



UNIVERSITY OF  
**OXFORD**

Undergraduate  
Prospectus  
2014 Entry



OXFORD  
Radcliffe Observatory  
Quarter  
Radcliffe Humanities

MUSEUM OF  
NATURAL  
HISTORY  
Pitt Rivers  
MUSEUM

ST GILES



UNIVERSITY  
SCIENCE AREA

BROAD STREET

HOLYWELL MUSIC ROOM

Radcliffe Camera  
The High  
Bodleian Library

HIGH STREET



COWLEY ROAD

THE ULTIMATE PICTURE PALACE

**OXFORD**  
anything is possible

# OXFORD

anything is possible



## Academic excellence

Oxford's intensive teaching style is intellectually challenging, and leads to a world-class education.

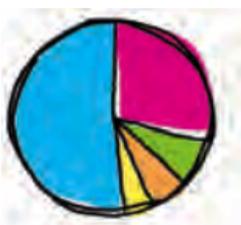
See pp 6–7



## Great financial support

Oxford offers the most generous support of any university in the UK to those from the lowest-income backgrounds.

See pp 182–183



## Top career outcomes

When our undergraduates go on to full-time work, they have a median income 20% higher than the UK average within 6 months of graduating.

See pp 179–181



## Hundreds of course options

Oxford offers traditional courses and more unusual ones, some of which are unique to us.

See pp 32–139



## Individual attention

Oxford is made up of small academic communities called colleges, where you will be taught in small groups or even one-to-one.

See pp 140–178



## World-class resources

Oxford's libraries and museums are second to none in their historical buildings and collections. Whether your interest is fossils or first editions, you can find something to interest you here.

See pp 8–11



## At the cutting edge

Yes, we are an innovative research institution, but that's not all that's modern about Oxford. We have many brand-new buildings and a wifi network covering most of the city centre.

See p 12



## A diverse student body

Whoever you are and wherever you're from, Oxford wants to welcome you. We have students from 138 different countries and aged 17–87.

See pp 13–19



## The Oxford experience

Oxford students like to play as hard as they work. The city has vibrant nightlife and a thriving live music scene, while hundreds of student societies cover every conceivable interest.

See pp 20–31



no. **1** IN EUROPE

no. **2** IN THE WORLD

Times Higher Education  
World University Rankings  
2012–13



#### DISCLAIMER

The course details are correct at the time of going to press in January 2013. Any updates or changes to information can be found on our web pages, [ox.ac.uk/study](http://ox.ac.uk/study)

#### PRODUCTION

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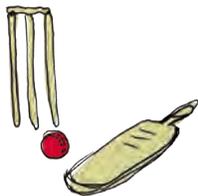
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Wednesday 26 June | Thursday 27 June | Friday 20 September

There are also various smaller events throughout the year. See p 186 or [ox.ac.uk/opendays](http://ox.ac.uk/opendays)



## Do you need this prospectus in another format?

Download a high contrast version from [ox.ac.uk/moreinfo](http://ox.ac.uk/moreinfo)

Braille, large print and audio formats are also available on request from:



Admissions Information Centre

+44 (0) 1865 288000

[undergraduate.admissions@admin.ox.ac.uk](mailto:undergraduate.admissions@admin.ox.ac.uk)

[ox.ac.uk/study](http://ox.ac.uk/study)



Oxford has been awarded the **Buttle UK Quality Mark** in recognition of support offered to care leavers throughout the application process and during their time studying here. If you have spent time in care and are thinking of applying, or you are supporting a care-leaver in this situation, you can visit [ox.ac.uk/students/shw/careleavers](http://ox.ac.uk/students/shw/careleavers) for more information and contact details.

*It felt great to find out that I was going to receive such generous financial support, far beyond what I might have previously hoped for. I was genuinely surprised by the size of the scholarship and the range of opportunities it could provide.*

Nikita, Moritz Heyman scholar



# Contents

## Introduction

- 2 Is Oxford for me?
- 4 I love Oxford
- 6 An Oxford degree

## About Oxford

- 8 Libraries
- 10 Museums and collections
- 12 IT Services
- 12 Language Centre
- 13 Support and well-being
- 14 Disabled students
- 15 Equality for all
- 16 International students
- 18 Mature students
- 20 Clubs and societies
- 21 Oxford University Student Union (OUSU)
- 22 Drama
- 23 Sport
- 24 Music
- 24 Choral and organ awards
- 26 Exploring Oxford
- 28 Where will I live?
- 30 A day in the life

## Applying to Oxford

- 31 How to apply
- 32 Oxford courses
- 33 Entrance requirements
- 34 Subject requirements

## Courses

- 36 Archaeology and Anthropology
- 38 Biochemistry
- 40 Biological Sciences
- 42 Biomedical Sciences
- 44 Chemistry
- 46 Classical Archaeology and Ancient History
- 48 Classics
- 50 Classics and English
- 52 Classics and Modern Languages
- 54 Classics and Oriental Studies
- 56 Computer Science
- 58 Computer Science and Philosophy
- 60 Earth Sciences
- 62 Economics and Management
- 64 Engineering Science
- 66 English Language and Literature
- 68 English and Modern Languages
- 70 European and Middle Eastern Languages
- 72 Experimental Psychology
- 74 Fine Art
- 76 Geography
- 78 History
- 80 History (Ancient and Modern)
- 82 History and Economics
- 84 History and English
- 86 History and Modern Languages
- 88 History and Politics
- 90 History of Art
- 92 Human Sciences
- 94 Law (Jurisprudence)
- 96 Materials Sciences
- 98 Materials, Economics and Management
- 100 Mathematics
- 102 Mathematics and Computer Science
- 104 Mathematics and Philosophy

## COURSES CONTINUED

- 106 Mathematics and Statistics
- 108 Medicine
- 112 Modern Languages
- 116 Modern Languages and Linguistics
- 118 Music
- 120 Oriental Studies
- 124 Philosophy and Modern Languages
- 126 Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE)
- 128 Philosophy and Theology
- 130 Physics
- 132 Physics and Philosophy
- 134 Psychology, Philosophy and Linguistics
- 136 Theology and Religion
- 138 Theology and Oriental Studies

## Colleges

- 140 Oxford colleges
- 142 Which colleges offer my course?
- 144 The colleges (alphabetically)

## Careers and finance

- 179 Your career after Oxford
- 180 Oxford graduates: in demand
- 181 Oxford for life
- 182 Student finance

## Ways to find out more

- 184 Visiting Oxford
- 185 Oxford on the web
- 186 Open days
- 188 Events near you

## Index and maps

- 190 Index
- 191 Small print
- 192 Map



*Oxford gave me confidence to argue my point and think for myself, and opened doors to the best employers in the country.*

Gary, Managing Director CD (UK) LTD

# Is **OXFORD** for me?



## What you need to know

Choosing your university is a life-changing decision, exciting and daunting. Lots of people might tell you what they think, but you need to feel able to make this decision for yourself. In this prospectus, we hope you will find all you need to know about Oxford in order to help you decide whether undergraduate life at this university may be for you.

## About us...

### What can I study?

- Oxford offers both traditional courses and more unusual ones, some of which are unique to the University. Read more about them on pp 36–139.

### How will I be taught?

- You will be taught in small groups by experts in your subject. There are also lectures and, depending on your subject, classes or practicals. See *An Oxford degree* (p 6).

### What is a college?

- Oxford University is made up of many different colleges. All students are members of a college, which provides welfare support and academic supervision. See *Oxford Colleges* (p 140).

### Where will I live?

- Your college will provide accommodation for your first year. After this, you can choose to live in college for at least one more year, or move out and rent in town with friends. See *Where will I live?* (p 28).

### Will I be happy?

- We very much hope so! Oxford regularly comes top of student satisfaction surveys and only 1.1% of Oxford students drop out, compared to a national average of 8.6%.
- There is lots of support available if you need it – see *Support and well-being* (p 13).

### Will an Oxford degree help me get a job?

- Nearly 95% of Oxford leavers are employed six months after graduating, and those in full-time jobs have a median salary that is 20% higher than the UK average. See *Your career after Oxford* (p 179) and *Oxford graduates: in demand* (p 180).

### Can I afford it?

- Around a quarter of first-years are given an Oxford bursary which they never have to pay back.
- UK and EU students can access a loan to cover the whole cost of their tuition fees, and around a sixth of first-years also receive a fee reduction from Oxford
- See *Student finance* (pp 182–183)

### Is it just hard work?

- Oxford is famous for its student social life. It's quite hard to have an interest which you can't pursue here – there are over 600 clubs and societies, and you can always start your own. See *Clubs and Societies* (p 20), *Drama* (p 22), *Sport* (p 23), *Music* (p 24).

And if after reading the following pages you still have unanswered questions, you can visit our website ([ox.ac.uk/study](http://ox.ac.uk/study)), contact the Admissions Information Centre (p 184), or come to one of our open days (p 186).

