



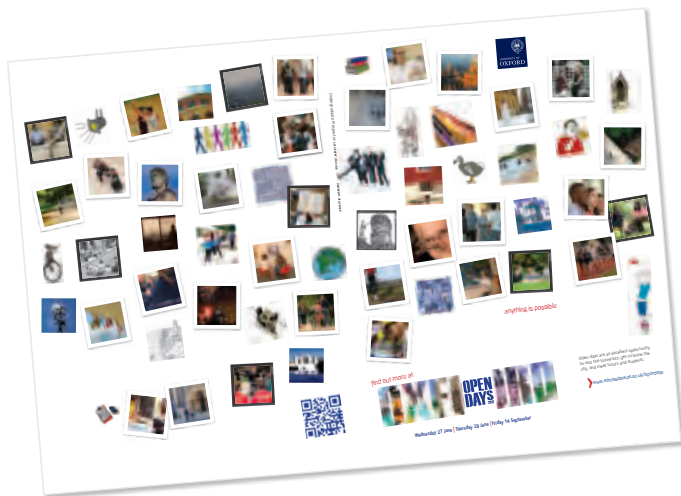
UNIVERSITY OF  
**OXFORD**

Undergraduate  
Prospectus

2013 Entry

# OXFORD

anything is possible



Remove and unravel our Prospectus cover to reveal your invitation to our University open days in 2012. These days are a great opportunity to come and see us and ask all those questions which still need answers. We hope that you will decide to display this open days poster and share our invitation with others who would also like to know more about Oxford.

## Making the Commitment

A matriculated student at Oxford University is a member both of the University and of one of its constituent colleges or permanent private halls. The two relationships are governed by separate, though interlinking, contracts. The form of contract with the University is a complete and exclusive statement of the express terms of the contract between each matriculated student and the University.

If and when an offer is made to you, you will be referred to the provisions of the University Student Contract (available at [www.admissions.ox.ac.uk](http://www.admissions.ox.ac.uk)), and you should study this carefully before accepting the offer. If you are also supplied with a form of college contract, you should give this similar attention.

The University Student Contract (and any college contract) will govern the relationship between you and the University and you and the relevant college, should you accept an offer.

Provided that you satisfy any conditions set out in the offer, you will be sent a final confirmation letter by the University and the relevant college; and asked to sign and return a copy of the University Student Contract (and any college contract) as a condition of enrolment.

The University will deliver a student's chosen programme of study in accordance with the descriptions set out in the University Prospectus online and on the University Admissions Offices websites. However, where courses or options depend on placement at another institution or on specialist teaching, availability in a given year cannot be guaranteed in advance. The University also reserves the right to vary the content and delivery of programmes of study: to discontinue, merge or combine options within programmes of study: and to introduce new options or courses. Changes in course provision may arise from desirable developments in the relevant subject or alterations in teaching practice and/or facilities, as well as from causes such as resource constraints or staff movements. Changes in course provision may occur either before or after admission, but will take account of the reasonable expectations of any student admitted to or engaged on a specific programme of study. In the unlikely circumstance of the University deciding to make substantial and material changes to a programme of study after acceptance of a place by a student, the student will be able to withdraw from that programme of study.

Please note that any dates which may be given to you for the sitting of examinations or the notification or publication of results are estimates only. If the University is prevented from meeting those dates by adverse circumstances beyond its control, the University will take all reasonable steps to put alternative arrangements in place as quickly as possible, and to keep you informed.



## Do you need this prospectus in another format?

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

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



Admissions Information Centre

+44 (0) 1865 288000

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

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



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, please feel free to contact us for further information at: [frankbuttletrust@admin.ox.ac.uk](mailto:frankbuttletrust@admin.ox.ac.uk)



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[www.facebook.com/the.university.of.oxford](http://www.facebook.com/the.university.of.oxford)



[www.youtube.com/Oxford](http://www.youtube.com/Oxford)



iTunes or <http://itunes.ox.ac.uk>



[www.twitter.com/UniofOxford](http://www.twitter.com/UniofOxford)





# decisions



Choosing where to go to university is the first life-changing decision that many students have to make and whilst this is exciting it can also be daunting. You may find lots of people keen to offer advice and guidance but it is important that you feel able to make this decision for yourself. In order to do this confidently you need accurate information – and that’s where we come in. We hope these pages will tell you what you need to know about applying to Oxford and help you make up your mind whether undergraduate life at Oxford may be for you.

## Am I clever enough?

- Do you expect to achieve the entrance requirements (AAA, A\*AA or A\*A\*A at A-level, or other equivalent qualifications)? At least 44,000 students can say ‘yes’ to this each year in the UK alone. If you’re among them, then you have the potential to make a competitive application to Oxford.

## How will I be taught?

- Most teaching at Oxford takes place in tutorials. These are very small groups of students (normally two or three) plus a tutor who will be an expert in their field. Typically you will have one or two tutorials a week.
- Depending on your course you will also have a number of lectures and classes, as well as laboratory and field work.

## Will I be happy there?

- Oxford regularly comes top of student satisfaction surveys.
- Approximately, only 1% of students drop out from this University compared to a national average of 8.6%.

## What A-levels or equivalent level subjects should I be doing?

- This depends on the course you are thinking of studying. Have a look at our table of subject requirements on pp 36–37 for more advice.

## Where will I live?

- All undergraduate students belong to one of the University’s colleges. Every college offers accommodation to first year students and for at least one other year of their course.
- Some students choose to move out of college and live with friends in student accommodation for some of their time at Oxford.

## Will an Oxford degree make it easier for me to find a job?

- Oxford graduates go on to a wide variety of jobs with 95% of leavers employed six months after graduating\*.
- Oxford University is able to offer a wide variety of internships which means that you may be able to gain experience during the summer holidays in a field of work that interests you.

## Can I afford to study at Oxford?

- While many universities will be offering either reduced fees or bursaries for 2013 entry students, Oxford will provide both. Not only this, Oxford will be offering an extremely generous level of financial support to UK and EU students from the lowest income households, in addition to the support available from the government.
- College facilities and the academic resources of the University mean that it can be cheaper to study at Oxford than at other places.

