This will be one of the main ways in which supervisors, administrative staff and other members of the University contact you. It is not practicable to keep track of private email addresses for each individual student.

The Course Administrator maintains an email list for circulating important information and other announcements to students.

The IT Services Help Centre at 13 Banbury Road provides a single location and point of contact for user support services. Information can be found on the IT Services website: <http://help.it.ox.ac.uk/helpcentre/index>.

7.5 Registration and Student Self-Service

All new students are sent a college fresher's pack containing details of how to activate their Oxford Single Sign-on account. The Oxford Single Sign-on is used to access Student Self Service to register online, as well as to access other central IT services such as free University email, Canvas and the Graduate Supervision System.

In order to complete your registration as an Oxford University student, navigate to <http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/selfservice> and log on using your Single Sign-on username and password. New students must complete their registration by the end of the first week of term in order to confirm their status as members of the University. Ideally students should complete registration before they arrive. Continuing students must register at the anniversary of the term in which they first started their programme of study.

Once students have completed their University registration, an enrolment certificate is available from Student Self Service to download and print. This certificate may be used to obtain council tax exemption. In addition to enabling students to register online, Student Self Service provides web access to important course and other information needed by students throughout their academic career. Students can amend their address and contact details via Student Self Service, and they can use the Service to access detailed exam results, see their full academic record, and print transcripts.

Appendix A – Background Reading and Reference Texts

Celtic Linguistics

- Ball, Martin J. & Nicole Müller. 1992. *Mutation in Welsh*. London: Routledge.
- Ball, Martin J. & Nicole Müller. 2009. *The Celtic languages*. London: Routledge. [Note the 2009 and 1995 editions differ considerably and only the 2009 edition has historical chapters. Use the 2009 edition.]
- Borsley, Robert D., Maggie Tallerman & David Willis. 2007. *The syntax of Welsh*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Dorian, Nancy C. 1981. *Language death: The life cycle of a Scottish Gaelic dialect*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press.
- Evans, D. Simon. 1964. *A grammar of Middle Welsh*. Dublin: Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies.
- Hannahs, S. J. 2013. *The phonology of Welsh*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Hemon, Roparz. 1975. *A historical morphology and syntax of Breton*. Dublin: Institute for Advanced Studies.
- Jackson, Kenneth H. 1953. *Language and history in early Britain*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press.
- Jones, Mari C. 1998. Language obsolescence and revitalization: Linguistic change in two sociolinguistically contrasting Welsh communities. Oxford: Clarendon Press.
- Klein, Jared, Brian Joseph & Matthias Fritz (eds.). 2017. *Handbook of comparative and historical Indo-European linguistics*. Berlin: De Gruyter Mouton. [Series of chapters on Celtic.]
- Lewis, Henry & Holger Pedersen. 1937. *A concise comparative Celtic grammar*. Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht.
- MacAulay, Donald. 1992. *The Celtic languages*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Russell, Paul. 1995. *An introduction to the Celtic languages*. London: Longman.
- Ternes, Elmar. 2011. *Brythonic Celtic – Britannisches Keltisch: From medieval British to modern Breton*. Bremen: Hempen Verlag.
- Thorne, David A. 1993. *A comprehensive Welsh grammar*. Oxford: Blackwell.
- Thurneysen, Rudolf. 1946. *A grammar of Old Irish*. Dublin: Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies.

Irish Literature up to 1700

- E. Boyle, *History and Salvation in Medieval Ireland* (Abingdon, 2021).
- T. Charles-Edwards, *Early Christian Ireland* (Oxford, 2000). [A mighty work of scholarship – difficult of access to the beginner]
- P. Ó Riain, 'Early Irish literature', in *The Celtic Connections*, ed. Glanville Price (Gerrard's Cross, 1992), 65–80
- M. Ní Bhrolcháin, *An Introduction to Early Irish Literature* (Dublin, 2009). [This is a very unadventurous book, but it is worth reading the first couple of chapters for a basic overview]
- D. Ó Corráin, *Clavis Litterarum Hibernensium: Medieval Irish Books and Texts, c.400–1600* (Brepols, 2017), 3 vols. [The indispensable guide to medieval Irish sources – a huge, field-changing monument of scholarship]