## About applying...

### Am I clever enough?

- If you expect to achieve AAA or more at A-level (or similar grades in an equivalent qualification – see [ox.ac.uk/enreqs](http://ox.ac.uk/enreqs)) then you could make a competitive application to Oxford. The exact grades required will depend on the course – see pp 36–139.

### What subjects do I need?

- That depends on the course – see *Subject requirements* (pp 34–35). Apart from any specific requirements, we accept almost all subjects – particularly those which can demonstrate that you have the necessary skills for your chosen degree.

### Can someone from my school ever get in?

- Absolutely yes. Oxford does not care where you have been to school as long as you can show the required academic potential.

### Do I have to be an all-rounder?

- The honest answer is no – selection at Oxford is purely academic. Unless your extra-curricular achievements can help demonstrate your passion and commitment for your subject, they won't influence whether or not you get a place.

### Do I have to choose a college?

- When you apply, you can specify which college you'd prefer, but it is not required; in 2012, 38.1% of successful applicants got an offer from a college they didn't specify. See *Oxford Colleges* (p 140).

### Is there a test?

- Many courses require you to take an admissions test in November, and to register for it by October. It is your responsibility to make sure you register for any test in time. Details of tests are on the individual course pages pp 36–139, or at [ox.ac.uk/tests](http://ox.ac.uk/tests).

### What about the interview?

- If you are shortlisted, we will invite you to interview. Interviews are held in December and are designed to see if you are likely to enjoy studying here. Find out more at [ox.ac.uk/interviews](http://ox.ac.uk/interviews).

### What if I don't live in the UK?

- All students compete for the same places and apply in exactly the same way.
- If you are shortlisted for interview, this may happen by telephone or Skype.
- The only exception to this is Medicine – see p 108.
- See *International students* (p 16).

## about you...

If you can answer yes to some, or ideally all of these, then we'd love you to apply.

- there's a course at oxford in a subject I'm passionate about.
- I have an outstanding academic record and do better than most of my year at school.
- I can't resist finding out more about my favourite subject, and I love talking about it.
- I'm not daunted by exams and feel able to do myself justice in them.



# OXFORD

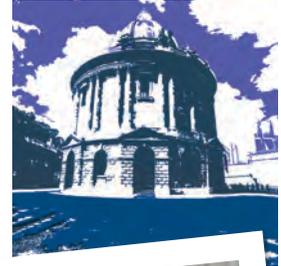
## At the heart of learning

Oxford retains a special place in the academic landscape of the UK and in the hearts of those who live, study and teach here.

There are many reasons why Oxford generates such admiration, pride and loyalty. No individual reason is unique, but when they are all viewed together it becomes clear that Oxford is a university like no other. These are the characteristics that have differentiated Oxford from all other universities for hundreds of years, and will continue to form the essence of the Oxford experience for years to come.

*I didn't know what to expect from Oxford other than a great education. In fact those three years have stayed with me in all sorts of ways. But perhaps most importantly I left university feeling able to choose who I wanted to be and what I wanted to do. I still feel lucky to have been there.*

Oxford graduate



### The college system

Every student at Oxford is a member of a college. They are sometimes compared to halls of residence at other universities, but they are so much more besides. Your college will be your home for much of your time at Oxford, providing accommodation, meals, a library and IT support. The relatively small number of students at each college allows for close and supportive personal attention to be given to your induction, academic development and welfare.

See p 140 for more information about colleges at Oxford.

### Financial support

Oxford is strongly committed to this principle: **if you are a UK student and have the talent and ability to study with us, you should never be put off from applying for financial reasons.** For example: in 2012–13, an English student starting at Oxford could receive up to £7,550 in grants and bursaries that they never have to pay back, as well as being entitled to government loans to cover their fees plus up to £3,575.

See pp 182–183 for more information about financial support at Oxford.

**OXFORD:  
MOST  
GENEROUS**

*In 2012–13, Oxford's financial support is the most generous of all English universities for UK and EU students from the lowest income households: no strings attached! (Based on analysis of data at [www.unifees2012.com](http://www.unifees2012.com).)*

### Tutorial teaching

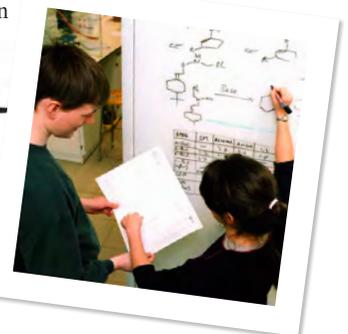
'Tutor' is Oxford's name for a member of academic staff. They are often world-leading experts in their field, and tutorials are a chance to get individualised teaching from them. At least once a week in each subject studied, groups of two or three students will spend an hour with their tutor, discussing a topic in depth.

This personalised attention means that you will face rigorous academic challenges on a weekly basis, encouraging and facilitating your learning in a way that just isn't possible in a lecture. It also means that tutors are immediately aware if you need any extra support with any aspect of your course, so they can help you right away.

### Career opportunities

Oxford graduates are highly valued by employers for their communication, leadership and problem-solving skills. Hundreds of recruiters visit the University each year, and nearly 95% of all Oxford leavers are in work or further study six months after leaving. The Careers Service can help you find an internship, learn business skills and land your dream job.

See pp 179–181 for more information about careers after Oxford.





# An **OXFORD** degree

Oxford University is world-famous for academic excellence. We pick the best and brightest students purely on their academic merit and passion for their chosen course. If that sounds like you, and you like to think for yourself, Oxford could be the right university for you. The system of teaching at Oxford combines the best of one-to-one or small group tutorials in college, with the wealth of resources in the University. Students share lectures, classes and practicals in their department, depending on their subject. Studying at Oxford is exciting: a springboard from which to dive into an ocean of opportunities.

*anything is possible*

selecting the right course is the most important decision you will have to make when applying to university

# Course



Each Oxford course has a compulsory core, plus various options you can choose from to tailor it to your personal interests. These aspects of the course are organised by departments of the central university:

## Lectures

All students in a particular subject will come together for lectures. These provide core information about different elements of your course that you may find useful in tutorials, essays or exams.

## Practicals

All students in science-based subjects come together for labwork and/or fieldwork. Typically, science students can expect at least two half-days in the lab per week.

## Assessment

Oxford courses have two stages. There are exams at the end of the first stage (usually, the end of the first year) that you must pass to continue the course, but don't count for your final grade.

After this, assessment depends on the course you are studying (see pp 36–139). You might sit your Finals (three-hour exams on which your final grade is based) at the end of your last year, or at the end of each year. Some exams may be replaced by a project or extended essay, or there might be an oral exam.



colleges are not just where you live, but in most cases are your base for tutorial teaching

# College



Tutorials take place at least once a week and it's up to you to research and prepare for them. Then you meet your tutor, perhaps with one or two other students, to discuss an essay or solutions to set problems. The aim is to review your answers or theories and explore ideas that arise in discussion.

A tutorial relies on the exchange of ideas between you, your tutor and other students. You don't need to be experienced in debating – just ready to present and defend your opinions, accept constructive criticism and listen to others.

Tutorials develop your ability to think for yourself – not only an essential ability for academic success but also a skill that the best employers look for in Oxford graduates.

oxford university has  
more than 100 libraries



# Libraries

## Read your key texts...

Whether you're writing an essay or preparing for an experiment, you'll be given a reading list to start from. You can find the books you need for this in your college or department, or both.

**College libraries** are open to everyone in your college. They stock the core materials for your course, and have generous lending arrangements. They are often open 24 hours a day, providing quiet, convenient places to study. The college librarian can help you to find what you need, and in many cases will order books in specially.

**Subject libraries** are open to everyone on your course. Staff in these libraries will include specialists in your subject area. They often run classes to help you make the most of what they can offer.

## ...or research your topic in-depth...

When you find something really interesting, Oxford makes it easy to go beyond your reading list and find out more. Most courses offer a chance to write a dissertation or carry out a research project.

**Subject librarians** are your guides to Oxford's world-class research collections. They can advise on the latest publications in your field, or on the best databases to search.

**The Bodleian Library** is the UK's second largest library with more than 11,000,000 volumes on 117 miles of shelves. It is a legal deposit library, meaning it can claim a copy of any book or journal published in the UK or Ireland. All Oxford students are entitled to use 'The Bod' for their research.



*The Radcliffe Science Library has a fantastic supply of books to help with studying. College libraries are really well-stocked too, so I have never needed to buy my own medical textbooks.*

Alex

### **...without even leaving your room**

Oxford has an extensive online collection, available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. This includes databases, books, reference works and the best online journal collection in the UK. These are available to members of the University from anywhere with an internet connection.

