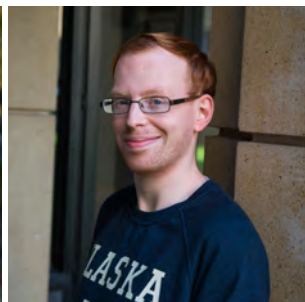
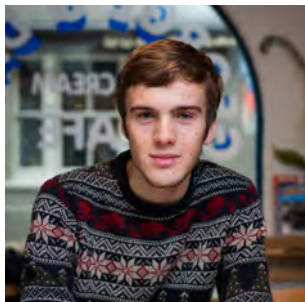
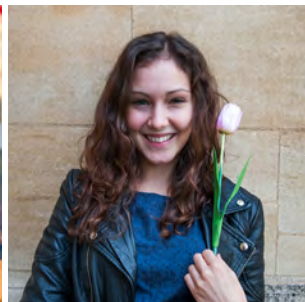


Undergraduate Prospectus 2016



ALI, BRIGITTE, CAMERON, CHARITH, CHARLES, CHERN YUEN, CHESCA, CHRIS, CLAIRE, EMILY, FARZEHA, MATTHEW, IDA, IONA, IZZY, JACK, JOHN, LOUISE, MARCO, MATTHEW, MILI, OLIVIA, RACHAEL, ROWENA, SAM, SOPHIE-CHARLOTTE, STEPHANIE AND YEDAM, SAY:

It doesn't matter about your background – I didn't think I'd make it either!

Rachael, 2nd year

When I tell my tutors that their argument is ridiculous, they are delighted ...as long as I can defend my reasons!

Rowena, 4th year

Oxford has exceeded my expectations.

Matthew, 1st year

Come with an open mind.

Farzeha, 3rd year

If you're thinking about it, just do it.

Chris, 3rd year

Everyone's much more normal than I thought!

Olivia, 1st year

I'm looking forward to my 4th year ... it will be exciting to do science that nobody has ever done before.

Izzy, 3rd year

Oxford is a truly enriching experience ... I'm looking forward to what the future holds!

Charles, 1st year

Oxford is for everyone, as long as you have the grades.

Louise, 1st year

Oxford is hard work but great fun.

Charles, 1st year

We go to a Viking village with the historical re-enactment society and cook over an open fire.

Sophie-Charlotte, 3rd year

Being here has opened my eyes to the possibilities in this world.

Chern Yuen, 3rd year

Love your subject and you'll be fine!

Ali, 1st year

There is no blueprint for a successful Oxford applicant.

Emily, 1st year

Last summer I toured California, India and Edinburgh for free – and made a studio album.

Marco, 3rd year

Anything can happen, so give it a go.

Matthew, 1st year

Be engaged, be inquisitive, be yourself.

Sam, 3rd year

Oxford has taught me how to squeeze every last second out of a moment.

Chesca, 1st year

My face was painted by one of the children I volunteer with.

John, 3rd year

Oxford has helped me realise what I believe in, and has got me involved in causes I deeply care about.

Mili, 2nd year

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Do you need this prospectus in another format?

Download a high-contrast version
from **ox.ac.uk/moreinfo**
Braille, large print and audio formats are
also available on request from:

Admissions Information Centre

+44 (0) 1865 288000

study@ox.ac.uk

ox.ac.uk/study

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Details are correct at the time of going to press in January 2015. Any updates or changes to information can be found on our webpages **ox.ac.uk/study**.

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Why Oxford?

A white silhouette of the Oxford skyline is set against a solid blue background. The skyline includes several prominent church spires and towers of varying heights. Overlaid on the right side of the skyline is a large, bold, red 'NO.1'.

I got a lecture on deserts from a lecturer who had arrived fresh off the plane from Chad – he still had the dust on his shoes!

Ryan, 2nd year

My favourite Oxford memory is being told by my tutor about her latest research breakthrough during a first year tutorial. This information is only now starting to filter through to students at other universities two years later, and I heard about it directly from the researcher!

Catherine, 3rd year

**Top University
in the UK & Europe:**

Times Higher Education
World Rankings 2014-15

**Largest volume of
high-quality research:**

Research Excellence
Framework, 2014

**More world-leading
academics than any
other UK university:**

Complete University Guide, 2014

OVER
£23,000
FINANCIAL SUPPORT

An English student from a low-income background who begins a course in 2015 will receive up to £23,660 in **non-repayable** grants and bursaries over three years.

1 IN 4
STUDENTS GET A BURSARY

A quarter of Oxford undergraduates get a bursary on top of any government support (UK/EU only).

My college is home to a weird and wonderful bunch of brainy eccentrics from all over the world.