- M. Ní Mhaonaigh, 'The literature of medieval Ireland to c. 800: St. Patrick to the Vikings', in M. Kelleher and P. O'leary (eds.), *The Cambridge History of Irish Literature*, i. (Cambridge, 2006). [This is very clear and useful: also read the following chapter, by Hollo and Caball, if you have the time].
- 'Légend hÉrenn: "The Learning of Ireland" in the Early Medieval Period', in Paul E. Szarmach (ed.), *Books Most Needful to Know: Contexts for the Study of Anglo-Saxon England (Old English Newsletter Subsidia 36)* (Kalamazoo, 2016). [Very clear]
- M. Williams, *Ireland's Immortals: A History of the Gods of Irish Myth* (Princeton UP, 2016) [Sheepishly recommended, if nothing else as a source for bibliography]
- R. O'Connor, *The Destruction of Da Derga's Hostel: Kingship and Narrative Artistry in a Mediaeval Irish Saga* (Oxford, 2011) [Splendid monograph setting out many of the historical and theoretical issues involved in fairly weighing up an Irish narrative text]
- E. Johnston, *Literacy and Identity in Early Medieval Ireland* (Woodbridge, 2013). [Innovative look at intellectual culture]
- R. Thurneysen, *Die irische Helden- und Königsage bis zum 17. Jahrhundert* (Halle/Saale, 1912 [reprint. Hildersheim, 1980]). [If you read German]
- M. Dillon, *Early Irish Literature* (Chicago, 1948).
- J. Carey, 'On the interrelationships of some Cín Dromma Snechtai texts', *Ériu* 46 (1995) 71–92.
- K. McCone, *Pagan Past and Christian Present in Early Irish Literature* (Maynooth, 1990). [Influential polemic]

Welsh Literature

- Davies, Sioned. 1995. *Crefft y Cyfarwydd: Astudiaeth o Dechnegau Naratif yn y Mabinogion*. Cardiff: Gwasg Prifysgol Cymru.
- Davies, Sioned. 2013. Writing in Welsh to 1150: (Re)creating the past, shaping the future. In Clare A. Lees (ed.), *The Cambridge history of early medieval English literature*, 660–686. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Edwards, Hywel Teifi. 2000. *A guide to Welsh literature c. 1800–1900*. Cardiff: University of Wales Press.
- Jarman, A. O. H. and Gwilym Rees Hughes. 1992. *A guide to Welsh literature*. Cardiff: University of Wales Press.
- Jarman, A. O. H., Dafydd Johnston and Gwilym Rees Hughes. 1997. *A guide to Welsh literature 1282–c. 1550*. Cardiff: University of Wales Press.
- Johnston, Dafydd. 2017. *The literature of Wales*. Cardiff: University of Wales Press. [Pocket introduction]
- Roberts, Brynley F. 1992. *Studies on Middle Welsh literature* (Welsh Series Volume 5). Lewiston, New York: Edwin Mellen Press.
- Sims-Williams, Patrick. 2011. *Irish influence on Middle Welsh literature*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Appendix B – Plagiarism

Plagiarism in the research and writing of essays and dissertations

Definition

Plagiarism is the use of material appropriated from another source or sources, passing it off as one's own work. It may take the form of unacknowledged quotation or substantial paraphrase. Sources of material here include all printed and electronically available publications in English or other languages, or unpublished materials, including theses, written by others.

Plagiarism also includes the citation from secondary sources of primary materials which have not been consulted, and are not properly acknowledged (see examples below).

Why does plagiarism matter?

Plagiarism is a **breach of academic integrity**. It is a principle of intellectual honesty that all members of the academic community should acknowledge their debt to the originators of the ideas, words, and data which form the basis for their own work. Passing off another's work as your own is not only poor scholarship, but also means that you have failed to complete the learning process. Deliberate plagiarism is unethical and can have serious consequences for your future career; it also undermines the standards of your institution and of the degrees it issues.

What to avoid

The necessity to reference applies not only to text, but also to other media, such as computer code, illustrations, graphs etc. It applies equally to published text drawn from books and journals, and to unpublished text, whether from lecture handouts, theses or other students' essays. You must also attribute text or other resources downloaded from web sites.

There are various forms of plagiarism and it is worth clarifying the ways in which it is possible to plagiarise:

- **Verbatim quotation without clear acknowledgement**

Quotations must always be identified as such by the use of either quotation marks or indentation, with adequate citation. It must always be apparent to the reader which parts are your own independent work and where you have drawn on someone else's ideas and language.