\* Source: HESA/DLHE survey 2009/10



### Is it worth applying to Oxford – no-one else from my school ever has?

- > Absolutely yes! Oxford does not care which school you are at as long as you can demonstrate the necessary academic potential.

### Do I need to be involved in lots of extra-curricular activities?

- > Selection at Oxford is purely academic. Your extra-curricular achievements can give tutors a useful and reassuring insight into your personality but they won't influence their decision to give you a place.

### How do I choose a course?

- > Explore these pages further to find out what's available at Oxford and have a look at [www.admissions.ox.ac.uk/courses](http://www.admissions.ox.ac.uk/courses).
- > Come to a department open day. See [www.admissions.ox.ac.uk/opendays](http://www.admissions.ox.ac.uk/opendays).

### Will I have to have an interview?

- > The interview is an important part of the University's selection process and places are not offered without interview. See [www.admissions.ox.ac.uk/interviews](http://www.admissions.ox.ac.uk/interviews) for more information.

### Will I have to take an admissions test?

- > Many, but not all, courses require you to take an admissions test in November after you have submitted your application. Find out more at [www.admissions.ox.ac.uk/tests](http://www.admissions.ox.ac.uk/tests).

### Does Oxford have a fixed number of places for overseas students?

- > No, overseas students compete for the same places as all other students and they apply in exactly the same way via UCAS. (See [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com)).
- > The only exception is Medicine where there is a government-imposed maximum of 14 overseas (outside the UK and EU) students in any one year of entry.

## is this you?

- ☐ I have done my research and found my ideal course at Oxford in a subject I'm passionate about.
- ☐ I have an outstanding academic record and consistently do better than most, if not all, of my year at school.
- ☐ I can't resist delving deeper into my favourite subject and reading beyond the set syllabus.
- ☐ I like to talk about my subject at any opportunity.
- ☐ I'm not daunted by exams and feel able to do myself justice in them.

If you can answer yes to some, or ideally all of the above, then **apply!**

On the other hand, if you don't feel comfortable ticking these boxes then perhaps Oxford isn't for you. Have a look at [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com) to see what else is available.



# OXFORD

## At the heart of Oxford

There are many universities, but 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 even more reasons why Oxford generates such admiration, pride and loyalty. Taken individually, these reasons may not be unique, but when viewed together they form the characteristics that have differentiated the University from all others 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

## Collegiate system

Colleges are sometimes described as being like halls of residence at other universities. They are like this but also so much more besides. Colleges are a student's home for much of their time at Oxford, and are the central focus of teaching: the tutorial. The relatively small number of students at each college allows for close and supportive personal attention to be given to the induction, academic development and welfare of individuals.

The college system gives you the benefits of belonging to both a large, internationally renowned institution and also to a smaller, interdisciplinary, academic college community. You also have access to your college's facilities, such as an extensive library and IT provision, as well as the resources of the wider University.

Students applying to Oxford may choose to apply to a specific college if they have a strong preference but it is increasingly common for applicants to make an open application. (See pp 6–7 for more details on applying to Oxford).

## Tutorial teaching

Oxford is one of the few universities in the world that bases its teaching on the tutorial system, which means individual attention and teaching from your tutors, tailored to your learning needs. Tutorials are essentially very small group teaching; usually this will comprise two or three students plus a tutor. These will take place at least once a week for an hour in each subject studied.

Tutors at Oxford are often world-leading experts in their field, so spending time with them is extremely valuable. This is especially true in tutorials: the tutors are not merely lecturers, delivering their knowledge to hundreds of students at a time; they share their insights and expertise in these very small groups, giving personalised attention to each student.

This 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 usually possible at other universities. 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.

## Financial support

Whilst the funding situation for Higher Education is changing, Oxford remains strongly committed to the principle that if you are a UK student and have the talent and the ability to study with us you should never be put off from applying because of financial reasons. UK students from lower-income households can rest assured that there are generous grants, bursaries and loans available to you, which are provided by the collegiate University and the government to fully meet the cost of studying and living at Oxford to ensure you are able to take advantage of all we have to offer.

There is support available at both college and University level, with dedicated officers in each college working alongside the University's Financial Support office to provide information on all aspects of Oxford assistance and government support.

A degree in any subject from Oxford University will always be a valuable commodity. Graduates who have benefitted from the fantastic teaching and learning environment at Oxford have the skills and attributes top employers are looking for. This means that they are not only highly sought after, but also frequently have higher starting salaries than students from many other universities.

**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).)*



# A Applying to OXFORD

10 steps:



**NOW**

Choose your course  
[www.admissions.ox.ac.uk/courses](http://www.admissions.ox.ac.uk/courses)



**NOW**

Check the entrance requirements, as  
certain qualifications may be required  
[www.admissions.ox.ac.uk/enreqs](http://www.admissions.ox.ac.uk/enreqs)



**NOW**

Check the application process: you may need to  
register to take a test, or send in written work  
[www.admissions.ox.ac.uk/tests](http://www.admissions.ox.ac.uk/tests)  
[www.admissions.ox.ac.uk/writtenwork](http://www.admissions.ox.ac.uk/writtenwork)

*v. important*



**NOW**

Choose a college, or decide to make an open application  
[www.admissions.ox.ac.uk/collegechoice](http://www.admissions.ox.ac.uk/collegechoice)



watch our short film on  
how to choose a college.



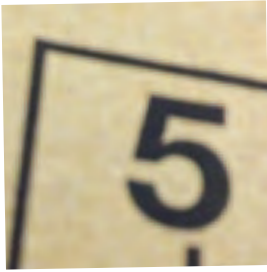
Scan this if you have a QR code  
reader on your phone or visit:



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



go online and watch our short 'how to apply'  
animated film at [www.admissions.ox.ac.uk/apply](http://www.admissions.ox.ac.uk/apply)



**BY 15 OCT 2012**

Complete a UCAS application  
at [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com)



**IN DEC 2012**

If you are shortlisted,  
you will be invited to  
have an interview

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



**BY MID JAN 2013**

You will be told whether  
or not you have  
an offer of a place



If English language requirements form  
part of your offer, then these need to  
be met by the end of July 2013.



