

**MERTON COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD**  
**STIPENDIARY LECTURESHIP IN ANCIENT GREEK**

**1. OVERVIEW**

Merton College proposes to appoint a Stipendiary Lecturer in Ancient Greek to teach undergraduates for an average of 6 hours per week in full term. The appointment will be for the period 1 October 2025 until 30 September 2026. This is a fixed-term appointment to fulfil the College's temporary teaching and organisational needs in Classics arising from the resignation of a current postholder.

**2. MERTON COLLEGE**

Merton College was founded in 1264 by Walter de Merton, and is one of the oldest colleges within the University of Oxford. It was the first fully self-governing college in the University and was originally founded for twenty fellows, with undergraduates being formally admitted in the early 1380s. Over the centuries, many eminent scholars and cultural leaders have called Merton home including four Nobel Prize winners and an Abel Prize winner. Merton College has a strong commitment to excellence in teaching and research across a range of subjects in the Humanities, Social Sciences and Sciences. The College community currently comprises around 590 students (320 undergraduates and 270 postgraduates), some 70 Fellows, 50 other academic staff and over 100 members of support staff. The college strives to create a diverse, welcoming, inclusive and supportive community in which its students can thrive.

**3. CLASSICS AT MERTON COLLEGE**

The University of Oxford offers undergraduates the opportunity to study Ancient Greek either within the Classics degree (Literae Humaniores, lasting for four years) or in combination with other subjects (Merton considers applications for Classics and Modern Languages, Ancient and Modern History, and Classical Archaeology and Ancient History). Undergraduate applicants need not have Greek and/or Latin before they apply. There is a Faculty-based language team which prepares students for language papers in the relevant language to be taken in their first public exams (either Honour Moderations or a Preliminary Examination). In addition to these centrally organised language classes, Merton offers its Classics undergraduates a significant programme of college-based language teaching, as well as essay-based tutorials, to help them prepare for these exams.

The College normally admits four undergraduates each year to read for the Classics degree, and one or two additional students for combined degrees. All Classics students offering Greek for Honour Moderations in the 5<sup>th</sup> term are required to prepare four Greek Text Prescriptions in their first year (Homer *Odyssey*; Euripides *Bacchae*; Aristophanes *Lysistrata*; Lucian *Vera Historia*) from which they have to prepare three for a commentary

paper, as well as working on material for a Greek and Latin Literature Portfolio of presubmitted essays in their second year, and a Greek Unprepared Translation and Language Paper. In addition, Classics students take two special subjects, one in Philosophy and one in Ancient History, Comparative Philology or Classical Archaeology. The current second-year students will be examined on the old syllabus for Honour Moderations, and the successful candidate will also be responsible for part of the teaching.

After completing Honour Moderations, students can take a wide range of subjects for their eight papers in Finals, from various options in Greek and Latin Literature, Philosophy, Ancient History, Archaeology, and Comparative Philology. They may in addition offer an optional thesis in a subject of their choice.

University and College information about the degree courses can be found at the following links:

<http://www.classics.ox.ac.uk/undergrad.html>

<https://www.merton.ox.ac.uk/course/classics>

Merton has two Tutors involved in Classics: Professor Rhiannon Ash (Languages and Literature) and Professor Jonathan Prag (Ancient History). The Classical Archaeologist Professor Irene Lemos is one of the College's Professorial Fellows (without undergraduate teaching responsibilities). The College also has a small number of Lecturers in Classics.

#### **4. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE LECTURER**

Working with the College's Tutors and Lecturers in Classics, the main responsibilities of the Lecturer will be as follows:

- (a) To share in the organisational responsibility for the undergraduate degree of Classics and related joint degrees. Where the postholder is not able to provide tuition personally in a subject, it will be their responsibility to ensure that tutorials are arranged with suitable tutors at other colleges, where possible on an exchange basis.
- (b) To plan and deliver an average of 6 weighted hours<sup>1</sup> of tutorial teaching in each week of full term for first- and second-year undergraduates working towards Honour Moderations, and for the third- and fourth-year undergraduates working towards Finals. This is equivalent to an average of c. 4 contact hours of teaching per week (depending on group size).

There is currently regular need for teaching provision for Honour Moderations in the Greek Literature paper, in Greek language work for the first and second years, in the Greek Texts and Contexts paper for the second years following the old

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<sup>1</sup> The weighting system means that hours spent teaching groups larger than one person count for more than one hour.

<sup>2</sup> Further information on tutorials can be found at:

<http://www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/why-oxford/studying-at-oxford/tutorials>

syllabus for Honour Moderations, and in the Greek Core and Early Greek Hexameter Poetry paper for Finals. In addition, depending on options chosen by individual students, there is some need for teaching in a number of other Greek papers for Finals.

A tutorial typically involves a pair of undergraduates who have been set an assignment to be completed within a week.

- (c) To ensure that the students taught receive timely feedback on their work during term, both week by week and in termly reports on the reporting database, and to attend Warden's progress meetings at the end of term for undergraduates studying Classics. Concerns regarding under-performance should be conveyed to the relevant Director of Studies and the College's Senior Tutor.
- (d) To set internal examinations ('Collections'), mark responses and provide feedback to students.
- (e) To provide induction, study skills and examination preparation support for students studying undergraduate Classics in all years, as required.
- (f) To undertake academic administration (e.g. the planning and organisation of students' options; the endorsement of applications made by students for travel grants and other College assistance; the writing of references; the selection of books for the College Library etc.).
- (g) To participate fully in College admissions procedures for undergraduates, including reading UCAS forms, reviewing test performance, interviewing, and recording evidence used to assess applications and inform selection decisions. The Lecturer will also be expected to contribute to outreach and access initiatives, including College Open Days.
- (h) To take on the role of Director of Studies for a number of undergraduates studying Classics, if requested, and to undertake pastoral responsibilities in liaison with other Directors of Studies and the College Welfare Team, as appropriate.
- (i) To engage with relevant subject societies.
- (j) To act as College Advisor to a number of postgraduate students studying Classics and related disciplines at the College, if requested.