- **Paraphrasing**

Paraphrasing the work of others by altering a few words and changing their order or by closely following the structure of their argument, is plagiarism because you are deriving your words and ideas from their work without giving due acknowledgement. Even if you include a reference to the original author in your own text you are still creating a misleading impression that the paraphrased wording is entirely your own. It is better to write a brief summary of the author's overall argument in your own words than to paraphrase particular sections of his or her writing. This will ensure you have a genuine grasp of the argument and will avoid the difficulty of paraphrasing without plagiarising. You must also properly attribute all material you derive from lectures.

- **Cutting and pasting from the Internet**

Information derived from the Internet must be adequately referenced and included in the bibliography. It is important to evaluate carefully all material found on the Internet, as it is less likely to have been through the same process of scholarly peer review as published sources.

- **Collusion**

This can involve unauthorised collaboration between students, failure to attribute assistance received, or failure to follow precisely regulations on group work projects. It is your responsibility to ensure that you are entirely clear about the extent of collaboration permitted, and which parts of the work must be your own.

- **Inaccurate citation**

It is important to cite correctly, according to the conventions of your discipline. Additionally, you should not include anything in a footnote or bibliography that you have not actually consulted. If you cannot gain access to a primary source you must make it clear in your citation that your knowledge of the work has been derived from a secondary text (e.g. Bradshaw, D. *Title of book*, discussed in Wilson, E., *Title of book* (London, 2004), p. 189).

- **Failure to acknowledge**

You must clearly acknowledge all assistance which has contributed to the production of your work, such as advice from fellow students, laboratory technicians, and other external sources. This need not apply to the assistance provided by your tutor or supervisor, nor to ordinary proofreading, but it is necessary to acknowledge other guidance which leads to substantive changes of content or approach.

- **Professional agencies**

You should neither make use of professional agencies in the production of your work nor submit material which has been written for you. It is vital to your intellectual training and development that you should undertake the research process unaided. Under Statute XI on University Discipline, all members of the University are prohibited from providing material that could be submitted in an examination by students at this University or elsewhere.

- **Autoplagerism**

You must not submit work for assessment which you have already submitted (partially or in full) to fulfil the requirements of another degree course or examination, unless this is specifically provided for in the special regulations for your course.

Relating principles of plagiarism to the research and writing of essays and the dissertation

- Essays and dissertations will invariably involve the use and discussion of material written by others, with due acknowledgement and with references given. This is standard practice, and can clearly be distinguished from appropriating without acknowledgement, and presenting as your own material produced by others, which is what constitutes plagiarism. It is possible to proceed in two ways if you wish to present an idea or theory from one of your sources.

An argument, for example, from Raymond Gillespie's work on religion in Ireland in the early modern period might be presented by direct quotation as follows:

'The idea of providence [became] powerfully divisive in early modern Ireland since each confessional group was convinced that it had unique access to the power of God'.¹

Or, you might paraphrase:

¹ R. Gillespie, *Devoted People: Belief and Religion in Early Modern Ireland* (Manchester, 1997), p. 50

Providence caused conflict in early modern Ireland: each confession claimed particular Divine favour.²

If you adopt the latter course, be aware that you should be expressing ideas essentially in your own words and that any paraphrased material should be brief.

When you conduct research for your dissertation, you should always consult the primary materials, as far as possible, rather than depending on secondary sources. The latter will often point you in the direction of original sources, which you must then pursue and analyse independently.

There may, however, be some occasions on which it is impossible to gain direct access to the relevant primary source (if, for example, it is unprinted and located in a foreign or private archive, or has been translated from a language with which you are unfamiliar). In these circumstances, you may cite from the secondary source, with full acknowledgement. This should be in the following form, here in a Welsh-language example:

‘In order to buy this [the Bible] and to be free of oppression, go, sell thy shirt, thou Welshman’.³

When choosing your dissertation subject it is important to check that you can gain access to most of the primary materials that you will need, in order to avoid the type of dependence discussed here.

Guidance for note-taking:

The best way to ensure that you do not engage in plagiarism of either of the kinds discussed above is to develop good note-taking practices from the beginning. When you take notes from secondary sources always register author, title, place and date of publication and page numbers. Above all, if you think you might wish to quote a sentence or phrase directly, put it in quotation marks from the outset: otherwise make sure the summary language is your own.

When you extract a primary source immediately note both its place or origin and situation within your secondary text. If you have any doubts about how to access the primary material, ask for advice at this early stage, not when you come to assemble your ideas prior to writing up the essay or dissertation.

