



Centre for Medieval & Renaissance Studies, Oxford

In Association with



“

experiencing Oxford through education...

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Welcome to CMRS!

The Centre for Medieval & Renaissance Studies was founded in 1975 by Drs John and Sandy Feneley: first, to establish in Oxford a permanent institute for the interdisciplinary study of the medieval, Renaissance and early modern periods; second, to provide an academic training for overseas students from all disciplines wishing to complete part of their education in Oxford but who are not matriculated members of the University.

Why choose CMRS?

Today, after nearly 40 years of experience, our programme offers a number of unique advantages:

- a first-rate genuine academic experience of Oxford tutors and lecturers including the traditional Oxford one-to-one tutorial
- programmes carefully designed to serve the needs and requirements of students and faculty at US colleges and universities
- a superbly located building right in the centre of Oxford
- an excellent library of some 20000 volumes and access to Oxford's remarkable, huge network of libraries
- a uniquely close relationship with Keble College
- close links with a network of US colleges and universities, especially those in the CMRS Consortium
- exceptionally good value for money

CMRS Consortium of Colleges and Universities

The CMRS Consortium of Colleges and Universities aims to foster CMRS's relationships with a network of US academic institutions. Led by Middlebury College, the Consortium oversees all aspects of the academic programme through its members on CMRS's Academic Board, provides information to prospective students, and supports CMRS activities like faculty conferences and research fellowships. Thus it is hoped that through the affiliation between CMRS and Keble, academic links between Oxford and the United States will be strengthened.



Oxford

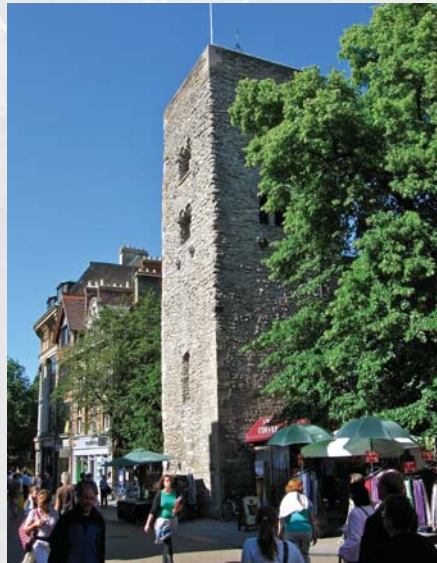
CMRS is located within 150 yards of Carfax, the ancient crossroads of the city and central to Oxford's academic, cultural and social life.

Oxford is home to the most ancient and famous university in the English-speaking world. It has both extraordinary academic assets and a wealth of cultural activities.

There are several world-famous museums and art galleries, such as the Ashmolean, Pitt Rivers, Natural History Museum and Museum of the History of Science. In addition, Oxford has a vibrant musical and dramatic life. Although Christians (and especially Episcopalians) are particularly well served, virtually every major world religion has a worshipping community in Oxford.

The city also offers all the expected modern facilities with an abundance of good shopping, restaurants and sports facilities.

Explore! Oxford is ideally placed for easy access to London and to airports, rail and coach stations for weekend visits to the continent, Ireland or other parts of the United Kingdom.



“you never know what you’ll find or where you’ll find it.”





CMRS Semester Programme

Emphasis at CMRS is on scholarship. The academic programme is carefully devised so that students, primarily undergraduates in their junior and senior years, and first-year graduate students, receive specialized training in Medieval, Renaissance and Early Modern Studies, or follow a more general course of studies in the Liberal Arts.

The Programme combines one-to-one tutorials, small seminar classes and an integral course over a fourteen-week semester. Tutorials and Seminars take advantage of Oxford's academic and cultural life during the ten weeks of the Oxford University year, which is enhanced by the intensive daily lectures, colloquium sessions and field trips of the four week Integral Course. The Autumn semester runs from September to December, and begins with the Integral Course; the Spring semester from January to April and ends with the Integral Course.

Tutorials

The traditional Oxford one-to-one tutorial ensures the closest possible cooperation between students and tutors. This is an extremely creative and flexible teaching method that enables the tutor to adapt a course to the precise requirements of a particular student, and to give that student individual attention and supervision. At a weekly meeting the student and tutor debate the issues of the week's topic as focussed in the student's written work. Students select two tutorial courses each semester from a wide range of options.

"I read, wrote and learned more than I thought possible... And loved every minute of it."