Emily, 1st year

OVER
11,000
UNDERGRADUATES
÷
35 COLLEGES
=
OVER 300 STUDENTS PER COLLEGE

All the benefits of a small local community, with all the resources of a big international University. It's like having a campus in the middle of a city.

YOUNGEST
CITY

Oxford is the youngest city in England and Wales. **35%** of people who live here are aged 15-29, and **24%** (30,000) are university students.

OLDEST
UNIVERSITY

Oxford is the oldest university in the English-speaking world – **over 900 years old.**

How Oxford works

As an Oxford undergraduate you'll be part of an academic department or departments, depending on the course you're studying. You'll also be a member of a college – a community of students and academics from many different subject areas.

The course you study is the same, whatever your college.

The choice of course is the most important part, because it is what you will spend most of your time on for the next 3 or more years.

Catherine, 3rd year

OVER
250
COURSES

FROM OVER
30
FACULTIES AND
DEPARTMENTS

1-TO-1
AND SMALL GROUP
TEACHING THROUGH
THE TUTORIAL SYSTEM

COURSE

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

Lectures

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

Practicals

All students in science-based subjects come together for labwork and/or fieldwork – typically, at least two half-days a week.

Assessment

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

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

**COLLEGES
ARE NOT JUST
WHERE YOU LIVE
– IN MOST CASES
THEY ARE A BASE
FOR TUTORIAL
TEACHING.**

35 UNDERGRADUATE COLLEGES AND HALLS



COLLEGE

Whatever course you are studying, you will also become a member of a small academic community called a college. Colleges provide you with a home-from-home in Oxford – you'll live there for at least your first year – and in most cases arrange your tutorial teaching.

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

to review your answers or theories and explore ideas that arise in discussion.

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

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

Regular meetings with approachable tutors ensure that you never fall behind and are given individual help if needed.

Niloy, 3rd year

Is Oxford for me?

91%

SCORE FOR SATISFACTION
IN THE 2014 NATIONAL
STUDENT SURVEY

98.8%

COMPLETE THEIR DEGREE
– ONLY 1.2% OF STUDENTS
DROP OUT, COMPARED TO
6.7% NATIONALLY

23%

OF OUR STUDENTS
IDENTIFY AS BLACK
OR MINORITY ETHNIC

7%

OF OUR STUDENTS
ARE REGISTERED FOR
DISABILITY SUPPORT

Selection at Oxford is entirely based on academic criteria.

To make a competitive application, you need to have, or expect to achieve, three A-levels or any other equivalent qualifications. The exact requirements vary depending on which course you want to apply for, but as a guide you will need to achieve:

A-levels: AAA – A*A*A

International Baccalaureate:

38 – 40 (including core points)

Many more qualifications are acceptable: see the full list at ox.ac.uk/enreqs

Apart from any specific requirements, we accept all subjects (except General Studies) – particularly those which can demonstrate that you have the necessary skills for your chosen degree.

We don't care about your background, your extra-curricular activities* or what kind of school you went to – we're just looking for academic potential.

**unless your extra-curricular activities show your commitment to or aptitude for your chosen course.*

Three years ago I thought it extremely unlikely that I would be here today. If you're reading this and thinking the same, then we have something in common.

Nikita, 3rd year



I receive a Moritz–Heyman Scholarship, which is for students from low-income backgrounds. As well as funding and tuition fee reductions, it provides support for doing an internship during the vacation.

Izzy, 3rd year



It really doesn't matter if you don't have any major extra-curricular hobbies. Not only is interest in your chosen course far more important, but when you get to university there are far more extra-curricular opportunities than you could have foreseen whilst at school!

Nikita, 3rd year



There's no need to be scared of or intimidated by Oxford – if you want to apply and are capable of achieving the grades you need, then go for it.

Claire, 1st year



I've never felt this free before: from discussing the most esoteric ideas and subjects, to just enjoying myself at Queerfest.

Jordan, 1st year



Global Oxford



If you are interested in your subject, then you must apply to Oxford! There are almost no places globally which can provide the same student experience.

Niloy, 3rd year

INTERNATIONAL STUDY & RESEARCH

While at Oxford, there are lots of opportunities for you to gain international experience to further your academic, career and personal development. These include studying, working or undertaking research abroad. Organised and funded by the University and its colleges, examples include:

Over 650 college travel grants

More than 500 summer internships

Funded Summer Schools at universities abroad

Student exchanges with the US, Asia and Europe

A year abroad for students of: Modern Languages, Oriental Studies and Law with Law Studies in Europe

ox.ac.uk/students/goabroad

Erasmus study exchanges let you spend up to 12 months at one of our partner universities. Modern Languages students also have the option of an Erasmus traineeship during their year abroad. Erasmus is supported by the European Commission, and includes a monthly allowance to help with studying or working abroad.
ox.ac.uk/erasmus