Find out more about what we have to offer:

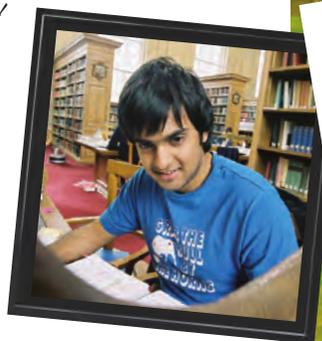
- SOLO (Search Oxford Libraries Online) – [solo.bodleian.ox.ac.uk](http://solo.bodleian.ox.ac.uk) – lists all our books and journals, in print and online.
- OxLIP+ – [oxlip-plus.bodleian.ox.ac.uk](http://oxlip-plus.bodleian.ox.ac.uk) – lists all our databases, electronic reference works and e-journals.
- LibGuides – [libguides.bodleian.ox.ac.uk](http://libguides.bodleian.ox.ac.uk) – research assistance, subject guides and how the Oxford library system works.

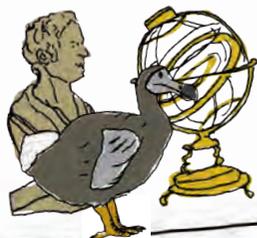
### **(Although, you might want to leave your room)**

Oxford has a mix of old and new libraries, which offer a fantastic range of places to study. Choose from Duke Humfrey's (built in 1488, and used as the Hogwarts library in the Harry Potter films), the elegant circular Radcliffe Camera, the bright modern Social Science Library, and many more.

*Sitting in the Bodleian Library at the same desk that might once have been occupied by John Locke and Robert Hooke, I feel part of the University's rich history.*

Olinga





oxford museums – full  
of wonderful treasures

# Museums and collections

Oxford has collections of international importance – databanks for research, teaching and study – full of wonderful treasures that anyone can enjoy. Here we highlight the five major museums and the Botanic Garden, but there are other collections in departments and colleges. All welcome volunteers to work with the public or the collection.

## Ashmolean Museum

This is the world's oldest public museum and the most important museum of art and archaeology in this country outside London, as well as being the greatest university museum in the world. It has a strong collection of European graphic art, with drawings by Michelangelo, Leonardo and Raphael.

Following a major redevelopment, the Ashmolean Museum now offers 39 new galleries, a purpose-built Education Centre, and three new study centres with hands-on access to reserve collections.

Students of Ancient History, Anthropology, Archaeology, Art, Classics or History of Art will certainly use the museum.

[www.ashmolean.org](http://www.ashmolean.org)

## Oxford University Museum of Natural History

The spectacular neo-Gothic architecture of a Grade I listed building houses the University's zoological, entomological and geological specimens. Among its famous features are a dodo, the first dinosaur to be scientifically identified, and the swifts in the tower. The Archaeology, Biology and Earth Sciences courses make use of its staff expertise and collections.

[www.oum.ox.ac.uk](http://www.oum.ox.ac.uk)

## Museum of the History of Science

The world's oldest purpose-built museum building houses an unrivalled collection of scientific instruments, from antiquity to the 20th century. Astrolabes, sundials, quadrants, mathematical and optical instruments, and apparatus associated with chemistry, natural philosophy and medicine are displayed, alongside temporary exhibitions. The collections are used in teaching History of Science and History of Art.

[www.mhs.ox.ac.uk](http://www.mhs.ox.ac.uk)

## Pitt Rivers Museum

The Pitt Rivers is a museum of ethnography and world archaeology, celebrated for its period feel and the density of its displays. Courses that use the museum's resources include Human Sciences, Archaeology and Anthropology, Geography, Classics, History of Art and Fine Art. Recent redevelopment at the Museum has added fresh research and teaching facilities for students and academics, and reinstated the original entrance to the Museum. It takes its name and founding collection from General Pitt Rivers, the distinguished collector and scholar.

[www.prm.ox.ac.uk](http://www.prm.ox.ac.uk)

## Bate Collection

The Bate Collection is one of the most magnificent collections of musical instruments in the world. The Bate has more than 2,000 instruments from the renaissance, through the baroque, classical and romantic periods up to modern times. More than a thousand instruments are on display, by all the most important makers and from pre-eminent collectors. Music and History of Art undergraduates make use of the collection.

[www.bate.ox.ac.uk](http://www.bate.ox.ac.uk)

## Botanic Garden

This acts as a reference collection of 6,000 types of plant: it is the most compact yet diverse collection of plants in the world, and the oldest such garden in Britain. Plants grown here support teaching and research, in the University and elsewhere, and the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation. The 130 acre Harcourt Arboretum is also part of the Botanic Garden and is the site of a new wildflower meadow restoration project. The garden contributes to the Biological Sciences and Medicine courses.

[www.botanic-garden.ox.ac.uk](http://www.botanic-garden.ox.ac.uk)







the university wifi network covers most of central oxford, including parks and pubs!

## IT Services



### Mobile Oxford

Whether you need maps, library books, the next bus, or even collection times at the nearest postbox, Mobile Oxford is here to help.



### IT learning programme

You can choose from more than 200 different free or low-cost courses each term. From fundamental skills in the common Office applications through to web design, programming and multi-media, you can find it all at [courses.it.ox.ac.uk](http://courses.it.ox.ac.uk)

### Podcasts and iTunes U

Public lectures, teaching material, interviews with leading academics – all available to download for free. You can also download podcasts about the admissions process.



### Help and support

The IT Services Help Centre has a number of public PCs and Macs with a range of popular software, as well as scanning and printing facilities. They provide general support and advice by email, telephone, and in person. Colleges and departments can also provide local help with IT problems.

 [www.it.ox.ac.uk](http://www.it.ox.ac.uk)

## Language Centre

you can learn a new language or keep an old one, whatever degree you're studying



**LASR (Languages for Study and Research)** – term-time courses in French, German, Modern Greek, Italian, Mandarin Chinese, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, and Welsh, at most levels from beginner to advanced. These are primarily (but not exclusively) for those who need foreign languages for their study or research.

**OPAL (Oxford University Programme in Languages)** – certificated evening courses in a more limited range of languages (which includes Arabic, Chinese and Japanese) for highly motivated language learners.

Special courses are currently organised for undergraduates studying **Chemistry** (French, German and Spanish), **Engineering Science** (French and German), **Law** (French and Dutch), **Mathematics** (French and German), **Materials Science** (any of the LASR and OPAL courses), **Modern History** (French and German), **History of Art** (Italian), and **Physics** (French, German and Spanish).

Charges apply for some courses, but these are often covered (at least in part) by your department.

**English language support** is offered to international students – see p 16 for further details.

**The Language Library** has text, audio, video and computer-based material in about 150 languages, satellite reception in 13, and subscriptions to many language-learning websites.



 [www.lang.ox.ac.uk](http://www.lang.ox.ac.uk)



student support and welfare are important priorities for the university, so there is always someone you can turn to

# Support and well-being

## College support

One of the benefits of being part of a college community (see p 140) is that there is always help available if you run into any problems. This varies from college to college, but normally includes your subject tutor, student 'peer supporters', people in designated welfare roles, a National Health Service doctor (with whom you can enrol normally in your first week), and a college nurse who is available for minor medical problems.

*I am one of six trained peer supporters in my college. Our photos and phone numbers are up around college for people to get in touch if they want to.*

*As college LGBTQ rep\*, I organise things like 'LGBTQ Teas' and dinners out with nearby colleges. Oxford is an incredibly welcoming and supportive environment, and my job is to make it even more so.*

Daniel, 2nd year

\*see p 15

## University support

### Student funding

Oxford's financial support is unrivalled among UK universities, giving grants and bursaries to around 1 in 4 students in 2012–13. For more information on the support available, see pp 182–183.

### Student Counselling Service

The counselling service is staffed by fully trained counsellors, psychologists and psychotherapists who are available to help you address personal or emotional problems that get in the way of having a good experience at Oxford and realising your full academic and personal potential. Its aim is to help you develop a greater ability to take decisions for yourself that effect real change. As well as individual and group sessions there are also workshops and self-help materials available. [ox.ac.uk/students/shw](http://ox.ac.uk/students/shw)

### Harassment

The University is committed to maintaining a working, learning and social environment in which the rights and dignity of all members of the University community are respected. The University has a network of Harassment Advisors in colleges and departments and runs a dedicated harassment line.

[www.admin.ox.ac.uk/eop/har](http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/eop/har)

### Childcare

Extensive childcare provision for student parents is available at reduced rates. University Childcare Services manage multi-site nursery provision within Oxford, and four colleges operate independent nurseries. The University's Childcare Fund can offer financial support to students with childcare related costs. [www.admin.ox.ac.uk/childcare](http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/childcare)

## By students, for students

### Oxford Nightline

Nightline is a confidential listening, information and support service run by students, for students. It is open overnight, 8pm–8am, every night in term-time. A male and a female volunteer are always available. [users.ox.ac.uk/~nightln](http://users.ox.ac.uk/~nightln)

### Student Advice Service

The Student Advice Service (run by Oxford University Student Union) is a free and confidential source of information, advice and advocacy for students. The service can help with both simple information requests and more complex problems, such as accommodation, harassment and abuse, academic problems, complaints and appeals. [www.ousu.org](http://www.ousu.org)  
[advice@ousu.org](mailto:advice@ousu.org)



*I was convinced somebody had made a mistake letting me into Oxford. I got to the point where I started to think I should leave before they told me to. My counsellor helped me to understand why I felt a fraud and we worked on how I could change the way I thought about myself. I got a first in Finals!*

Zara, graduated 2012

over 1,600 students are registered with oxford's disability service



## Disabled students

The University welcomes applications from disabled students, and makes reasonable adjustments to facilitate access to courses.

The **Disability Advisory Service (DAS)** provides confidential information, advice and assistance with coordinating practical study support arrangements. With more than 1,600 students registered with the Service in the 2012–13 academic year, the DAS fulfils a crucial role for prospective and current disabled students. This includes students with disabilities including dyslexia, dyspraxia (and other specific learning difficulties), students on the Autistic Spectrum or with long-term mental health difficulties or health conditions.

Find out about disabled students' experiences at Oxford at [ox.ac.uk/students/shw/das/profiles](http://ox.ac.uk/students/shw/das/profiles) and [ox.ac.uk/swd](http://ox.ac.uk/swd).

For **access to your course materials**, the University can supply audio recordings, Braille texts or formats compatible with screen-readers, magnification and scanning software. Further information on support provided by the Accessible Resources Unit can be found at [www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/services/disability/aracu](http://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/services/disability/aracu).

The Disability Advisory Service arranges **support workers** for disabled students, including note-takers, mentors and library assistants. Special examination arrangements may be available for students with a range of disabilities including specific learning difficulties (SpLDs) such as dyslexia and dyspraxia. With appropriate supporting evidence, arrangements such as extra time, rest breaks, word-processing and rescheduling of examinations can be considered.

The **Assessment Centre** provides study needs assessments for any student who is applying for the Disabled Students' Allowance. Find out more by visiting [ox.ac.uk/students/shw/das/assessment](http://ox.ac.uk/students/shw/das/assessment).

*The unimaginable has happened - I have been awarded a degree with distinction and a prize for best dissertation. I was able to do an amazing amount of work and edit my dissertation very fast with the assistive technology you recommended and put in place. For once I was able to do a vast amount of work without it impacting on my health.*

Sabena, graduated 2012

where do I fit in?

The Oxford University Student Union **Disabled Students Campaign** aims to enhance the student experience and raise awareness amongst all students. [www.ousu.org](http://www.ousu.org)

*As Disabilities Officer for the Student Union I was involved in making Disability Awareness Week into a permanent annual event involving speeches at the Oxford Union, a comedy event with disabled comedians, and much much more. I also help numerous people with disabilities get the help that they deserve.*

Andrew, 3rd year

Details of the **Disability Equality Scheme** can be found at [ox.ac.uk/students/shw/das](http://ox.ac.uk/students/shw/das).

Candidates are advised to consider the requirements of their chosen course before applying, and identify any elements that might present particular difficulties. The Disability Advisory Service recommends that candidates visit their college and department of choice, to explore facilities and discuss specific needs, and is happy to help with visits by individuals. It is essential to contact the department and Disability Advisory Service as early as possible in the application process so that any necessary arrangements can be made well in advance of the start of the course. [ox.ac.uk/students/shw/das/contacts](http://ox.ac.uk/students/shw/das/contacts)





if you have high academic ability and potential, you're the kind of person we'd like to welcome to oxford

# Equality for all

You will have the chance to make a unique contribution while enjoying the opportunity to study and socialise with talented people from a wide range of backgrounds, and with a huge variety of interests and passions. Admissions decisions are based solely on the individual merits of each candidate and the application of selection criteria appropriate to the course of study. Students and staff all contribute to making Oxford an inclusive environment where every member of the community feels respected and valued.

where do I fit in?

## Female students

In addition to an annual student-run Gender Equality Festival, there is a vibrant Women's Campaign within Oxford University Student Union (OUSU). The Campaign aims to create a space where all students can meet to talk freely about their experiences and work to enhance the experience of the University's female population.

*I am involved in organising weekly discussions and fun events to challenge gender inequality within the university and beyond. In the past year we have held poetry open mics, a comedy night, and a Feminist Forum.*

Sophie, 2nd year

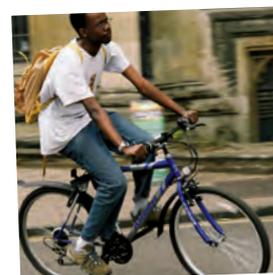


## Black & Ethnic Minority students

CRAE (the OUSU campaign for Cultural and Racial Awareness and Equality) seeks to celebrate the diversity in Oxford. The Race Equality Network supports staff and students by providing a forum for networking and discussion on issues of race, ethnicity and identity. Annual events include Black History Month.

*CRAE is a safe space within which people can freely talk about hard and often silenced issues. It aims to make Oxford University inclusive and welcoming for people of all racial and cultural backgrounds; and to raise awareness of and celebrate cultural and racial diversities.*

Josh, 3rd year



## Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Queer/Questioning (LGBTQ) students

There is a University LGBTQ Society, which runs numerous social events and organises speakers and careers events. OUSU has an 'LGBTQ campaign' which works to enhance the experience of LGBTQ students.

*During my time as Trans Rep, I convened a series of lectures on transgender experiences, and was part of a successful campaign to remove gender restrictions on the clothes we wear for official university events.*

Gail, 3rd year



**Mature students** See pp 18–19

**International students** See pp 16–17

The University's **Equality and Diversity Unit** works with all parts of the University to develop and promote understanding of equality and diversity and ensure that this is reflected in all its processes. The Unit also supports the University in meeting the legal requirements of the Equality Act 2010, including eliminating unlawful discrimination, promoting equality of opportunity and fostering good relations between people with and without the 'protected characteristics' of age, disability, gender, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion and/or belief and sexual orientation. Please see our website for further details of our work to promote equality, or contact us directly for advice. [www.admin.ox.ac.uk/eop](http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/eop)

oxford university is internationally renowned for academic excellence.



# International students

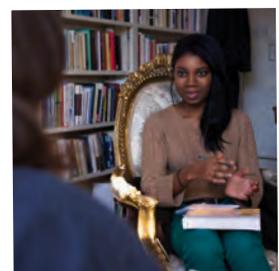
We encourage applications from academically strong students from around the world, and welcome the diversity international students contribute to the University.

## A good place to be

Oxford is one of the most international universities in the world. Today, one third of its students (including 14% of undergraduates), are international citizens, and come from 138 countries. Studying at Oxford is a terrific opportunity to meet other people from around the world.

The University has long experience of helping international students settle in. Centuries before most of today's leading universities existed, we welcomed our first international student, Emo of Friesland, in 1190. Today, there are numerous student societies representing most countries in the world.

In a survey of international students at 55 UK universities, Oxford was ranked as the best place to be.



	Satisfaction ratings of international students at Oxford %	Oxford's rank relative to 54 other universities in the survey
Expert lecturers	95.9	1
Online library	93.0	1
Research	90.9	1
Course content	90.6	1
Good place to be in	96.4	1

Source: International Student Barometer, IGI Services Ltd (2011)

## Qualifications

There is great competition for places at Oxford which means that, even if you have excellent qualifications, you may not be offered a place. It may be appropriate or necessary to undertake further study. To check if your qualifications are accepted please refer to [ox.ac.uk/intquals](http://ox.ac.uk/intquals).

*I attended the International Students' Orientation Programme, which was really helpful with practical information, and also meant that I already knew lots of other international students before term started.*

Sylvia, Law, 1st year

## Fees and funding

Details on fees and funding available to you as an international student can be found on p 182 and at [ox.ac.uk/funding](http://ox.ac.uk/funding).

## Visas and Immigration

If you are offered a place to study at Oxford for more than 6 months and you are not an EEA or Swiss national, you must apply for a visa in your home country/country of residence before you enter the UK. (EEA and Swiss nationals are free to enter the UK to study without a visa.) The UK has a tiered 'Points-Based' immigration system and Tier 4 (General) is the category for a student. When you have met the conditions of your offer (such as academic and financial requirements), you will receive a 'Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies' (CAS) number by email. This is required to complete the Tier 4 application form and appendix. You will also need supporting documents such as proof of academic qualification and money for fees/living expenses. For up to date information and to check the current requirements please visit these websites:

[www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/visas-immigration/studying/adult-students](http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/visas-immigration/studying/adult-students)

[www.ukcisa.org.uk](http://www.ukcisa.org.uk)

[ox.ac.uk/students/international\\_students](http://ox.ac.uk/students/international_students)

email: [student.immigration@admin.ox.ac.uk](mailto:student.immigration@admin.ox.ac.uk)

## Student Information

Our Student Information team can offer you all sorts of help and guidance before, during and after your studies. Student Information runs a meet-and-greet service at Heathrow Airport as well as an International Student Orientation Programme that offers you the chance to meet fellow students and staff to discuss a whole range of topics about life and study in Oxford. Student Information also has its own team of Immigration and Visa Advisers who can help you with any visa queries you might have.