Seminars

Seminars complement the one-to-one work of the tutorial by fostering students' presentational skills, by encouraging students to learn from each other as well as from the tutor, and by requiring a substantial research essay. Considerable importance is attached to the research essay, which is expected to be a substantial and exemplary piece of research, often valuable for future applications to postgraduate or professional programmes. The format of the seminar ranges from one-hour formal lectures followed by a discussion period, to sessions where students present their points for discussion and explore them under the guidance of the tutor. Students select one seminar course each semester from the options available.





“the perfect environment for the pursuit of erudite learning”

Integral Courses

The Integral Courses consist of an exciting series of lectures, field trips and colloquia. The Autumn introduces the Middle Ages and Spring investigates the major developments, from the sixteenth to the early eighteenth century that transformed society and shaped the future of Europe and America.

Lectures

Daily lectures give students the opportunity to hear and learn from renowned Oxford academics. In Autumn, the lectures provide the foundation for the tutorials and seminars that follow. In Spring, some lectures fall during the first ten weeks of the semester but ultimately they provide an intellectual summation in the final weeks.

Colloquium

Students also meet fortnightly throughout the semester with a CMRS tutor to discuss one of the seminal texts introduced in the lecture series. The aim is threefold: to consolidate and enhance the information imparted in the Integral lectures; to subject traditional world views to rigorous investigation; to encourage students to discuss in and outside class their different approaches to learning and living in the modern world.

Field Trips

The city of Oxford is viewed as a vital historical, literary and artistic resource. CMRS gives its students a thorough introduction to the colleges, museums and art galleries of Oxford each semester. In addition to this, a tutor with specialized knowledge of the sites leads four field trips to other destinations of historical importance, such as Stratford upon Avon, Hampton Court, Bath and The Tower of London.

Libraries

Oxford has one of the world's largest and most varied collections of manuscripts and printed books and Semester Programme students have access to Oxford's vast array of libraries.

The Feneley Library at CMRS is a dedicated collection holding the standard works and reference books for all of our courses as well as several specialised collections, some 20,000 volumes in total. The Bodleian Libraries of the University of Oxford cover almost every aspect of human endeavour with something in the region of 11,000,000 items. Access to other libraries includes Keble College Library and Oxford Central Library, and can be extended to Pusey House Library and the Oxford Union Library.

Evaluation

CMRS grades are expressed in American terms to facilitate the transfer of credit. Each course carries four semester hours of credit. The normal academic load is sixteen credits per semester. CMRS courses are not designed to be taken on a Pass/Fail basis. At the end of each semester, a transcript, reports and grades are sent to the student's university or college.





“this became home...”

St Michael's Hall & Accommodation

St Michael's Hall, home to CMRS, was built between 1869 and 1875 and acquired in 1978, is a tall rectangular building in red brick with large arched windows. An arcade housing the entrance leads upstairs to four floors on which are located the various activities of CMRS.



Within St Michael's Hall, students will find accommodation, classrooms, offices, library, a self-catering kitchen, dining and common room for relaxing with superb views across Oxford. The building has full Wi-Fi coverage for laptop users as well as on-site computer and printing facilities.



Accommodation is provided in single and double rooms, with a resident Junior Dean responsible for student welfare at night. Occasionally, students also live in student lodgings or private homes within a mile or two of central Oxford. All properties are carefully inspected to ensure that they are well-equipped, comfortable and well-located in relation to CMRS and Keble.

“St Michael's Hall becomes a new family every term”





“friends I made through my extracurricular activities were some of the best of my life”

Keble College

Founded in 1870 in memory of John Keble, this was the first new college to be established in Oxford since Worcester in 1714. Although one of the largest, it has the reputation of being one of the friendliest colleges in the University, with a strong sense of community among all its members – students, dons and staff. As Associate Members of Keble College, CMRS students are entitled to use of the College's remarkable range of facilities, including College clubs, as well as the huge variety of University clubs and societies.

The Keble College website evokes the atmosphere...

'Although Keble students work hard, they also enjoy their spare time. If you organise your time efficiently you will be able to keep on top of your academic work and have a busy social life. Many students follow their own interests at Oxford, be they for journalism, student politics, or poetry in University-wide groups of like-minded individuals: Oxford has so many social clubs and societies that there's bound to be one to suit you...

The social atmosphere in Keble is relaxed; there's no pressure to play sport, join a particular society or take up a particular position if you don't want to. You can just unwind with friends over a cappuccino in Café Keble, have a drink in the newly refurbished College bar, or watch TV in the Common Room. But if you are interested in music, drama or sport, you'll find plenty to do at Keble. We have an excellent Chapel Choir and College choral society, a flourishing orchestral music society as well as a jazz band and orchestra. Keble students also put on up to four student productions each term in Keble's O'Reilly theatre. Meanwhile, sport – men's and women's – thrives at Keble. Whether you're interested in traditional sports such as rowing and rugby, or attracted to more modern sports such as Dancesport and Ultimate Frisbee, you will be in good company at Keble. Alternatively, you can work out in the College gym.'