Attendance is strongly encouraged at College events to which Lecturers are invited.

A more detailed guide to tutorial responsibilities and other information, entitled a *Handbook for Fellows and Lecturers*, will be communicated to the successful candidate by the Senior Tutor following appointment.

The Lecturer will be subject to the College's Statutes and Bylaws in force from time to time.

## **5. CRITERIA FOR THE APPOINTMENT**

To be successful, candidates will need to show that they meet the following selection criteria:

### **Essential**

- (i) A strong research background in Ancient Greek as evidenced by having, or being close to completing, a doctorate in a topic relevant to the teaching range required of this postholder, with the ability to demonstrate links between research and teaching.
- (ii) Proven ability or potential to provide excellent small-group for the courses outlined in 4(b) above, particularly to undergraduates of various abilities, including students who may not have studied Ancient Greek before.
- (iii) Ability to be an effective and inspiring teacher of Ancient Greek literature and language, including in understanding and responding to the learning needs of undergraduates, along with the personal qualities needed to foster a high level of achievement by students.
- (iv) Ability to carry out effectively the full range of academic administrative duties, besides teaching, upon which the effective operation of Classics as a subject within the College depends.
- (v) Excellent communication skills and the ability to contribute to the work of the team of academic staff in Classics at Merton College.
- (vi) Ability to take part effectively in the undergraduate admissions exercise and the College's outreach and access work, and to undertake appropriate training, including mandatory requirements for undergraduate admissions.

## **6. REMUNERATION AND CONDITIONS OF THE STIPENDIARY LECTURESHIP**

The stipend for the lectureship will be £18,308 per annum (current rate). A 6-hour lecturer will also be entitled during the appointment to:

- Enrolment in the Universities Superannuation Scheme.
- Free meals at the Common Table when the kitchens are open, with certain designated exceptions.
- Membership of the Senior Common Room, for which a small monthly charge is payable.
- Access to a shared teaching room in College.
- A research allowance of up to £500 per annum for qualifying expenses. To be eligible for this allowance, the lecturer must not have an additional substantive post or be a postgraduate student of Merton College.

## 7. RIGHT TO WORK IN THE UK

The appointment will be conditional on satisfactory provision of proof of the right to work in the UK.

## 8. PROCEDURE FOR APPLICATION AND APPOINTMENT

### Applications

Those wishing to apply for this post should complete the online application form at <http://www.merton.ox.ac.uk/about-merton/vacancies> **AND** email the following as a single PDF document (in this order) to [vacancies@merton.ox.ac.uk](mailto:vacancies@merton.ox.ac.uk) **by the deadline of 9.00 am (UK time) on Wednesday 25 June 2025.**

- a curriculum vitae incorporating details of any publications;
- a statement of teaching range and experience in relation to the selection criteria and needs of the College, as specified above;
- details of two referees.

The PDF should be named in the format '**Last Name First Name Ancient Greek Application**'. Please put your **last name and 'SL in Ancient Greek'** in the subject of the email.

It is anticipated that interviews will be held in the week commencing 21 July 2025.

Any enquiries related to these Further Particulars should be directed in the first instance to [vacancies@merton.ox.ac.uk](mailto:vacancies@merton.ox.ac.uk).

Applicants are encouraged to complete an Equal Opportunities Recruitment Monitoring form. The information collected on the Equal Opportunities Recruitment Monitoring form does not form part of the selection process and will not be circulated to the selection panel. It will be used solely to monitor the effectiveness of the College's equality policy which is published at <http://www.merton.ox.ac.uk/college-policies>

### References

When completing the application form, you will be asked to provide details of two referees. **Applicants are responsible for asking their referees to send references directly to the College by the deadline of 9.00 am (UK time) on Wednesday 25 June 2025.** References should be sent electronically to [vacancies@merton.ox.ac.uk](mailto:vacancies@merton.ox.ac.uk). Hard copy signed references will be required for the successful candidate. The College will not request references directly from referees.

Applicants are also requested to inform their referees that, under the UK General Data Protection Regulation and the Data Protection Act 2018, the references they provide

will be regarded as disclosable to the subject of the reference unless it is clear that the reference has been given in confidence. The College asks that a reference given in confidence should be marked “**strictly confidential**” on the letter of reference itself. Referees should also be asked to note that even where a reference is marked “strictly confidential” it could still be disclosed to the subject of the reference if that subject so requested and the College’s Data Protection Officer deemed it appropriate.

## **9. EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES**

Merton College is an equal opportunities employer.

The policy and practice of Merton College require that all staff are afforded equal opportunities within employment. Entry into employment with the College and progression within employment will be determined only by personal merit and the application of criteria which are related to the duties of each particular post and the relevant salary structure. In all cases, ability to perform the job will be the primary consideration. Subject to statutory provisions, no applicant or member of staff will be treated less favourably than another because of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy or maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation.

## **10. PRIVACY NOTICE**

To view our Privacy notice please see here <https://www.merton.ox.ac.uk/privacy-notice-and-ropas>