 [ox.ac.uk/students/international\\_students](http://ox.ac.uk/students/international_students)

## English language requirements

All teaching at Oxford University is carried out in English (with the exception of some language-specific teaching) and you must have sufficient fluency in written and spoken English to cope with your course from the start. However, some courses are available at the Language Centre (see p 12) to support your use of English in an academic context, such as academic writing, seminars and formal presentations.

All non-native English-speaking applicants must satisfy one of the following requirements:

- **IELTS:** overall score of 7.0 (with at least 7.0 in each of the four components)
- **TOEFL (paper-based):** overall score of 600 with a Test of Written English score of 5.5
- **TOEFL (internet-based):** overall score of 110 with at least component scores of Listening – 22, Reading – 24, Speaking – 25, and Writing – 24
- **Cambridge Certificate of Advanced English (CAE):** grade A
- **Cambridge Certificate for Proficiency in English (CPE):** grade B
- **English Language GCSE, or O-level:** grade B
- **First Language English IGCSE:** grade B (not English as a Second Language)
- **International Baccalaureate Standard Level (SL):** score of 5 in English
- **European Baccalaureate:** score of 70% in English.

If you have not achieved this by the time you apply, it will form part of any conditional offer, and must be met by July 2014.

An exemption from this requirement will be considered for applicants who have been educated full-time in the English language throughout the two most recent years before 15 October 2013, and who remain in full-time education conducted in the English language until the end of the school year in their home country.

Applicants following the Singapore Integrated Programme (SIPCAL) are not required to satisfy any of the above requirements, as they are educated and assessed in English.

## getting in touch

If you have any questions about your application to Oxford, please contact the **Admissions i** (see p 184). We also run events in many countries around the world. To find out more please contact the Student Recruitment Team at [liaison@admin.ox.ac.uk](mailto:liaison@admin.ox.ac.uk).



## Visiting students

If you are a student from overseas and wish to spend up to one year in Oxford on a course related to a degree in your own country, you can apply to a college for a place as a visiting student.

As a visiting student you become a member of an Oxford college and it is the college that will arrange for your tuition. Oxford does not award a degree or any other qualification for one year of study as a visiting student, but colleges are willing to provide a record of achievement, for example for credit purposes. Please note that it is not possible to study Medicine or Fine Art as a visiting student.

[ox.ac.uk/visiting](http://ox.ac.uk/visiting)

*I've lived in a number of countries throughout my life and was pleased to come into contact with individuals with such a huge range of cultures, beliefs and experiences.*

Femi, Materials Science, 3rd year



mature student means 21 or over at the start of October in your first year



# Mature Students

Oxford is looking for the best and brightest candidates, irrespective of their age or background. Just like everyone else who applies, mature students need to demonstrate academic ability and commitment to study.

## Making an application

The application procedure for mature students is the same as for other students (see p 31 for our 5-step guide on how to apply). Many subjects require you to take a written test or submit written work as part of your application. Mature applicants do not always have suitable written work, and we do understand this. Please contact the college you're considering applying to, to discuss your options.

Oxford does not accept transfer students under any circumstances. However, you may like to consider applying to Oxford for a second undergraduate degree (see opposite).

## Which college?

As a mature student, you can apply to any college or PPH. One college, Harris Manchester (see p 150), and three of the Permanent Private Halls, Blackfriars (see p 145), St Stephen's House (see p 172) and Wycliffe Hall (see p 178), take only mature students. A college environment specifically catering for mature students can provide excellent peer support in which to enjoy the varied and fast-paced life of Oxford.

## Accommodation

All undergraduate degrees at Oxford involve intense study and high levels of commitment. All undergraduate students are therefore required to be resident in the city during term-time: either in college accommodation, in other accommodation within 6 miles of the city centre, or within 25 miles, if it is your family home.

There are no part-time or distance-learning options for undergraduate study here. However, you may wish to consider one of the many courses offered by the University's Department for Continuing Education (see opposite).

## Childcare

The University's Childcare Services manages nursery places for children aged 4 months to 5 years, with 12 nursery sites to choose from. Four colleges operate their own nurseries independently. Some holiday play schemes exist to further support childcare for older age children. The University's Childcare Fund is available for students in financial hardship with care and related costs.

[www.admin.ox.ac.uk/childcare](http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/childcare)

Oxford University Student Union (OUSU) has a mature students' campaign which puts on social events several times a term and offers the chance to meet other mature students from across the University. These range from welcome drinks to intimate potluck dinners.

*Before I returned to the world of academia I had several careers: accountant, police officer and interior designer! My first degree was in Business Studies at the age of 18. Since then I had hungered to study English Literature and at 38 found myself in the position to go for it. I was scared, having not studied for 17 years, but knew I had to have a go. I visited Harris Manchester on an open day and knew this was where I wanted to be.*

*I'm sitting in our library while I write this and, even though I have been here for three years already (I studied an undergraduate degree before embarking on my Master's) I still feel immensely privileged to be in beautiful surroundings studying a subject I love. All the staff here are so supportive both academically and personally so what seems terrifying at first is soon made familiar and homely. My only regret is that I didn't come sooner!*

Laura, English Language and Literature



## Finances

For information about fees and funding, please see [ox.ac.uk/funding](http://ox.ac.uk/funding).

## Qualifications and study skills

Tutors at Oxford will take your work experience and life skills into account when you apply, but it's essential that you have also undertaken formal academic qualifications within the three years before you apply. We need to be sure that you will be able to cope with the demands of academic study at Oxford and that you have the study skills that are so essential to following an undergraduate degree course.

Many different academic qualifications would be acceptable. For further information on the qualifications you would need to make a competitive application, please refer to [ox.ac.uk/enreqs](http://ox.ac.uk/enreqs).

## Department for Continuing Education

### Foundation Certificates in English and History

Oxford offers two Foundation Certificates, in English Literature, and in History. These are part-time two-year courses for mature students. If you do well enough you could progress to a degree at Oxford by applying to join the second year of an English or History degree course.

### The Certificate of Higher Education

This highly flexible award programme enables students to use credit obtained from taking weekly classes, short online courses and summer classes to count towards an Oxford qualification which is equivalent to one year of full-time undergraduate study at first year level. There are nine subject areas to choose from.

[www.conted.ox.ac.uk/certhe](http://www.conted.ox.ac.uk/certhe)

### Part-time courses

The Department for Continuing Education also offers a full range of part-time Undergraduate Certificates, Diplomas and Advanced Diplomas in other subjects. Some of these may be studied online, and all earn nationally recognised credits.

[www.conted.ox.ac.uk](http://www.conted.ox.ac.uk)

## second undergraduate degrees

Studying for a second undergraduate degree is a common route for students who decide to change direction in their education or to pursue a new area of study.

The application procedure and entrance requirements are exactly the same as for candidates for their first degree, except that graduate applicants will be expected to have a good academic record from their first degree (usually at least a 2:1 classification). Candidates may apply for 'Senior Status', which gives direct entry to the second year of the course. However, Senior Status is not automatically granted.

If you are a Home/EU student and you have already completed a degree and you will be studying for a BA (and in certain cases for other qualifications) you will be an ELQ (Equivalent or Lower Qualification) student, and it is unlikely that you will be eligible for government or University support. You may also be liable for a college fee in addition to the tuition fee. For further details, please see [ox.ac.uk/feesandfunding/fees/information/elq](http://ox.ac.uk/feesandfunding/fees/information/elq).

If you have studied at undergraduate level before but did not complete your degree, the funding you have already received will be taken into account and you might not get funding for the full length of your course at Oxford.

For further information about applying for a second undergraduate degree please refer to [ox.ac.uk/grad](http://ox.ac.uk/grad).

*I had always loved history. I started taking some history courses at Birkbeck College, and after a few modules I realised that I was ready to do a structured course. I knew that the Department for Continuing Education at Oxford offered one-to-one tutorials, that the class size would be relatively small, and that there would be a week's full-time study after the first year which all seemed ideal.*

*To start with I was worried about everything from essays and class discussions to exams, but it really helped being part of a group.*

*After I completed my Foundation Certificate I was very keen to pursue an academic path, and the programme directors fully supported my application to Oxford University. I am now excited to be reading History as a second year undergraduate student.*

Janine, History

download the podcasts at:  
[ox.ac.uk/mature](http://ox.ac.uk/mature)

with more than 400 groups to choose from, your time at oxford will never be dull



## Clubs and societies

There are so many – not just for music and sports, but literature, politics, performing arts, media, faiths, cultural groups, opportunities for volunteering and more – that it may be a challenge to decide which to join. Whatever your level of expertise, you can become involved in any club or society that interests you. If a society or team does not exist, you may find support for setting one up. The annual Freshers' Fair at the start of the first term is an ideal opportunity to find out what is available.

### Media

Budding journalists and broadcasters have a wealth of opportunities at Oxford, whether they want a distraction from work or the first step in a career. *Oxide* is a student-run radio station broadcasting 24 hours a day and combining a diverse playlist with talk shows and interviews. *The Cherwell* and *Oxford Student* newspapers publish everything from restaurant reviews and crosswords to investigative journalism and sports reports. *Isis Magazine* is Britain's oldest student publication, and Oxford has dozens of others, in print and on the web, in the University and colleges.

- > [www.oxfordstudent.com](http://www.oxfordstudent.com)
- > [www.oxideradio.co.uk](http://www.oxideradio.co.uk)
- > [www.cherwell.org](http://www.cherwell.org)
- > [www.isismagazine.org.uk](http://www.isismagazine.org.uk)

### The Oxford Union

The world's most famous debating society has long had a reputation for bringing internationally known guests and speakers to Oxford. Established in 1823, it aims to promote debate and discussion not just in the University, but across the globe. The Union is also a social centre and there are frequent lectures by all kinds of figures, from Ronald Reagan, the Dalai Lama and Diego Maradona to Johnny Depp, Stephen Hawking and Shakira.

- > [www.oxford-union.org](http://www.oxford-union.org)

### Volunteering

Oxford offers a wealth of opportunities for volunteering, many of which can be found through the Oxford Hub. OUSU (see opposite) also has a Vice-President for Charities and Communities. This person coordinates fundraising for a range of local and national charities through Raise and Give (RAG), campaigning and volunteering through the Environment and Ethics committee, and is there to help you with any questions about volunteering in Oxford.

- > [www.oxfordhub.org](http://www.oxfordhub.org)
- > [www.oxfordrag.co.uk](http://www.oxfordrag.co.uk)
- > [ee.ousu.org](http://ee.ousu.org)



# [ousu]

## Oxford University Student Union

Run by students, for students, OUSU exists to enhance the student experience at Oxford by representing the 19,000 students to the University and beyond.

OUSU campaigns on issues from Higher Education funding and equal opportunities to the quality of student housing. It also provides services, including a free, confidential advice service, a student newspaper and a host of events including nights out, charity events and an International Students' Festival.

OUSU works to widen access to Oxford with its *Alternative Prospectus* and its Target Schools scheme. The Student Union also produces more than 20 publications, including the *Freshers' Guide* and *Oxford Handbook*, as well as organising the annual Freshers' Fair where hundreds of student societies recruit new members.

for further details of ousu's extensive work please see support and equality on pp 13-15 and finding out more on pp 184-189 or contact [access@ousu.org](mailto:access@ousu.org)

 [www.ousu.org](http://www.ousu.org)

- African and Caribbean Society
- Aid to the Balkans
- American Society
- Amnesty International
- Animal Ethics Society
- Anthropological Society
- Anti-War Action
- Armenian Society
- Atheist Society
- Australia New Zealand Society
- Austrian Cultural Society
- Baha'i Society
- Bhangra Society
- Board Game Society
- Brazilian Society
- Buddhist Society
- Catholic Agency For Overseas Development Society
- Caving Club
- Chabad Society
- Chinese Association
- Christian Union
- Comics, Graphic Novels and Sequential Art
- Communist Corresponding Society
- Craftwork
- Cymdeithas Dafydd ap Gwilym
- Cyprus Society
- Debating Society
- Doctor Who Society
- Edgar Wind Society for Art History
- Engineers Without Borders Oxford
- European Affairs Society
- Failed Novelist Society
- Film Foundation
- Film Making Society
- Gender and Development
- German Society
- Gliding Club
- Greek Society
- Green Group
- Gumboots Dance Troupe
- Hindu Society
- Hispanic Society
- Hong Kong Society
- Indian Society
- The Inklings
- Irish Appreciation Society
- Islamic Society
- Israeli Cultural Society
- Italian Cultural Society
- Japan Society
- Jewish Society
- Juggling Club
- Kids Enjoy Exercise Network
- Korea Society
- Krav-Tardemet Club
- Labour Club
- Language Exchange
- Lebanese Society
- LGBTQ Society
- Liberal Democrats
- Lifesaving Club
- Malaysian & Singaporean Students Association
- Mexican Society
- Morris Men
- Motor Racing Club
- Mountaineering Club
- Mujewz
- Netherlands Worldwide
- Students Oxford
- Origami Society
- Pakistan Society
- Palestine Society
- Persian Society
- Photographic Society
- Polish Society
- Private Equity Society
- Quiz Society
- Real Ale Society
- Russian Society
- Scandinavian Society
- Secular Society
- Seloundo
- Sikh Society
- Skydiving Society
- Socialist Worker Society
- Society of Bibliophiles
- Socrates Society
- South-East European Society
- Star Trek Society
- Student Action for Sustainability
- Student Publications Society
- Students Support Network
- Surf Club
- Tai Chi Society
- Thai Society
- Thames Valley Climbers
- Trading Society
- Turkish Society
- Ukrainian Society
- Undergraduate Students' Society
- Underwater Explorers
- Wargames Society
- Wine Society
- Women In Business
- Young Jain Students



Oxford University Student Union



# Drama

There is a wide range of venues and spaces, from the Burton Taylor Studio, which mounts two student productions every week, to the Oxford Playhouse, which hosts two large-scale student productions a term. In addition to these there are numerous college theatres, and gardens which provide wonderful settings for outdoor shows in the summer term. On stage, backstage or in the audience, you can take in a great variety of traditional, contemporary and experimental productions. There are University-wide bodies – including the Oxford University Dramatic Society (OUDS), the Theatre Technicians’ and Designers’ Society (TAFF), the Oxford Imps, and the Oxford Revue – and many more societies and funding bodies at college level.

There is a full-time University Drama Officer who helps students to plan, programme and publicise their productions. The Drama Officer also organises workshops and talks, which are free and open to all, and can advise those planning a career in theatre or film on graduation. The Drama Officer can be contacted regarding any aspect of drama at Oxford at [drama.officer@admin.ox.ac.uk](mailto:drama.officer@admin.ox.ac.uk).

## Oxford University Dramatic Society

OUDS is an umbrella society, representing a huge body of students interested in making theatre. It is a significant funding body, and a key event organiser. OUDS mounts an international tour of a Shakespeare production directed, performed and produced by students, in association with Thelma Holt. The production often tours Japan. OUDS also hosts a national tour every summer, culminating in a run at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

[www.ouds.org](http://www.ouds.org)

## Tabs Are For Flying

TAFF is the society for those who work on the technical side of theatre and theatre design, including stage and production management, lighting, sound, props, and costume and set design. As a society, it provides support, advice and training for students who are interested in technical theatre. It also seeks to increase the understanding of technical theatre in the broader University theatre community. Throughout the year it runs workshops on a variety of aspects of technical theatre.

[www.tabsareforflying.co.uk](http://www.tabsareforflying.co.uk)

## Oxford Imps

The Oxford Imps form the hub of improvised comedy in Oxford, performing *Whose Line Is It Anyway*-style shows every Monday night, and at the Edinburgh Fringe for a month each summer. They are a training, as well as a performance company, offering a boot camp and workshops for a new generation of comedians and actors. Every year they hold auditions (no experience required!), but also need technicians, production assistants, improvising keyboard players and a keen audience to provide suggestions for the show. The Imps are a regular fixture at college balls and charity events, and put their skills to use in a wide variety of other formats, from full-length improvised musicals and radio plays to short films.

[www.oxfordimps.com](http://www.oxfordimps.com)

## Oxford Revue

The Oxford Revue was the brainchild of Michael Palin, who was the first to combine the idea of ‘sketch comedy’ with ‘a paying audience’ in the early 1950s. Since then the Oxford Revue has never looked back, spawning some of Britain’s best loved writers and comedians, from Alan Bennett and Rowan Atkinson, to Armando Iannucci and Sally Phillips, to Stewart Lee and Katy Brand.

[www.oxfordrevue.com](http://www.oxfordrevue.com)

## Cameron Mackintosh Visiting Professor

Each year a major theatrical figure is appointed to give a series of lectures and workshops at St Catherine’s College. The current Visiting Professor of Contemporary Theatre is Sir Michael Boyd. Previous professors include Stephen Sondheim, Arthur Miller, Kevin Spacey and Meera Syal.



# Sport



Aikido Alternative pick-up ice hockey American football Athletics Aussie rules Badminton Baseball Basketball Boxing Bujinkan Dojo Canoe and kayak Caving  
Cheerleading Clay pigeon shooting Company of Archers Cricket Croquet Cross-country Cycling Dancesport Eton fives Fencing Floorball Football Gaelic games  
Gliding Golf Gymnastics Handball Hockey Ice hockey Jitsu Judo Karate Karate KDS Kendo Kickboxing Kitesurfing Korfball Kung Fu Lacrosse Lawn tennis  
Lifesaving Lightweight rowing Modern pentathlon Motor drivers Mountaineering Netball Octopush Olympic Wrestling Orienteering Pistol Polo Pool Powerlifting  
Rackets Real tennis Riding Rifle Rowing clubs Rugby fives Rugby league Rugby union Shorinji kempo Ski and snowboard Squash Sulkido Surfing Swimming  
Table tennis Taekwon-do Tai chi Trampoline Triathlon Ultimate frisbee Underwater exploration Volleyball Walking Waterpolo Windsurfing Yachting



It isn't all rowing and rugby at Oxford. You can play for fun, try a new sport or just get fit. But, if you want to represent the University, you have the chance to join a rich tradition and some very competitive teams. The University's top athletes gain the status of 'Blue' – an accolade that stems from the first boat race in 1829, when Cambridge tied light blue ribbons to their boat and Oxford adopted Christ Church's dark blue.

Oxford is currently ranked amongst the top British universities for sport thanks to coaching and commitment. As well as the British Universities and Colleges Sports (BUCS) championships and other tournaments, there are inter-university competitions and college leagues; up to 50 teams compete every Wednesday.

You have the use of some of the best sporting facilities of any university, on three main sites: the Iffley Road sports complex, the University Parks sports grounds and the Marston Road sports ground. Iffley Road is where many clubs train and compete; it boasts a fitness gym, an all-weather running track, an Olympic-standard hockey pitch, a 25-metre swimming pool, rowing tank, cricket school, sports hall and dojo, along with provision for Association football, lawn tennis and rugby.

The cricketers play on the picturesque University Parks – the only place in Britain where spectators can watch first-class cricket for free. Many of the women's teams use Marston Road and its clubhouse. Most of the colleges have facilities of their own, from squash courts and fitness suites to boathouses, cricket pitches and lively clubhouses. All these grounds form a network of green spaces across the city.

The University's Sports Federation helps to run more than 80 clubs – including traditional sports, new and esoteric activities, and everything in between – for anyone from the interested beginner to the international athlete. Sport and exercise enhance student life for everyone. Whether you want to play in a serious team or a less serious one, or you just enjoy running, swimming, cycling or other sports by yourself, you will find what you are looking for here.

Come along to our open days at the Iffley Road sports complex in order to find out more.

open days: 26 and 27 June,  
and 20 September 2013

 [www.sport.ox.ac.uk](http://www.sport.ox.ac.uk)



# Music

The musical world is your oyster when studying at Oxford. From classical to jazz, through indie, rock, folk and electric, all the styles of music you could dream of (and then some) are represented. Whether you want to sing, perform, DJ, or just listen, you will find what you are looking for here.

There is a wealth of opportunity for classical music lovers. Many colleges have their own choirs, orchestras and bands. Opportunities to participate in classical recitals are numerous. Lunchtime and evening concerts abound, often taking place in spectacular settings such as the Sheldonian Theatre or the Holywell Music Room. The Oxford University Music Society (OUMS) runs four orchestras, a wind orchestra, a big band, a brass band, a string ensemble and the University chorus, and maintains a performers' register enabling musicians to get in touch with one another and collaborate. For those interested in world music, the Oxford Gamelan Society meets weekly during term time to play on an heirloom gamelan, Kyai Madu Laras (Venerable Sweet Harmony) belonging to the Bate Collection of Musical Instruments (see p 10), in the Faculty of Music.

If you are looking for more contemporary styles of music, Oxford truly punches above its weight. Venues such as the city's O2 Academy and New Theatre regularly draw both national and international acts. Many smaller venues hold regular jam sessions and 'open mic' nights for the more aspiring among us, and there is a well-established weekly series of both jazz and blues concerts. If you fancy DJing you could always start out at college parties, or try the student club nights that run open decks.

Those looking to practise their instruments or form a band will find the numerous college music rooms invaluable. These rooms are often equipped with a piano, amps and a PA system. Some colleges have their own drum kits for student use. Colleges without a dedicated music room will often provide another space in which musicians can practice. RockSoc, the rock music society, maintains a list of musicians and vocalists to enable like-minded music lovers to get in touch with one another easily, and jazz musicians in particular are well catered for, with a number of different groups from across the jazz spectrum constantly looking for new members. Other music societies include IMSoc (Indie Music Society) and Electric Collective (for electronic and dance music).

Vocalists also have an astounding array of opportunities in groups as diverse as traditional college choirs, a cappella groups, and non-auditioned vocal ensembles. Musical theatre and opera are also popular, with frequent productions in the large college theatres and city centre venues. For those wishing to commit to a formal role in the musical life of the University, many colleges offer choral and organ scholarships (see below), with a number also offering instrumental or répétiteur scholarships.



Oxford choirs enjoy an international reputation for excellence: in chapel, in concert, on tour and on CD. Any talented singer or organist can join in through the choral and organ awards scheme.

open day: 20 April 2013

## Choral and organ awards

The University, recognising the educational and cultural value of music in college chapels, is keen to attract the very best singers and organists, and to see as many as possible attend the choral and organ open day on 20 April 2013, which takes the form of a series of workshops and Evensong.

### Choral awards

Applicants to the University for any subject can audition for a choral award at their preferred college or colleges. The duties and benefits of a choral award vary greatly from college to college, and you can find out more by visiting the choral awards section on the Music Faculty website [www.music.ox.ac.uk/admissions/organ-and-choral-scholarships](http://www.music.ox.ac.uk/admissions/organ-and-choral-scholarships) 1. A significant number of today's leading singers – Toby

Spence, Susan Gritton, Emma Kirkby and Robin Blaze, to name but a few – started out as choral scholars at Oxford.

### Organ awards

Organ scholars have a crucial role in the Oxford music scene. In some colleges they are effectively the directors of chapel music; in others they act as assistants to a professional director of music. The experience is without parallel for those wishing to engage in music-making at a high level, learn how to accompany and direct choirs, and acquire organisational skills. The chapel music environment in Oxford is extremely lively, and offers scope not only for outstanding work in chapel contexts but also for external activities, such as tours and recordings.



The duties of organ scholars differ widely from college to college, and to find the best fit for your talents and ambitions you should enquire carefully about them. The Oxford choral and organ open day is a good place to start. In most colleges, organ scholarships are open to applicants for any subject. Organ scholars receive funding for organ lessons.

**Further information**

For information on the activities, duties and benefits of the individual choirs please see individual college websites. The Music Faculty publishes further information on both choral and organ awards, including a compilation of college data on choirs and organs, on its website

 [www.music.ox.ac.uk](http://www.music.ox.ac.uk)

*As a sixth former, my thoughts of life as a Choral Scholar were totally removed from how I imagined student life. Now I understand how it all fits together. The choir sings an evening service six days a week during term - it sounds a lot but I've found that being a semi-professional musician has made me better with my time. I spend two hours a day doing something I love - singing.*

Ben, Choral Scholar

*Organ Scholarships at Oxford vary widely between each college, but each provides opportunities that will shape your musical development beyond university. Some Scholarships offer the chance to work with the country's finest choral directors, while in other colleges the Organ Scholar is able to take more control themselves, developing both conducting and playing skills. Oxford's provision for Organ Scholars is unrivalled, offering regular masterclasses with distinguished organists and study trips abroad.*

David, Organ Scholar

# Exploring OXFORD

There are around 40,000 students at Oxford's two universities (Oxford University and Oxford Brookes University). They make up a big part of the city's 150,000 population. The city is youthful and cosmopolitan, with plenty to see and do.

## Jericho

Just north-west of the centre, the part of town known as Jericho is famous for its cocktail bars and high-end restaurants, although Pepper's burgers are also legendary. There are also picturesque walks across Port Meadow and an arthouse cinema.



## City Centre Shopping

You will find all the usual high street stores, as well as smaller independent retailers. The famous Covered Market has everything from quirky fashion boutiques to pie shops.

## Theatre

The Oxford Playhouse is one of Britain's leading theatres, with regular high-profile productions. The New Theatre stages a variety of touring shows, including West End musicals and famous comedians. Not forgetting, of course, college theatres (see p 22).



