

krasis/κρᾶσις *



Krasis is a unique, museum-based, interdisciplinary teaching and learning programme, which began life at the Ashmolean in 2017, devised by classicist (and historian of ancient Boeotia) Dr Sam Gartland and Teaching Curator [Dr Jim Harris](#). In 2018, the programme won a University of Oxford Humanities Division Teaching Excellence Award. Hilary term 2025 was its 22nd iteration.

Each term Krasis gathers eight early career researchers from the University of Oxford (the Ashmolean Junior Teaching Fellows or AJTFs) and 16 current Oxford undergraduates and taught-postgraduates (the Krasis Scholars) for a series of object-centred symposia, devised and delivered by the Teaching Fellows, who each address a shared theme from the standpoint of their own discipline and their own research.

For the Krasis Scholars, the programme offers first-hand insight into what an academic pathway might look like, and provides a rare opportunity to learn directly from researchers and to contribute to the conversation from within their degree specialism. For the AJTFs, it offers a forum for interdisciplinary dialogue and a ready, able team of students and colleagues to explore creative, imaginative approaches to collaborative, collections-based teaching. For all participants, it offers the chance to engage with the peerless collections of the Ashmolean at first hand.

Over the past seven years, Krasis has seen series on Power, the Body, Absence, Presence, Performance, Devotion, Imitation, Voices in Conflict, Movement/Transition, Play, Danger, Identity, Constraint, Opening, Becoming, Belonging, Re-Use, Work, Dialogue, Container, Wealth, Intersections, and Ruptures. We have used objects ranging from kimonos, musical scores and Tibetan musical instruments to Renaissance bronzes, newspaper advertisements, palaeolithic hand-axes and ancient Egyptian magic wands.

Most recently, we have used images loaned to the Ashmolean by the Terra Foundation for American Art to anchor each symposium, with Teaching Fellows connecting outwards from them to explore, for example, Chinese jade, the anthropology of obesity, economic aspiration in the French Revolution, witchcraft and common wealth in early modern Europe, and gift-giving in pre-Christian Sweden, in symposia involving four thousand years of objects from Egypt, China, Japan, Europe and ancient West Asia.

Krasis Teaching Fellows and Scholars have come from Classics, English, History, Economics, Fine Art, Chemistry, Archaeology, Anthropology, Egyptology, Assyriology, Russian, Japanese Studies, German, Earth Sciences, Engineering, Politics, French, Portuguese, History of Art, Arabic, Physics, Statistics, Islamic Studies, Development Studies, Geography, Music, South Asian Studies, Philosophy, Linguistics, Theology, Women's Studies, Experimental Psychology and Law, and from almost every college of the University.

The growing number of former Scholars returning as Teaching Fellows testifies to the impact of Krasis on its participants. If you'd like to take part, please fill out the application form and return it to krasis@ashmus.ox.ac.uk by 5pm on Friday of 8th week, 14th March.

* Ancient Greek: *krasis* - a good mix, compound or union (as of wine and water at the symposium)



krasis/κράσις



Four afternoons to change your way of thinking. Forever.

We talk a lot about interdisciplinary work at Oxford. We like the idea of being in a multi-disciplinary university, the idea that our different kinds of expertise might have the potential to inform and draw upon one another in interesting ways.

However, opportunities to work across disciplines at undergraduate level are rare. The same is true for those embarking on academic life, either while writing a DPhil or beginning a teaching career. **Krasis** aims to remedy that, whilst also offering the chance to engage with the Ashmolean and its collections.

Each term, **Krasis** brings together Early Career Researchers (the **Ashmolean Junior Teaching Fellows**) and undergraduates and MSt students (the **Krasis Scholars**) to collaborate on a series of interdisciplinary symposia at the Museum.

Each termly series addresses a single theme, but each symposium is led from the particular disciplinary perspective of one of the Fellows. The conversation is anchored in objects from the Museum's collections and the research of the Fellows, but the direction it takes depends entirely on the participants.

For the Krasis Scholars, no extensive preparatory reading is required, nor any knowledge of the specialisms of the Teaching Fellows, but at every symposium you will encounter cutting-edge research and find out something about academic life beyond the BA or MSt. You'll also get a cup of tea.

Krasis Scholars must be prepared to bring their own discipline to bear on each week's topic, but this is not a seminar to discuss what you already know. It is a chance to use what you know to explore what you don't. What is essential is a curious, collaborative mind, a willingness to get stuck in to a discussion, to allow your academic prejudices to be broken down, to live outside your intellectual comfort zone.

One theme. Many approaches. Tea.

A commitment to four afternoons that might change your way of thinking forever.



Krasis Scholar's Application Form

Each Krasis symposium takes place at the Ashmolean Museum on Wednesday afternoon, from 2 - 4.45pm, and the commitment required of a Krasis Scholar is to attend four symposia over the course of a single term.

Each Scholar is partnered for the term with one other, and with one of the Teaching Fellows.

It is essential that you commit to all **four afternoons**, and therefore that you speak to your Director of Studies/tutor about your participation in the programme.

There are 16 Krasis Scholars each term, divided into two groups.

Group 1 meets in Weeks 1, 3, 5 and 7

Group 2 meets in Weeks 2, 4, 6 and 8

In addition, we all meet online for an introductory hour on the Wednesday of 0th week at 2pm.

Name:
Email:
Subject:
College:
Degree and Year of study:
How did you hear about Krasis:
Why are you applying to become a Krasis Scholar and what will you bring to the programme? (Max. 250 words)