Penalties:

The Proctors regard plagiarism as a serious form of cheating for which offenders can expect to receive severe penalties including the return of a mark of zero on the work submitted. Even the lightest penalties for plagiarism will almost certainly have the effect of pulling down the candidates’ overall result. The Examiners will check theses for plagiarism, and will use internet forms of check if it is deemed necessary to do so.

² R. Gillespie, *Devoted People: Belief and Religion in Early Modern Ireland* (Manchester, 1997), p. 50

³ Thomas Jones, *Hen Gwndidau Carolau a Chywyddau*, cited and translated in G. Williams, *Wales and the Reformation* (Cardiff, 1997), p. 358.

Appendix C – Guidelines for the Presentation of Written Work

Your work should be lucid and presented in a scholarly manner. Display such evidence as is essential to substantiate your argument. Elaborate it in a manner which is clear, concise, consistent, accurate and complete.

Styling your work as you write

There are several sets of conventions and published guides to explain them. None is obligatory, but some will be more appropriate (and generally used) in particular disciplines. The important point is that you should follow one system throughout all the pieces of work submitted.

The Harvard (name–date) system largely avoids footnotes by citing references in the text, where they take the form of the author’s surname followed by the date of publication and any page reference within parentheses, e.g. (Johnston, 1989: 289). The works referred to are gathered at the end of the piece of work, arranged alphabetically by author, with full bibliographical details.

An alternative system (Chicago) confines references to footnotes, normally using the full author name, title and publication details in the first reference and an abbreviated form of author and title in subsequent references.

Whichever system you adopt, you should choose it early and learn its conventions so well that you automatically apply them consistently.

The relation of text, notes and appendices

The ideal relationship is perhaps best expressed as one of scale. The text is self-evidently your major contribution. The word limits placed on the essays and dissertation assume a scale appropriate to the topic, the time which you have to work on it, and the importance of writing clearly and succinctly. In writing and revising your work, strive always to make it simpler and shorter without prejudicing the substance of your discussion.

The main function of a footnote is to cite the authority for statements which you make in the text, so that your readers may verify them by reference to your sources. It is crucial that these references are accurate. Try to place footnote or endnote number references at the end of sentences or paragraphs.

Footnotes, placed at the bottom of the page on which the material to which they refer is contained, should be indented as paragraphs with the footnote number (raised as superscript) preceding the note itself, and the second (and subsequent) line(s) of the note returning to the left-hand margin. They should also be single-spaced. Most word-processing programmes use this as standard form. The same holds for endnotes.

Appendices offer a convenient way of keeping your text and footnotes clear. If you have hitherto unpublished evidence of primary importance, especially if it is unlikely to be readily

accessible to your examiners, it may be helpful to append it. Every case must be argued in terms of the relevance and intrinsic value of the appended matter. If the Appendix takes you over the word limit, you must seek formal approval to exceed that word limit well before submission.

Textual apparatus: if you are presenting an edition of a literary work, the textual apparatus, in single spacing, must normally appear at the foot of the page of text to which it refers.

Quotations in languages other than English

Quotations in languages other than English should be given in the text in the original language. Translations into English should be provided in footnotes, or in the body of your text if the translation forms part of the substance of your discussion. If reference is made to a substantive unpublished document in a language other than English, both the document in the original language and a translation should be printed in an Appendix.

Abbreviations

These should be used as little as possible in the body of the text. List any which you do use (other than those in general use, such as: cf., ed., e.g., etc., f., ff., i.e., n., p., pp., viz.) at the beginning of the essay (after the table of contents in the case of the dissertation), and then apply them consistently. Adopt a consistent policy on whether or not you italicise abbreviations of non-English origin.

Avoid *loc. cit.* and *op. cit.* altogether. Reference to a short title of the work is less confusing and more immediately informative. Use *ibid.* (or *idem/eadem*), if at all, only for immediately successive references. Note that *ibid.* is not used in the Harvard (name–date) system.

Italic or Roman?

Be consistent in the forms which you italicise. Use italics for the titles of books, plays, operas, published collections; the names, full or abbreviated, of periodicals; non-English words or short phrases which have not become so common as to be regarded as English. Use roman for the titles of articles either in periodicals or collections of essays; for poems (unless it is a long narrative poem the title of which should be italicised); and for any titled work which has not been formally published (such as a thesis or dissertation), and place the title within single inverted commas.

For such common abbreviations as *cf.*, *e.g.*, *ibid.*, *pp.*, *q.v.*, etc., use roman type.