## WHAT'S ON

at Oxford University  
[ox.ac.uk/visitors/whats\\_on](http://ox.ac.uk/visitors/whats_on)  
 around the city  
[www.dailyinfo.co.uk/events.php](http://www.dailyinfo.co.uk/events.php)  
 in the local music scene  
[nightshift.oxfordmusic.net](http://nightshift.oxfordmusic.net)





ST GILES



### Special events

**Summer events** include Cowley Road Carnival, the Jericho Street Fair and Oxford Pride. Summer Eights, the colleges' rowing competition, takes place every June and attracts large numbers of students supporting their college from the river bank. Whether you are sporty or not, you can enjoy the buzz and party atmosphere at the event, which lasts several days.

**Historic events** include 'May Morning', where on 1 May crowds gather at sunrise to listen to choristers singing an invocation to summer from the top of Magdalen College tower. Over the years this has turned into a real celebration with balls, parties, and long opening hours.



### Nightlife

Many student club nights are held in the city. Down on Park End Street, R'n'B, hip-hop, and classic 'cheese' dominate the playlists. Just off Cornmarket Street, the Purple Turtle offers free entry to Oxford Union members (see p 20), and next door the Cellar offers a different theme each night, from dancehall and dubstep through comedy nights and live bands to electronica and metal.

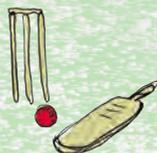
**...and if all that's not enough, the bus to London takes 90 mins and runs 24 hours a day.**



HIGH STREET

### East Oxford

The area around the Cowley Road is vibrant and diverse. Its restaurants cater to all tastes – Jamaican, Thai, Polish, Kurdish, Italian, Lebanese and more. It is also home to lots of pubs and live music venues, including the O2 Academy which attracts many high-profile acts.



COWLEY ROAD





## Where will I live?

### First-year accommodation

Undergraduate students must live in Oxford, but there is no need to look for accommodation before you arrive. All colleges provide rooms for first-year students, and will make all of the arrangements for you. Your college may send you details of your room after places are confirmed in August, or they may simply give you the keys when you arrive. Most college rooms are single study-bedrooms, and you may have your own bathroom. Some colleges have 'sets' where two students share a study-living room, but you have your own bedroom. All rooms are furnished and have internet access. Your room may be on the main site or nearby.

### Living in and living out

Colleges are very safe places, with a Porters' Lodge at the entrance. The porters deal with visitors and oversee security. They get to know you and look after your personal safety.

All colleges will offer you a room for your first year and another year; in many colleges, you can 'live in' for your whole course. If you do have to 'live out' of college, or you prefer to, you can share a house with friends or rent a room in a family home. The University Accommodation Office will be able to help you with your search: [www.admin.ox.ac.uk/accommodation/private](http://www.admin.ox.ac.uk/accommodation/private).

Living out can be a little more expensive than living in college, but it means you can stay on during the holidays. Students in college rooms usually have to move out at the end of each term.

All college rooms are either in the city centre or very close to it. Most private accommodation is also within a 15-minute walk or short cycle ride of the centre. In Oxford, there is no need to spend money on bus fares, as you would in larger cities.

Throughout your course, wherever you live, you can use your college's library, computer room, sports facilities, laundry, bar, common room and dining hall – most serve three meals every day. If you wish to cook, you may need to bring some kitchenware; your college will tell you what is provided.

### Out of term

During the holidays, your college may be able to provide storage, particularly for international students. You may be able to stay on in college, or stay with friends who are living out. Some people use this time to work and prepare for next term; others just enjoy being in Oxford.





### Kate, living in...

*It is natural to feel unsure about living in such close proximity with people that are yet to become your friends. But the strong sense of community that college life promotes means that your college soon becomes 'home' and evenings spent lazing in front of the TV in the Junior Common Room [see p 141], chatting in the college bar, or poring over books in the college library in the company of your sympathetic friends, soon make up for any sadness over the loss of home-cooked meals. What's more, there is no need to worry about mastering your cooking skills before coming to study here, since all colleges have a 'Hall' where students are treated to a delightful three-course meal at a very reasonable price.*

### and living out.

*As a 'student city', Oxford is fairly unique in having a number of student areas dotted around the city centre. Not only does this mean that there is plenty of availability when it comes to student housing, but also that you will rarely find yourselves more than two doors away from fellow Oxford students (oh yes, there really is no escape)! Wherever you decide to live, you can rest assured that your years out of college will be great fun and will also provide you with an opportunity to gain more independence.*



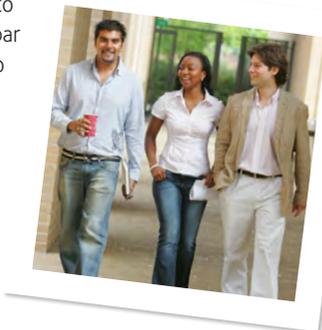
Here are some examples of what a typical day can be like as an Oxford student. Of course the details are different for different subjects, and will vary depending on what you like to do in your spare time. Visit our website to see some complete weekly timetables. [ox.ac.uk/week](http://ox.ac.uk/week)



# A day in the life

## Arts student

- 10am Translation class
- 11am Lecture
- 12pm Re-read my essay ready for my tutorial this afternoon, then go in to town for a look round the shops
- 1pm Go to my favourite high street sandwich shop for lunch 
- 2pm Tutorial in college. I read my essay on 'The use of religion in politics under Augustus'. Another student also reads his essay, and then we discuss them both with our tutor
- 3.30pm Head to the library to get books from the reading list for next essay. I make a start by reading one of the background books while I am there
- 7pm Dinner in college
- 9pm Head down to the college bar then out into Oxford



- 8.30am Putting flyers up in college Porters' Lodge for the upcoming elections at the Oxford University Students Union (OUSU)
- 9am More reading for my next essay
- 12pm Lecture
- 1.30pm Meeting about the OUSU elections and getting people to vote
- 2.30pm More reading for my essay. I start to put together the essay plan
- 6pm Dinner in college
- 8pm Watch a film with friends 

## Science student

- 9am Lecture 
- 10am In labs all day (I collected the details of today's experiment last week, and read over the theory and background). We're shown how to use the equipment in the supervisor's demonstration, and then it's up to us to conduct the experiment ourselves
- 6pm Dinner
- 7pm Prepare work for a maths tutorial
- 8.30pm Fencing at the Sports Centre 



- 9am Tutorial about autism. I read my essay 'Evaluate the view that autism is caused by a single cognitive deficit'
- 10am Work on a lab report
- 1pm Meeting with an advisor at the Careers Service, to discuss my options for what to do after my degree
- 2pm Write up notes from tutorial and reading for next week's essay
- 5pm Tutoring – I'm part of a volunteering scheme which allows university students in Oxford to teach children whose first language isn't English
- 7pm Dinner with housemates
- 9pm Go out with friends

does this sound like  
the life you want?  
then why not consider:



### Social science student

- 9am Get up and go for a run around Christ Church meadow 
- 11am Microeconomics lecture in the department; while I'm there I go to the Social Science Library and get the books for my next assignments
- 12.30pm Have lunch in college
- 1.30pm Go to the college library to read for a political theory essay
- 8.30pm Watch debate at the Oxford Union about the 'special relationship' between the UK and the US 
- 10.30pm Have a drink with friends in the Union bar



- 10am Read material for next week's economics essay
- 1pm French lesson at the Language Centre
- 3.30pm Roundtable discussion with Amartya Sen, a famous political philosopher and economist, in Oxford to talk about his book *The Idea of Justice*
- 7pm Meeting at the Student Union about equal opportunities in the University, as I am the college Access and Equal Opportunities Officer
- 8pm All the PPE students at my college go for a meal and drinks with PPE students at another; some of us continue to a club



# APPLYING TO OXFORD

your 5 step guide

## 1 WHY NOT NOW?

Choose your course ([ox.ac.uk/courses](http://ox.ac.uk/courses)) and find out:

**The entrance requirements**

**How to apply**  
(is there a test or written work?)

**Which colleges offer it**  
(you can give a preference, or make an open application: [ox.ac.uk/collegechoice](http://ox.ac.uk/collegechoice))

## 2 BY 15 OCTOBER 2013

**Submit an application at [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com)**  
(any time from early September – don't leave it to the last minute)

**Register for any admissions tests**

Tests take place on 6 November 2013, usually in your own school or college, (except the LNAT for Law – register by 5 October and sit by 20 October). See [ox.ac.uk/tests](http://ox.ac.uk/tests).

## 3 IN DECEMBER 2013

**If shortlisted, you'll be invited to interview**  
(set dates for each subject – [ox.ac.uk/interview](http://ox.ac.uk/interview))

## 4 BY MID-JANUARY 2014

**You'll be told whether or not you have an offer of a place**

## 5 AND BY AUGUST 2014

**Complete your qualifications and get your results; receive a final decision about your place**

october 2014  
- start your course?