**BY AUG 2013**

Complete your  
qualifications and  
get your results



**IN AUG 2013**

Receive a final  
decision about  
your place



**IN OCT 2013**

Start your  
course!



# Studying at **OXFORD**



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*

# Colleges

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

## Tutorials

Tutorials are central to study at Oxford. They give you the chance to discuss your subject with a world leader in the field. Your tutor gives individual support and encourages you to develop to your full potential.

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 need not be experienced in debating, you just need to be 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.

# Courses

## Course structure

Whichever college you go to, the course is the same: the University organises the lectures and practical classes, and sets the examinations.

Whichever course you choose, an Oxford degree aims to make you think for yourself, logically and laterally.

All our degree courses have a compulsory core, plus various options you can choose from, letting you tailor the course to your personal interests. The course pages in this Prospectus give examples of options.

You should make sure that your chosen degree and the way it is taught at Oxford are right for you. Usually, you cannot change courses after you start; where this is possible, the course page mentions it.

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

## Lectures

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

## Labwork and fieldwork

All students in a particular subject discipline come together for labwork and/or fieldwork. The course pages give more detail.

Typically, science students can expect at least two half-days in the lab per week.

## Assessment

In most courses you sit exams in your first year, which you must pass to continue the course, but they do not count towards your degree. You then work towards final exams, which usually take place in your last term.

Science students sit some exams in the second year. Some exams may be replaced by projects or dissertations. Most science courses have a fourth year; this may be entirely research-based, or part research and part exams.

Other students also sit finals in their last term – typically several exams, each lasting three hours, within a two-week period. In some subjects like Modern Languages, there is also an oral exam. Some exams may be replaced by a thesis and/or extended written work. The course pages give more detail (pp 34–143).





# Libraries

## College libraries

Most college libraries stock the core materials for your course, with multiple copies of the most popular books and titles on tutors' reading lists. College libraries have generous lending arrangements, have long opening hours (in many cases 24 hours) and are quiet places to study. They are also often able to buy books on request. The college librarian can help you to find what you need in college and elsewhere in the University.

## Subject-based libraries

For most courses you will also have access to a subject-based library. These provide reading list titles as well as more specialist and advanced materials for your optional topics. Staff in these libraries are specialists in their subject and are able to help you with specific queries. They often run classes to help you to find books, journals and electronic resources.

## Research libraries

The research libraries cater for the research community but are also open to undergraduates. Their extensive collections of books and periodicals are especially valuable for extended essays and dissertations in your final year. They include:

### Bodleian Law Library

For legal materials.

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

### Radcliffe Science Library

For science and medicine.

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

### Sackler Library

For archaeology and antiquities of Europe and the Middle East, Art History (Western and Eastern) and Classics (including the classics lending collection for undergraduates).

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

### Social Science Library

Serves the Centre for Advanced Studies in the Social Sciences and undergraduate courses including PPE, Economics and Management, and History and Politics. It also has a major statistics collection.

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

### Taylor Institution Library

For medieval and modern European languages and literatures. The Taylor includes the Modern Languages Faculty Library.

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



LIBRARY



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



Oxford University has almost 100 libraries including college libraries, subject-based libraries, and research libraries

### Bodleian Library

Known affectionately as 'The Bod', the UK's second largest library has more than eight million volumes on 117 miles of shelves. The Bodleian is a legal deposit library meaning it can claim a copy of any book or periodical published in the UK or Ireland.

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

### Electronic resources

Oxford has extensive online collections including databases, electronic books and reference works and more than 45,000 e-journals. The electronic collections are available to members of the University 24 hours a day, 7 days a week both from within the University and from outside using your Oxford password.

Oxford has three key tools for accessing materials:

**SOLO** (Search Oxford Libraries Online) searches our printed and electronic collections. <http://solo.bodleian.ox.ac.uk>

**OxLIP+** is our dedicated gateway to databases, electronic reference works and e-journals. <http://oxlip-plus.bodleian.ox.ac.uk>

**LibGuides** offers research assistance, subject guides, and other useful resources. <http://libguides.bodleian.ox.ac.uk>

Find out more at:

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

*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



*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 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.

# Museums and collections

## 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 25,000 scientific instruments, from antiquity to the 20th century, especially astrolabes, sundials, quadrants, mathematical and optical instruments, and apparatus associated with chemistry, natural philosophy and medicine. The staff teach History of Science courses.

[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)



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







# Computing services

The University has excellent IT facilities, and most departments and colleges have computer rooms, network access and computing support for their staff and students.

## IT learning programme

Oxford University Computing Services (OUCS) provides a wide range of IT services, including practical IT courses, covering introductory and specialised uses of computers, common operating systems and popular application software.

## Virtual Learning Environment (VLE)

OUCS runs WebLearn, the central VLE, where you can find course material and other tools for learning, such as discussion rooms and online quizzes. To view the publicly available content (some is available only to specific students) visit:

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

## Mobile Oxford

Mobile Oxford is a central guide for use on mobile phones to help students with their day-to-day tasks. Whether it's finding a library book, checking the next bus or even finding what time the nearest post box is collected, Mobile Oxford is here to help.

<http://m.ox.ac.uk>

## Other services at OUCS

The OUCS Help Centre has a number of public PCs and Macs with a range of popular software, and for use with scanning and printing facilities. They provide general support and advice by email, telephone and in person if your local IT support cannot help. Other facilities include audio and video capture, a PC breakdown service to repair or replace your PC, poster printing, mailing list software and free or low-cost software from the online shop.

OUCS also runs many other University-wide services such as Nexus email, calendaring and task lists, podcasting services, and facilities to enable mobile devices to access information and services.



## Help and further information

Colleges and departments have IT support staff you can turn to for help. They may refer you to OUCS who are often able to resolve more complex problems.



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

# Language Centre

Large and well-equipped, the Language Centre is open to all University members, whatever their degree subject. It offers two main foreign language programmes, plus English language support for international students.

## Courses for all and for special groups

The Language Centre offers two main programmes of language study. The LASR (Languages for Study and Research) programme offers term-time courses in French, German, Modern Greek, Italian, Mandarin Chinese, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, and Welsh, at most levels from beginner to advanced. These courses are intended primarily (but not exclusively) for those who need foreign languages for their study or research. OPAL, the Oxford University Programme in Languages, offers certificated evening courses in a more limited range of languages (which includes Arabic, Chinese and Japanese) for highly motivated language learners. In addition, special courses are currently organised for undergraduates studying Chemistry (French, German and Spanish), Engineering Science (French and German), Law (French and Dutch), Maths (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). There are charges for some courses which may be payable or part-payable by colleges or departments.

## English language support

Students should be proficient in English before starting their courses. Pre-sessionals (August/September) courses in English for Academic Studies help students to improve their English and adjust to a UK university before the year starts. Term-time courses focus on academic writing or advanced communication skills (eg seminar skills, formal presentations). See p 24 for further details for international students.



## Language Library

The Language Library has text, audio, video and computer-based material in about 140 languages, satellite reception in 13, and internet links to language learning sites. Contact us at 12 Woodstock Road, Oxford OX2 6HT, telephone +44 (0) 1865 283360, email [admin@lang.ox.ac.uk](mailto:admin@lang.ox.ac.uk).



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

[you can study a language even if it's not part of your course]

# Exploring the city

*My favourite thing about Oxford is that, wherever you walk, you're bound to bump into someone you know. There's a big sense of community here, even though it isn't a campus university. The city feels like it's full of students. Also, there's a surprising amount of green space right in the city centre, although this can make it difficult to get work done in the summer term!*

Kathryn

## The city

There are around 40,000 students at Oxford University and Oxford Brookes University so 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.

## Live music

Oxford has a vibrant music scene. Established acts make regular stops at the O2 Academy on the Cowley Road, while smaller venues, such as The Cellar and The Wheatsheaf, are great places to catch local bands and underground acts.

## Nightlife

Many student club-nights are held at nightclubs in the city. At The Bridge, Lava & Ignite, and Camera, R'n'B, hip-hop and classic 'cheese' dominate the playlist; the Purple Turtle offers free entry every night and cheap drinks for members of the Oxford Union (see p 16); and at the O2 Academy you can enjoy alternative, indie and hard rock. If you like to venture further afield, London's nightlife is only an hour and a half away. Buses to the capital run 24 hours a day.

## Pubs and restaurants

Oxford's restaurants cater for all tastes – Jamaican, Thai, Polish, Kurdish, French, Lebanese and more – from cheap-and-cheerful to café cuisine to special dining. Many are on the Cowley Road or in the Castle complex. There are pubs and taverns too, from the 14th-century Turf Tavern to contemporary cocktail bars, like Raoul's in Jericho.

## Theatre and cinema

The Oxford Playhouse is one of Britain's leading theatres. The New Theatre stages a variety of touring productions. The newly refurbished Pegasus Theatre specialises in contemporary performing arts from all over the world and youth arts education. The Burton Taylor Theatre is home to the Oxford University Dramatic Society (see p 18), and a few colleges also have their own theatres. Film fans have a choice of four cinemas, including two independent cinemas.

## Shopping

You will find all the main stores in the area around Cornmarket Street, Queen Street and the High Street, and the famous Covered Market has many small, specialist outlets.

## Special events

Summer events include Party in the Park, Cowley Road Carnival, the Jericho Street Fair and Oxford Pride and there are also many other events rooted in Oxford's history. For example, on 1 May crowds gather on the High Street and Magdalen Bridge at sunrise to listen to choristers sing 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.

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 will enjoy the buzz and party atmosphere at the event, which lasts several days.





# Isis 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.

for further details of ousu's extensive work please see student support on p 22 and finding out more on pp 183-189 or contact [access@ousu.org](mailto:access@ousu.org)

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

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 the exciting student societies (see below) recruit new members.

## Clubs and societies

With more than 400 groups to choose from, your time at Oxford will never be dull. 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 also has a Vice-President for Charities and Communities who 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)
- > <http://ee.ousu.org>







isis

## SPORT

### Christ's fall at St Peter's Gate



## THE OXFORD STUDENT

### Manifesto error delays OUSU elections by a week



Israeli President visit sparks student protests

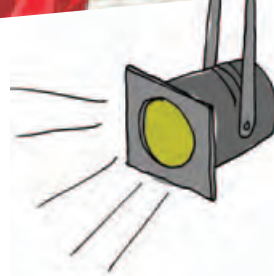
A 9.5" PIZZA £8.99  
PLUS A 1/2 LITRE PEPSI OR SODA  
ON PASTRY WEDNESDAYS

Part End  
on 20 02 22



Oxford is famous for its drama, with around 30 student productions every term.

# rama



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 for students at St Catherine's College. The current Visiting Professor of Contemporary Theatre (2011–12) is Meera Syal. Previous professors include Stephen Sondheim, Arthur Miller, Kevin Spacey and Trevor Nunn.



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



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 racquets sulkido surfing swimming table tennis taekwon-do tai chi trampolining triathlon ultimate frisbee underwater exploration volleyball walking waterpolo windsurfing yachting

# Sport

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 in the top 10 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 re-laid in 2009, 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: 27 and 28 June,  
and 14 September 2012

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








# Music

The musical world is your oyster when studying in 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 12), 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 fancying DJ-ing 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 opposite), with a number also offering instrumental or répétiteur scholarships.



# Choral and organ

## 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: 21 April 2012

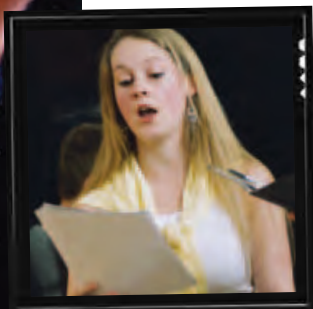
The choral foundations – Christ Church, Magdalen and New College – offer the busiest experience for the student, performing on a more or less daily basis during term. Other colleges with mixed choirs – Keble, Merton, Queen's, St Peter's, Somerville and Worcester – have fewer services, but are still run by professional musicians. The remaining choirs are directed by their organ scholars.

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 21 April 2012, which takes the form of a series of workshops and Evensong. College visits and enquiries are most welcome.

### Choral scholarships

Applicants to the University interested in the opportunities for singers can audition for a choral award at their preferred college or colleges. You can study any subject. 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-scholarships1](http://www.music.ox.ac.uk/admissions/organ-and-choral-scholarships1). Your development as a singer, through direction, experience and specialist tuition, is the

educational aim of college and University, an aim also reflected in the Music finals option 'Choral Performance' (see pp 122–123). 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 scholarships

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 musicians 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, and the Betts Fund arranges masterclasses from leading performers and study trips to European destinations. Previous organ scholars from Oxford have distinguished themselves as conductors, accompanists, and early music specialists, as well as organists and church musicians. The quality of organs in Oxford, including instruments by Rieger, Metzler, Frobenius, Aubertin, Father Willis, and Létourneau, contributes to the excitement of being an Oxford organ scholar.

### Further information

For the selection process, including vacancies, entry procedures, timetable and preparation, see [www.admissions.ox.ac.uk/musicscholars](http://www.admissions.ox.ac.uk/musicscholars). 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





# Student support and well-being

University. Whoever you are, and whatever your personal identity, you will find others like you and will have the opportunity to meet a diversity of other people, who will widen your horizons, challenge your assumptions and with whom you can share your particular beliefs and experiences. You will be taught within a diverse community of academics and students. There are also many groups, societies and campaigns where you can contribute and share knowledge and experience.

## Disabled students

The University welcomes applications from disabled students and makes reasonable adjustments to facilitate their access to courses. Colleges and departments view applications from students with disabilities on the same academic grounds as those from other candidates.

We advise candidates to consider, before applying, the requirements of their chosen course, identifying any elements that might present particular difficulties. We recommend that candidates visit their college and department of choice, to explore facilities and discuss specific needs. The University Disability Advisory Service is happy to help with visits by individuals, if it is given sufficient notice. It is essential to contact the department and Disability Advisory Service as early as possible in the application process, because it takes time to arrange adjustments and organise support.

Details of the Disability Equality Scheme can be found at [www.ox.ac.uk/students/shw/das](http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/shw/das). We recommend that students get in touch with the Disability Advisory Service (contact details below) to discuss a study-related needs assessment and to advise on grants, such as the Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA).

If a need is indicated, 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 (e.g. an educational psychologist or specialist tutor's diagnostic assessment report or a medical letter), arrangements such as extra time, rest breaks, word-processing and scheduling can be considered.

There are videos of students with disabilities talking about their experiences of being at Oxford at [www.admissions.ox.ac.uk/swd](http://www.admissions.ox.ac.uk/swd).

### Disability Advisory Service

3 Worcester Street, Oxford OX1 2BX  
telephone: +44 (0) 1865 280459  
email: [disability@admin.ox.ac.uk](mailto:disability@admin.ox.ac.uk)

[www.ox.ac.uk/students/shw/das](http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/shw/das)

## Student health and welfare

The college community ensures there is always help available if you run into any problems. In addition to the Junior Common Room (JCR), your subject tutor will be able to help or advise, as will other senior members of your college. Each college also has a National Health Service doctor with whom you can enrol, normally in your first week. A college nurse is available for minor medical problems on weekdays.

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

## Student Counselling Service

If you wish to talk to somebody outside college, the University Counselling Service is there to help you with emotional or psychological problems. The Service is confidential and staffed by fully trained counsellors and psychotherapists. In addition, the Service trains and manages in the region of 250 students each year who offer first-stage support in colleges and departments. You can contact them via the Peer Support Panel in colleges.

3 Worcester Street, Oxford OX1 2BX  
telephone: +44 (0) 1865 270300  
email: [reception@counserv.ox.ac.uk](mailto:reception@counserv.ox.ac.uk)

[www.ox.ac.uk/students/shw/counselling](http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/shw/counselling)

## 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.

<http://users.ox.ac.uk/~nightlin>

## 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.

OUSU also run a Student Advice service (see below) and college JCRs have their own student welfare officers.

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

## Childcare

The University's Childcare Services offers places at University and college nurseries, as well as places in other local nurseries. The University's Childcare Fund can help students in financial hardship with childcare and related costs. (Please also see p 26.)

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

## Student Advice Service

The OUSU Student Advice Service 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, academic problems, complaints and appeals.

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



# Equality and diversity

## Equality statement

The University of Oxford and its colleges seek to admit students of high academic ability and potential. All colleges select students for admission without regard to gender, marital or civil partnership status, disability, race, nationality, ethnic origin, religion or belief, sexual orientation, age or social background. Decisions on admission are based solely on the individual merits of each candidate and the application of selection criteria appropriate to the course of study. Admissions procedures are kept under review to ensure compliance with this policy.

## The Equality and Diversity Unit

The Equality and Diversity Unit works with University bodies (including University Administration and Services), academic divisions and departments to ensure that the University's pursuit of excellence goes hand in hand with freedom from discrimination and equality of opportunity. The Unit is responsible for the main objectives of the existing equality schemes for race, disability and gender, and works to promote equality across all the protected characteristics, including sexual orientation, religion, belief and age.

The Unit provides practical support and advice to, and about, disabled staff and runs the harassment advisers' network. It also monitors recruitment and promotes awareness of equality and diversity throughout the collegiate University, helping people to understand legislation, their duty to promote equality and the benefits of a diverse, inclusive academic community to research, teaching and outreach.

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

## Where do I fit in?

There are many opportunities in Oxford to meet people with whom you may have common experiences and interests. The list below is just an introduction to the societies and campaigns where Oxford University, OUSU, colleges, central services and departments work together to create a positive experience for students and the wider community.

- **Black and 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.

- **Female students**

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

- **International students**

There are many events and workshops for international students. There are also numerous student societies representing most countries in the world.