Capitals

Reserve these for institutions or corporate bodies; denominational or party terms (Anglican, Labour); and collective nouns such as Church and State. But the general rule is to be sparing in their use. The convention in English for capitalisation of titles is that the first, last and any significant words are capitalised. If citing titles in languages other than English, follow the rules of capitalisation accepted in that language.

Quotations

In quotation, accuracy is of the essence. Be sure that punctuation follows the original. For quotations in English, follow the spelling (including capitalisation) of the original. Where there

is more than one edition, the most authoritative must be cited, rather than a derivative one, unless you propose a strong reason to justify an alternative text.

Short quotations: if you incorporate a quotation of one or two lines into the structure of your own sentence, you should run it on in the text within single quotation marks.

Longer quotations: these, whether prose or verse or dramatic dialogue, should be broken off from the text, indented from the left-hand margin, and printed in single spacing. No quotation marks should be used.

Quotations within quotations: these normally reverse the conventions for quotation marks. If the primary quotation is placed within single quotation marks, the quotation within it is placed within double quotation marks.

Dates and numbers

Give dates in the form 27 January 1990. Abbreviate months only in references, not in the text. Give pages and years as spoken: 20–21, 25–6, 68–9, 100–114, 1711–79, 1770–1827, or from 1770 to 1827.

Use numerals for figures over 100, for ages (but sixtieth year), dates, years, lists and statistics, times with a.m. and p.m. (but ten o'clock). Otherwise use words and be consistent. Write sixteenth century (sixteenth-century if used adjectivally, as in sixteenth-century architecture), not 16th century.

References

Illustrations, tables etc.: The sources of all photographs, tables, maps, graphs etc. which are not your own should be acknowledged on the same page as the item itself. An itemised list of illustrations, tables etc. should also be provided after the contents page at the beginning of a dissertation, and after the title page in the case of an essay.

Books: Precise references, e.g. in footnotes, should be brief but accurate. In Chicago style, give full details for the first reference, and a consistently abbreviated form thereafter. All such reduced or abbreviated titles should either be included in your list of abbreviated forms or should be readily interpretable from the bibliography. For work on linguistic topics, follow the Unified Style Sheet for Linguistics, the Leipzig Glossing Rules, and the Generic Style Rules for Linguistics (all widely available online). For work in other areas, follow the form:

Author's surname; comma; initials or first name (although in footnotes these should precede the surname – e.g. Henry James, W.W. Greg); comma; title (italicised); place of publication; colon; name of publisher; comma; date of publication (all this in parenthesis); comma; volume (in lower-case roman numerals); full stop; number of page or pages on which the reference occurs; full stop.

For example, an entry in the bibliography should be in the form:
Greg, W.W., *The Calculus of Variants* (Oxford, 1927).

Or:

Greg, W.W., *The Calculus of Variants* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1927).

But a reference in a footnote should be in one of the following forms:

(First time cited) Either:

See W.W. Greg, *The Calculus of Variants* (Oxford, 1927), pp. 43-4.

Or: See W.W. Greg, *The Calculus of Variants* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1927), pp. 43-4.

(Subsequent citations) Either:

See Greg, *Calculus*, pp. 43-4.

Or: See Greg (1927), pp. 43-4.

Journals: Follow the form:

Author's surname; comma; initials or first name; title of article (in single quotation marks); comma; title of journal (either full title or standard abbreviation, italicised); volume; date (in parenthesis); comma; page number(s); full stop.

For example, an entry in the bibliography should be in this form:

Bennett, H. S., 'Fifteenth-century secular prose', *RES* 21 (1945), 257-63.

But a reference in a footnote should be in the form:

(first citation):

H. S. Bennett, 'Fifteenth-century secular prose', *RES* 21 (1945), 257-63.

(subsequent reference):

either: Bennett, 'Secular prose', p. 258.

Or: Bennett (1945), p. 258.

Plays: In some cases you may wish to use line numbering, but otherwise follow the form:

Title (italicised); comma; act (in upper-case roman numerals); full stop; scene (in lower-case roman numerals); full stop; line (arabic numerals); full stop.

E.g. *The Winter's Tale*, III.iii.3.

Other works: Many works, series, as well as books of the Bible, have been abbreviated to common forms which should be used. Serial titles distinct from those of works published in the series may often be abbreviated and left in roman. Follow these examples:

Bede, *Historia ecclesiastica* 2.3, ed. B. Colgrave and R. A. B. Mynors (Oxford, 1969), p. 143.

Bede, *Historia ecclesiastica* 2.3, p. 143 (for subsequent references)

Prov. 2:5; Thess. 4:11, 14. (Do not italicise books of the Bible.)

Manuscripts: Both in the text and in the notes the abbreviation MS (plural MSS) is used only when it precedes a shelfmark. Cite the shelfmark according to the practice of the given library followed by either

f. 259r, ff. 259r-260v or fol. 259r, fols. 259r-260v. The forms fo. and fos. (instead of f. or fol.) are also acceptable.

The first reference to a manuscript should give the placename, the name of the library, and the shelfmark. Subsequent references should be abbreviated.

e.g. Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale, MS lat. 4117, ff. 108r-145r. Vatican City, Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana, MS Vat. Lat. 5055, f. 181r.

Bibliography/List of references

A list of works consulted must be provided, usually at the end of the essay or dissertation.

The bibliography should be in alphabetical order by authors' surnames, or titles of anonymous works, or of works (especially of reference works) usually referred to by title, e.g. *Middle English Dictionary*, not under Kurath, H. and Kuhn, S., its editors.

It is sometimes helpful, and therefore preferable, to present the bibliography in sections: manuscripts, source material, and secondary writings. You might follow the pattern:

1. Primary

A. Manuscripts

B. Printed Works

2. Secondary

A. Contemporary with the author(s) or work(s), the subject of your dissertation

B. Later studies

References must be consistently presented, and consistently punctuated, with a full stop at the end of each item listed.

Either capitalise all significant words in the title, or capitalise the first word and only proper nouns in the rest of the title. In capitalising non-English titles follow the general rule for the given language. In Latin titles, capitalise only the first word, proper nouns and proper adjectives. In French titles, capitalise only the first word (or the second if the first is an article) and proper nouns.

Whereas in footnotes, and for series, publishing details may be placed within parentheses, for books in the bibliography the item stands alone and parenthetical forms are not normally used.

Give the author's surname first, then cite the author's first name or initials. Place the first line flush to the left-hand margin and all subsequent lines indented.

The publishing statement should normally include the place of publication; colon; publisher's name; comma; date of publication. When the imprint includes several places and multiple publishers simplify them to the first item in each case.

The conventional English form of the place-name should be given (e.g. Turin, not Torino), including the country or state if there is possible confusion (Cambridge, Mass., unless it is Cambridge in England).

For later editions and reprints, give the original date of publication only, followed by semicolon; repr. and the later publishing details: *Wuthering Heights*. 1847; repr. London: Penguin, 1989.

For monographs in series, omit the series editor's name and do not italicise the series title. Follow the form:

Borst, A., *Die Katherer*, *Schriften der Monumenta Germaniae Historica* 12. (Stuttgart, 1953), pp. 45–50.

For edited or translated works, note the distinction in the use of ed. in the following examples: Charles d'Orléans, *Choix de poésies*, ed. John Fox. Exeter: Exeter University Press, 1973. [In this case the abbreviation means that the work is edited by Fox and does not change when there is more than one editor.]

Friedberg, E., ed., *Corpus iuris canonici*. 2 vols. Leipzig, 1879-81. [Here the abbreviation refers to the editor; the plural is eds.]

Bloch, Marc, *Feudal society*, trans. L. A. Manyon. Chicago: Chicago University Press, 1961.

Appendix D – Examination Conventions

1. Introduction

This document sets out the examination conventions applying to the MPhil in Celtic Studies for the academic year 2022–23. The supervisory body for this course is the Steering Committee for the MPhil in Celtic Studies.

Examination conventions are the formal record of the specific assessment standards for the course to which they apply. They set out how examined work will be marked and how the resulting marks will be used to arrive at a final result and classification of an award.

2. Rubrics for individual papers

The papers to be examined are:

- I. **Three essays** of maximum 8,000 words; one core and two special subjects, or two core and one special subject essays.
- II. **A dissertation** of between 20,000 and 25,000 words on a subject approved by the Steering Committee.

3. Marking conventions

3.1 University scale for standardised expression of agreed final marks

Agreed final marks for individual papers will be expressed using the following scale:

70–100	Distinction
65–69	Merit
50–64	Pass
0–49	Fail

3.2 Qualitative criteria for different types of assessment

Distinction quality work will demonstrate:

- The ability to pose and engage with sophisticated questions
- An elegant and incisive argument with a deep understanding of the issues involved
- Originality and a wide knowledge of relevant material
- Very clear and subtle expression and exposition
- Very well-focussed illustration
- Very good scholarly apparatus and presentation

Merit quality work will demonstrate:

- The ability to pose well-judged questions

- Some originality and good knowledge of relevant material
- A clear argument with a good understanding of the issues involved
- Very clear expression and exposition
- Well-focussed illustration
- Good scholarly apparatus and presentation

Pass quality work will demonstrate:

- A good understanding of the issues and grasp of relevant literature
- A good structure and appropriate scope
- Clear expression and exposition
- Appropriate illustration
- Due attention being paid to scholarly apparatus and presentation

Failing work may:

- Show an insufficient depth of knowledge and understanding of issues
- Lack argumentative coherence
- Display an inadequate use of illustration
- Show problems relating to scholarly presentation

3.3 Verification and reconciliation of marks

Normally each submission will be marked by two markers. The marks will fall within the range of 0 to 100 inclusive. Examiners are encouraged to award high marks to good scripts, though marks above 85 will be reserved for scripts that are quite outstanding.

(ii) Each initial marker determines a mark for each submission independently of the other marker. The initial markers then confer and are encouraged to agree a mark. Where markers confer, this does not debar them from also re-reading where that may make it easier to reach an agreed mark.

(iii) In every case, the original marks from both markers are entered onto a marksheet available to all examiners, as well as the marks that result from conferring or re-reading.

(iv) If conferring or re-reading (which markers may choose to do more than once) does not reduce the gap between a pair of marks where a mark can be agreed between the markers, the submission is third read by an examiner, who may be an external examiner.

(v) Marks are accompanied by comments on the performance of each candidate. Comment sheets are provided by each assessor on each submission. Any comments are made available to external examiners.

(vi) The third reader of a submission (whether external or internal) may adjudicate between the two internal marks, and the third reader's mark will be the final mark.

(vii) The Board of Examiners may choose to ask the external examiner to act as an adjudicator, but this is not required by University regulations. The requirement is simply that the external examiner must be in a position to report on the soundness of the procedures used to reach a final agreed mark.

(viii) The expectation is that marks established as a result of third readings would not normally fall outside the range of the original marks. However, it is permissible for the third examiner to recommend to the Board of Examiners a final mark which falls outside the bounds of the two existing marks. Such a recommendation will only be approved by the Board if it can provide clear and defensible reasons for its decision.

(xiii) Numerical marking will be expressed in whole numbers for agreed final marks. These marks will be made available to students (as well as faculties and colleges), and will appear on transcripts generated from the Student System.

3.4 Scaling

Scaling is not used in the assessment of this course.

3.5 Short-weight convention

There are no formal penalties for work that falls short of the minimum word limit. However, work that is significantly under-length is likely to be inadequate in its coverage and content, and will be so marked. As a rough guideline, less than three-quarters of the maximum word limit is likely to be inadequate.

3.6 Penalties for late or non-submission

The scale of penalties agreed by the Board of Examiners in relation to late submission of assessed items is set out below. Details of the circumstances in which such penalties might apply can be found in the Examination Regulations (Regulations for the Conduct of University Examinations, Part 14).

Late submission	Penalty
After the deadline but submitted on the same day	-5 marks (-5 percentage points)
Each additional calendar day	-1 mark (-1 percentage point)
Max. deducted marks up to 14 days late	-18 marks (-18 percentage points)
More than 14 days late	Fail

Failure to submit a required element of assessment will result in the failure of the assessment. The mark for any resit of the assessment will be capped at a pass.

3.7 Penalties for over-length work and departure from approved titles or subject-matter

The Board has agreed the following tariff of marks which will be deducted for over-length work:

Percentage by which the maximum word count is exceeded:	Penalty (up to a maximum of -10)
Up to 5% over word limit	-1 mark
Up to 10% over	-2 marks
Up to 15% over	-3 marks
Each further 1-5% over	-1 further mark

3.8 Penalties for poor academic practice

In the case of poor academic practice, and determined by the extent of poor academic practice, the board shall deduct between 1% and 10% of the marks available for cases of poor referencing where material is widely available factual information or a technical description that could not be paraphrased easily; where passage(s) draw on a variety of sources, either verbatim or derivative, in patchwork fashion (and examiners consider that this represents poor academic practice rather than an attempt to deceive); where some attempt has been made to provide references, however incomplete (e.g. footnotes but no quotation marks, Harvard-style references at the end of a paragraph, inclusion in bibliography); or where passage(s) are 'grey literature', i.e. a web source with no clear owner.

If a student has previously had marks deducted for poor academic practice or has been referred to the Proctors for suspected plagiarism the case will be referred to the Proctors. Also, where the deduction of marks results in failure of the assessment and of the programme the case will be referred to the Proctors.

In addition, any more serious cases of poor academic practice than described above will be referred to the Proctors.

4. Progression rules and classification conventions

4.1 Qualitative descriptors of Distinction, Pass, Fail

The Humanities Division encourages examiners to mark up to 100.

The Board of Examiners has adopted the following criteria:

Over 85 : 'Highest Distinction'

Outstanding work of publishable quality demonstrating most of the following: exceptional originality; critical acumen; depth of understanding; subtle analysis; superb use of appropriate evidence and methodology; impeccable scholarly apparatus and presentation.

80-84 : 'Very High Distinction'

Excellent work with outstanding elements showing many of the following qualities: originality; wide and detailed knowledge; compelling analytical thought; excellent use of

illustration to support argument; sophisticated and lucid argument; excellent scholarly apparatus and presentation.

75–79 : 'High Distinction'

Excellent work with a deep understanding of the issues involved, originality, wide knowledge of relevant material, elegant and incisive argument, clarity of expression and exposition, the ability to pose and engage with sophisticated questions and very good scholarly apparatus and presentation.

70–74 : 'Distinction'

Excellent work with a deep understanding of the issues involved, originality, wide knowledge of relevant material, elegant and incisive argument, clarity of expression and exposition; very good scholarly apparatus and presentation, but which may exhibit uneven performance.

65–69 : 'Merit'

High quality work showing some originality, a good understanding of the issues and grasp of relevant literature, good structure and scope, lucid analysis supported by well-focused illustration and good scholarly apparatus and presentation.

60–64 : 'High Pass'

Good work showing a fair grasp of issues and relevant literature; good scope, structure and illustration; clear expression and exposition; and appropriate attention to scholarly apparatus and presentation.

50–59 : 'Pass'

Competent work presenting relevant material and analysis; appropriate scope, structure and illustration; fairly clear expression and exposition; and adequate scholarly apparatus and presentation.

Below 49 : 'Fail'

Inadequate work which may be limited by insufficient depth of knowledge, understanding of issues or relevant literature; or by inadequate use of illustration, poor argument or organisation of material; or lack of clarity; or problems relating to scholarly presentation.

4.2 Final outcome rules

The pass mark on each paper is 50, and this mark must be achieved on each element to gain the MPhil.

The dissertation is weighted at 40% and the three essays at 20% each.

The examiners may award a Distinction for excellence in the whole examination. To achieve a Distinction, an average mark of 70 or above across the four elements is required, with marks of 70 or above in at least two elements.

The examiners may award a Merit for very good work in the whole examination. To achieve a Merit, an average mark of 65 to 69 across the four elements is required, with marks of 65 to 69 in at least two elements.

5. Resits

Should a candidate fail any element of the examination, that element may be re-submitted once, and once only, as outlined in the General Regulations for the Degree of Master of Philosophy (<https://examregs.admin.ox.ac.uk/Regulation?code=grftdobopomastofphil>). In these circumstances, and if the resit is successful, the candidate degree's classification will be capped at a Pass.

6. Consideration of mitigating circumstances

A candidate's final outcome will first be considered using the classification rules/final outcome rules as described above in section 4. The exam board will then consider any further information they have on individual circumstances. Candidates may make a submission under Part 13 of the Regulations for Conduct of University Examinations, that unforeseen circumstances may have had an impact on their performance in an examination. A subset of the board (the 'Mitigating Circumstances Panel') will meet to discuss the individual applications and band the seriousness of each application on a scale of 1–3 with 1 indicating minor impact, 2 indicating moderate impact, and 3 indicating very serious impact. The Panel will evaluate, on the basis of the information provided to it, the relevance of the circumstances to examinations and assessment, and the strength of the evidence provided in support. Examiners will also note whether all or a subset of papers were affected, being aware that it is possible for circumstances to have different levels of impact on different papers. The banding information will be used at the final board of examiners meeting to decide whether and how to adjust a candidate's results. Further information on the procedure is provided in the *Policy and Guidance for examiners, Annex C* and information for students is provided at www.ox.ac.uk/students/academic/exams/guidance.

7. Details of examiners and rules on communicating with examiners

Professor Mark Williams (Chair)

Dr Conor O'Brien (Internal Examiner)

Professor Maire Ni Mhaonaigh (External Examiner)

Candidates should not under any circumstances make contact with individual examiners.