Keble College Library is open twenty-four hours a day on a non-borrowing basis. The grandeur of the 'Butterfield' patterned walls, carved wooden screens and furniture may or may not inspire the writing of essays, but is always a very charming place to read and work in the company of others. Its collection of illuminated manuscripts is one of the finest in any Oxford college.



Breakfast, lunch and dinner are offered in Keble's magnificent neo-Gothic Dining Hall each weekday during the university term, with brunch and dinner on Saturdays

and Sundays. Dinner from Sunday to Friday is 'formal' and members of college are required to wear academic gowns, supplied by CMRS to its students. Out of term time special arrangements apply, but CMRS students will be welcome whenever a meal is available. Alternatively, Keble also boasts its own Café which serves a variety of hot and cold drinks, soup, sandwiches, panini, biscuits, fruit and muffins, and is a delightful place to meet friends.

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Here's what some of the 4100 alumni have to say...

“Studying abroad at CMRS is such a fulfilling, unique experience... I wish everyone had the opportunity to spend a semester in St. Michael's Hall.”

“With the backdrop of the beautiful and historically-relevant Oxford, I read, wrote, and learned more than I thought possible in a semester. And I loved every minute of it.”

“...of my friends who have studied abroad elsewhere, I am the only one I know of that had the kind of academic and extracurricular opportunities I had at CMRS.”

“What is unique and wonderful about this experience cannot be contained by words - except to say that it is one you will always treasure.”

“But that's the CMRS experience for you: once you start looking, you never know what you'll find or where you'll find it.”

“CMRS helped me confirm that a career in academia was not just a dream, but an attainable goal.”

“CMRS was one of the most challenging options I could have chosen for my study abroad experience, but was also without a doubt the most rewarding.”

“I consider it an honor that I was able to call St Michael's Hall my home for almost a year.”



“I found myself in this place.”

“CMRS has made Oxford my second home and Medieval Studies a lifelong love.”

“The city of Oxford is an engaging and dynamic place and the staff and tutors of CMRS provide a strong and safe place from which to explore it.”

“CMRS provided me not only the skills to flourish as an enquiring scholar, but with the desire to spend a lifetime in the pursuit of knowledge.”

“Over 25 years on... It was such a transformative life experience that it is no wonder we want to hold on to the friendships and relationships we first nurtured there long ago.”

“CMRS provides a genuine Oxford experience complete with access to wonderful libraries and excellent tutors.”

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Research

CMRS also provides opportunities for faculty members to come to Oxford to conduct research, explore its bibliographical, archival and museum resources, and attend conferences.

Research Fellows pursue their individual scholarly projects with guidance from CMRS as required.

Faculty Development and short international scholarly conferences explore medieval and early modern themes, providing a full academic programme of lectures and visits with scope for participants to present papers.

All these opportunities offer plenty of time for personal research and contemplation.



“You should be quite proud of the Symposium... You achieved your vision.”



Applying to CMRS

CMRS Semester Programme

Qualified students from all disciplines are welcome to apply. Students may apply for one or two semesters. CMRS follows a rolling admissions policy, accepting suitably qualified candidates as they apply until all available spaces are filled.

In order to be considered for admission, candidates should have a Grade Point Average of at least 3.50 on a 4.00 point scale. In considering each applicant, the CMRS Admissions Committee looks first at the transcript(s) but attaches the greatest importance to faculty recommendations, whereby the GPA requirement may on occasion be reconsidered.

In making an application to CMRS students should liaise closely with their Study Abroad or International Education Office to ensure that they fulfil all their home institution's requirements.

Candidates should give thought to their course choices and must consult their academic advisor and obtain the agreement of a senior Academic Officer and Registrar before submitting their application. While the instruction at CMRS is intended to form part of a student's studies for an undergraduate or graduate degree, the final right to accept credits must remain with the home university/college.

<http://www.cmrs.org.uk/students/prospective-students/how-do-i-apply>

Research

Given the ever changing programme of CMRS faculty research opportunities, full details and application information will be advertised on the CMRS website at:

<http://www.cmrs.org.uk/research>





Centre for Medieval & Renaissance Studies, Oxford

St Michael's Hall • Shoe Lane • Oxford OX1 2DP • UK
Telephone: +44 (0)1865 241071
Fax: +44 (0)1865 243740
enquiries@cmrs.org.uk

Click here to find us on:



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- CMRS has undergone a review for educational oversight by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA)