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Student News

Preparing for Oxford



June 2015

Congratulations on receiving an offer from the University of Oxford, whether unconditional or conditional at this stage. This newsletter provides information to help you to prepare for arriving and studying at Oxford.



Thinking about your career

The Careers Service is your free impartial service for life, providing detailed and extensive information and advice both in person and online. The Service will help you stand out in an increasingly competitive graduate job market through opportunities to develop your skills and gain practical experience for your career.

Whilst at Oxford, there are many different ways to explore and build the skills that employers will value. Your course gives you the opportunity to learn not just your subject, but how to manage your time, communicate effectively on paper, plan your work, use initiative and creativity and build your verbal communication skills and confidence. Outside your studies, joining a student club, society or a college committee enables you to develop your teamwork skills, as well as leadership and organisational skills if you take on a position of responsibility.

The Careers Service [Employability Programmes](#) are leading learning and development opportunities, generally work-based or experiential, which enable you to develop your confidence, commercial awareness and entrepreneurial skills, and build professional networks within particular industries. If you've got an idea of what

careers interest you and you're keen to get started, explore the various Employability Programmes on offer at Oxford. However, if you don't yet know what type of career you want to pursue, university is a great time for new, varied experiences that can help develop the skills, values and interests that will benefit you after your studies.

When you start at Oxford, you will be able to sign in to [CareerConnect](#) to see advertised opportunities in many different areas. You can save your search and receive email alerts for new opportunities. Deadlines vary, but many are in Michaelmas (autumn) term so you are advised to look early for the best chance of securing a placement.

Work and study abroad

As a truly global institution, the University of Oxford understands the importance of international experiences to your academic, career and personal development. There are opportunities to study, work, or undertake research in dozens of countries across the globe, and a number of grants are available to help you fund trips overseas. To find out more, including what you should consider if you are planning to travel abroad as part of your studies, visit the [international opportunities page](#) of the Oxford Students website.

Financial support through the Lloyds Scholars Programme

The [Lloyds Scholars Programme](#) provides financial support for students from lower-income households starting university in 2015. The Programme offers up to two paid internship opportunities, as well as encouraging involvement in the local community, rewarding outstanding academic performance, and providing support from a dedicated mentor. Fifteen awards are available to UK students from a household with an income of £25,000 or less starting at Oxford in October 2015. The deadline for applications is 29 June 2015.

Paid work experience

Term-time employment is not permitted for undergraduate students, except under exceptional circumstances and in consultation with your tutor and senior tutor. During vacations you will be required to complete academic work and this should take priority over other commitments. However, the Careers Service can help you to find [work experience placements](#) during the vacations, with the agreement of your tutor.

Arriving as an international student?

The [International students page](#) of the Oxford Students website contains the information you require prior to arriving in the UK, including essential information about applying for your student visa and your visa conditions. As there are a number of changes to visa requirements this year, detailed information will be sent to those students who need a visa in early July.

The international students page also contains a guide on how to get to Oxford from the major airports and Eurostar terminals. Please don't forget to check with your college (or department if you do not have a college) for when you should be in residence before making travel arrangements.

To help European and international students settle into Oxford life, the University offers a free [Orientation Programme](#). As well as providing practical details for living and studying in the UK and Oxford, and a walking tour, the Programme provides a fantastic opportunity to meet students from more than 100 countries before starting your studies. The Orientation Programme will be held on Thursday 1 October (for Social Sciences Division graduates), Friday 2 October (for all other graduates) and on Monday 5 October (for undergraduates and visiting students). A partners and families event will be held on Saturday 3 October. Your college will send you information about how to register for the Programme over the summer, together with details on when you can arrive in your accommodation.

A number of alumni groups around the globe also organise [freshers' events](#), typically in mid to late September, for new students embarking on their educational journey at the University.

Note: This email has been sent to conditional and unconditional University of Oxford offer holders. This email does not mean that your place is confirmed.

Student News is produced by [Academic Administration Division Communications](#), Examination Schools, 75-81 High Street, Oxford OX1 4BG.