- **Lesbian Gay Bisexual Trans Queer (LGBTQ) students**

LGBTQ Society runs numerous social events, whilst OUSU's LGBTQ campaign seeks to enhance the experience of LGBTQ students.

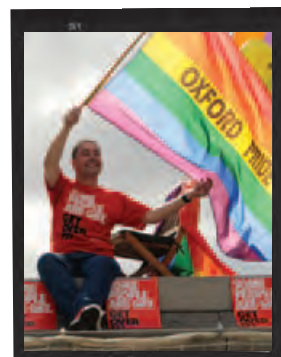
- **Mature students**

Every term there are social events, ranging from welcome drinks to more intimate potluck dinner nights.

- **Students with disabilities**

The Disability Advisory Service (see opposite) and OUSU's Students with Disabilities Campaign aim to enhance the student experience for those who have disabilities, and raise awareness amongst all students.

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



## Do you need this prospectus in another format?

A high contrast version is available to download from: [www.admissions.ox.ac.uk/prospectus](http://www.admissions.ox.ac.uk/prospectus)

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

The Admissions Information Centre, telephone +44 (0) 1865 288000  
or email: [undergraduate.admissions@admin.ox.ac.uk](mailto:undergraduate.admissions@admin.ox.ac.uk)





Oxford University is internationally renowned for academic excellence. We encourage applications from academically strong students from around the world, and welcome the diversity international students contribute to the University.

# International students

## 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 130 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.

In a survey of international students at 59 UK universities, Oxford ranked highest for the content of its courses, the expertise of its lecturers, and its emphasis on independent, flexible learning.

	Satisfaction ratings of international students at Oxford %	Oxford's rank relative to 58 other universities in the survey
Expert lecturers	95.9	1
Online library	93.1	1
Research	91.3	2
Good place to be in	96.4	1
Social activities	86.7	1

Source: International Student Barometer, IGI Services Ltd (2010)

## how to apply

Applications are made to Oxford University online through a central service called UCAS (Universities and Colleges Admissions Service), which deals with all applications to higher education in the UK. Please see [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com) or pp 6–7 for further details.

*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

## 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 appropriate for entry please refer to [www.admissions.ox.ac.uk/int/quals](http://www.admissions.ox.ac.uk/int/quals).

## Fees and funding

Details on fees and funding available to you as an international student can be found on p 30 and at [www.admissions.ox.ac.uk/finance](http://www.admissions.ox.ac.uk/finance).

## Immigration

If we offer you a place to study at Oxford and you are not an EEA or Swiss national, you must apply for a visa in your home country before you come to the UK. If you are an EEA or Swiss national you are entitled to enter the UK freely and can stay in the UK to study, without needing to apply for a student visa.

The UK has a 'Points-Based' immigration system, and you will need to apply for a Tier 4 student visa.

When you have met all the conditions, you will be emailed a 'Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies' (CAS) number which you will need when you apply for a student visa. Make sure we have your up-to-date email address. When you apply for your visa, you will need your CAS, and also the certificates that form your offer. You will also need documents showing you have the money for your fees and living expenses. Further information is available at:

[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)

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

## Student Information and Advisory Service

Our Student Information and Advisory Service (SIAS) can offer you all sorts of help and guidance during and after your studies. SIAS 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. SIAS also has its own team of Immigration and Visa Advisers who can help you with any visa queries you might have.

*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



[www.ox.ac.uk/students/international\\_students](http://www.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 tutors must be convinced that you have sufficient fluency in written and spoken English to cope with your course from the start.

Therefore, 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, IGCSE or O-level:** grade B
- **International Baccalaureate Standard Level (SL):** score of 5 in English
- **European Baccalaureate:** score of 70% in English.

If this is not achieved at the time of application it will form part of any conditional offer, and must be met by July 2013.

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

## 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.

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

**erasmus**

The Erasmus programme is supported by the European Commission. It provides an excellent way for students completing select courses at the University of Oxford to experience a period of study abroad at one of our partner universities. In addition, Modern Languages students have the possibility of undertaking an Erasmus work placement during their compulsory year abroad. There are many advantages to participating in Erasmus, including a monthly allowance to help towards the costs of being abroad.

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

## getting in touch

If you have any questions about your application to Oxford, please contact the **Admissions i** (see p 183). We also run events in many countries around the world, with information for international applicants. To find out more please contact the Student Recruitment Team by email at [liaison@admin.ox.ac.uk](mailto:liaison@admin.ox.ac.uk).







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.

# Mature students



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

## Making an application

The application procedure for mature students is the same as for other students (see pp 6–7 for our 10-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 154), and three of the Permanent Private Halls, Blackfriars (see p 149), St Stephen's House (see p 176) and Wycliffe Hall (see p 182), 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. Two holiday play schemes are available 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)

*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



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



## Finances

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

## 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 [www.admissions.ox.ac.uk/enreqs](http://www.admissions.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.

Applications for the Foundation Certificate should be made to the Award Programme Office, Oxford University Department for Continuing Education, 1 Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JA by 31 May 2012 (for entry in October 2012). Late applicants will be considered if places are still available.

### 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. For further details please telephone: +44 (0)1865 270369 or email: [ppaward@conted.ox.ac.uk](mailto:ppaward@conted.ox.ac.uk).

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

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

## 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 [www.ox.ac.uk/feesandfunding/fees/information/elq](http://www.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 [www.admissions.ox.ac.uk/grad](http://www.admissions.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





# our career after **OXFORD**

## Developing your transferable **skills**

bright, talented people with an optimistic outlook and excellent communications skills.

LARGE MANAGEMENT CONSULTANCY FIRM

one can rely on the quality of the training, level of reasoning and problem solving ability, integrity, and respect of Oxford students.

ENGINEERING AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES FIRM

The academic and college environment at Oxford University is rich with opportunities for you to develop many transferable skills that are eagerly sought by employers. Undertaking an intellectually demanding academic course (often incorporating requirements from a professional body) will equip you for the demands of many jobs. The tutorial system will enable you to research, summarise, present and defend an argument with some of the best scholars in your subject. Under the direction of an experienced researcher, you will extend your skills and experiences through practical or project work, placements or fieldwork, writing extended essays or dissertations. In college and University sports teams, clubs and societies you will have the chance to take the lead and play an active part within and outside the University.

Surveys of our employers report that they find Oxford students better, or much better, than the average UK student at key employability skills such as problem solving, leadership, and communication. Hundreds of recruiters visit the University each year, demonstrating their demand for Oxford undergraduate and postgraduate students, only 5% of whom will be unemployed six months after leaving.



the Oxford system produces graduates who are able to think independently and creatively, and above all, know how to go about continual learning – in our business, the ability to handle new situations, and new skills, is much more important than any specific vocational or subject-specific training.

IT SERVICES FIRM

Oxford students are self-starters, who are able to intelligently apply themselves to a range of tasks – they are often able to manage their time effectively, and confidently present themselves in professional situations.

ACADEMIC RESEARCH THINK TANK



## The University Careers Service: free, trusted and impartial

The Careers Service provides impartial advice and guidance, and works with all students to help you make timely and informed decisions about career choices. Our website – [www.careers.ox.ac.uk](http://www.careers.ox.ac.uk) – provides detailed information on occupations, lists hundreds of vacancies, and reports on the jobs that Oxford graduates take.

Each year we run 15 careers fairs in Oxford and abroad; deliver CV and interview skills workshops; organise mock interviews with real recruiters; and host more than 150 employer presentations. Throughout the year you can book discussions with a skilled Careers Adviser, and we have over 300 one-to-one sessions available to book or drop in for every week during term time.

We support students and increase their employability by running bespoke activities, including The Student Consultancy – a successful scheme where students work in teams with local organisations to solve real business problems; AbilityWorks – a programme for those with a disability or SpLD; and the Oxford University International Internships Programme – which organises over 200 work placements around the world. The Careers Service also works closely with many Oxford student organisations including OUSU, Oxford Entrepreneurs, Oxford Women in Business, and many international societies.

The Careers Service supports you in contacting former students, allowing you to take advantage of the internships, advice, mentoring and jobs that many alumni provide (see [www.careers.ox.ac.uk/students/contacting-alumni](http://www.careers.ox.ac.uk/students/contacting-alumni)). We also provide ongoing assistance throughout your career for as long as you may need it.

\*These are the top 10 career sectors that Oxford undergraduates work in, six months after graduation, based on 2009–10 data. This data excludes postgraduate courses and qualifications, such as Law.

Six months after graduation

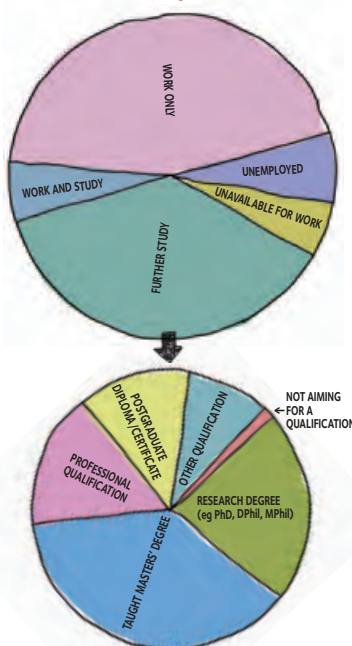
### Top 10 career sectors\*

1. Health care
2. Education
3. HR and Administration
4. Research
5. Sales and Marketing
6. Management Consultancy
7. Publishing & Media
8. Engineering & Manufacturing
9. Finance
10. Investment Banking

### Average salaries (by Division)

- Humanities: £22,500
- Mathematical, Physical and Life Sciences: £27,700
- Medical Sciences: £27,200
- Social Sciences: £24,900

Find out more at [www.bit.ly/OxDLHE](http://www.bit.ly/OxDLHE)



## OXFORD UNIVERSITY INTERNATIONAL INTERNSHIPS PROGRAMME

From publishing in Hong Kong, to museums in the USA and charity work in Malawi, OUIIP co-ordinates over 200 global internships each year for Oxford University students. Download the OUIIP yearbook at [www.careers.ox.ac.uk/OUIIP](http://www.careers.ox.ac.uk/OUIIP) to find out more.







# Funding your degree at Oxford

## Funding overview: Students from the UK and other EU countries

**Despite what you may have heard about the cost of attending Oxford, our world-class resources and college provision actually keep living costs down.** We also have very generous bursaries and reduced fees for students from the UK and EU from low-income households, ensuring that if you get a place, you can make the most of your time at Oxford.

Oxford is committed to ensuring UK students with the ability to get a place can afford to attend Oxford; while many universities offer either reduced fees or bursaries, Oxford provides both. Financial assistance doesn't end there. The college system ensures that individual student needs are taken into account and extra support is available to assist you.

### **Fees – you don't have to pay fees upfront and at Oxford you might pay less**

**You do not have to pay upfront.** Home/EU students can receive a tuition fee loan to the full value of their tuition fee from their funding agency. Students at Oxford can also benefit from a reduced tuition fee if their household income is less than £25,000. In 2012–13 students from Wales benefited from a tuition fee grant which reduced their fee and so were not eligible for an additional reduction in their fee.

*The University hopes to confirm levels in April 2012; as a guide the tuition fee for 2012–13 was £9,000.*

### **Living costs – subsidised College accommodation**

The main forms of institutional support for living costs are from the collegiate University, and government funding agencies. Please see the page opposite for details of the funding agency for your country. At the time of publishing the levels of funding available are not known for 2013 entry.

EU students are not entitled to support for living costs from the government unless they have been living in the UK for a number of years.

*The University will confirm living cost levels in April 2012; as a guide the estimated living costs for 2012–13 were £7,600 for six months in College accommodation.*

### **Repaying your loans – controlled debt based upon earnings**

Tuition and maintenance loans will need to be repaid; details of repayment vary depending upon where in the UK you are from but students are not expected to repay until they have graduated and the amount to repay is based upon earnings. If you are from England you won't have to start repaying until you are earning more than £21,000 per year. If you earn £2,000 per month, or £24,000 per year you would repay less than £25 per month, as you only pay 9% of any salary over £21,000.

### **Resources for Home/EU students**

Includes a calculator for English students:  
[www.thebrightsidetrust.org/students](http://www.thebrightsidetrust.org/students)

The National Union of Students:  
[www.nus.org.uk/en/advice/money-and-funding](http://www.nus.org.uk/en/advice/money-and-funding)

Independent Task Force on Student Funding on government and university support:  
[www.unifees2012.com](http://www.unifees2012.com)

Overview of funding for UK students:  
[www.ucas.com/students/studentfinance](http://www.ucas.com/students/studentfinance)

## Funding overview: Islands students and International students (non-EU)

### **Students from the Channel Islands and Isle of Man**

Students from the Channel Islands and Isle of Man are classed as 'Islands students' and do not receive UK government support nor Oxford bursaries and reduced fees. As a guide the tuition fee in 2012–13 was £9,000 (Clinical Medicine will be significantly higher) and students also pay a college fee (see below).

### **Students from countries outside the EU**

#### **Fees**

The 2013–14 fees will be confirmed by September 2012. There is a small incremental rise in the fees for each year of the course. Students from countries outside the EU pay two sorts of fees:

- tuition fee: in 2012–13 annual fees vary from £13,200 to £18,550 (Clinical Medicine will be higher)

- college fee: in 2012–13 annual fees will be around £6,500. The College Fee is a compulsory charge for tuition and is not for accommodation and food which is charged separately.

#### **Living and other costs**

In addition to the cost of term time living shown for UK and EU students there might be longer periods of accommodation, increased travel and storage, as well as visa costs. Students from overseas will be asked to complete a financial guarantee, which shows they have enough funding to cover their living costs and fees for the length of the course.

#### **Scholarships**

The University has a small number of scholarships available to overseas students. Also students from the USA can access Federal Loans through the University, and Canadian students can access federal or provincial or territorial programmes.



For more information, on anything on this page, scan the QR code if you have a reader on your phone or visit:



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

This information is available at [www.admissions.ox.ac.uk](http://www.admissions.ox.ac.uk) and will be updated regularly.

You can download and print off a PDF that can be glued on to this page so you always have the most up-to-date details. The first update will be available to download in April 2012.

#### The situation at December 2011

### UK/EU students: detailed information on funding

Funding is available from the collegiate University at Oxford and the UK parliaments/assemblies. The government funding that you are eligible to receive is determined by which country you are from; the funding agency responsible for your country is listed below.

*At the time of publishing the levels of funding available are not known for 2013 entry. However when information is available the University will produce an updated prospectus page for you to download.*

Oxford support will be announced in April 2012 subject to approval by the Office for Fair Access ([www.offa.org.uk](http://www.offa.org.uk)) by July 2012. In 2012–13 Oxford's support was judged the most generous, no strings attached support in the country by the Independent Task Force on student funding. Not only is the funding generous but we make it as easy as possible to receive and don't attach extra requirements.

### 2012–13 Support

Household income	Bursary level in first year	Bursary level in further years	Fee in first year	Fee in further years
£16,000 or less	£4,300	£3,300	£3,500	£6,000
£16,001–£20,000	£3,500	£3,000	£7,000	£7,000
£20,001–£25,000	£3,000	£2,500	£8,000	£8,000
£25,001–£30,000	£2,500	£2,000	£9,000	£9,000
£30,001–£35,000	£2,000	£1,500	£9,000	£9,000
£35,001–£40,000	£1,500	£1,000	£9,000	£9,000
£40,001–£42,600	£1,000	£500	£9,000	£9,000
£42,601+	£0	£0	£9,000	£9,000

### Government support

All Home/EU students can access a full tuition fee loan.

#### England

[www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance](http://www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance)

Students from England apply for finance through Student Finance England.

Funding for 2012–13 is:

- Non-repayable grant: maximum grant is £3,250 for those whose household income is less than £25,000.
- Repayable loan: all students can access a minimum loan of £3,575 irrespective of household income.

#### Northern Ireland

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

Students from Northern Ireland apply for finance through Student Finance Northern Ireland.

Funding for 2012–13 is:

- Non-repayable grant: maximum grant is £3,475 for those whose household income is less than £19,203.
- Repayable loan: all students can access a minimum loan irrespective of household income.

#### Scotland

[www.saas.gov.uk](http://www.saas.gov.uk)

Students from Scotland apply for finance through the Students Award Agency for Scotland. SAAS have not released full information on what funding they are providing for students in 2012–13.

#### Wales

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

Students from Wales apply for finance through Student Finance Wales.

Funding for 2012–13 is:

- Non-repayable grant: maximum assembly learning grant is £5,000 for those whose household income is less than £18,370.
- Repayable loan: students can access a minimum loan irrespective of household income.

#### Rest of EU

[www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance-eu](http://www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance-eu)

Students from the rest of the EU are not entitled to financial support with their living costs from the UK government but they can access a tuition fee loan.

### Previous study

If you have studied at undergraduate level before and completed your course you will be classed as an Equivalent or Lower Qualification student (ELQ). You won't receive government or university support and may have to pay a separate college fee on top of the tuition fee. If you 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.

[www.ox.ac.uk/feesandfunding/fees/information/elq](http://www.ox.ac.uk/feesandfunding/fees/information/elq)





# Where will you 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; some have an internal telephone and internet points. Your room may be on the main site or nearby.



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 – this serves three meals every day. You need to bring your own clothes, music and posters, of course! If you wish to cook, you may need to bring some kitchenware; your college will tell you what is provided.

## 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

## Out of term

During the holidays, your college may be able to provide storage, particularly for overseas 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 144], 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 timetables.  
[www.admissions.ox.ac.uk/awee kinthelife](http://www.admissions.ox.ac.uk/awee kinthelife)

# A day in the life



## Arts students



- 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


## Social sciences students

- 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 Sciences 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 in the afternoon  
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

## Science students

- 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 

- 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 

- 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

- 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