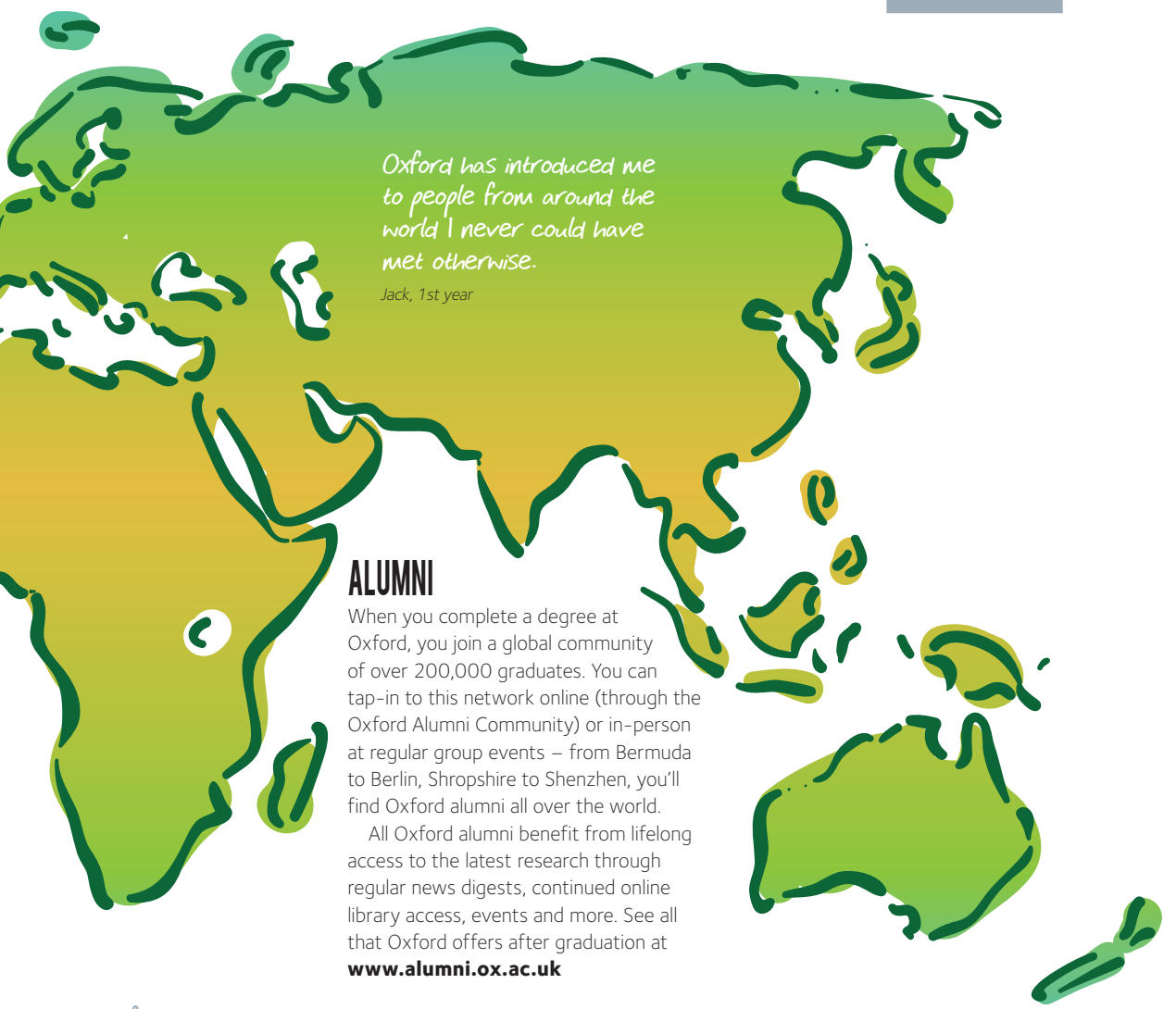


Erasmus+

FIND OUT MORE

Careers:
page 168

International
students:
page 180



*Oxford has introduced me
to people from around the
world I never could have
met otherwise.*

Jack, 1st year

ALUMNI

When you complete a degree at Oxford, you join a global community of over 200,000 graduates. You can tap-in to this network online (through the Oxford Alumni Community) or in-person at regular group events – from Bermuda to Berlin, Shropshire to Shenzhen, you'll find Oxford alumni all over the world.

All Oxford alumni benefit from lifelong access to the latest research through regular news digests, continued online library access, events and more. See all that Oxford offers after graduation at

www.alumni.ox.ac.uk

*Oxford: a great
group of interesting
people who come
from all across
the world and yet
can relate to each
other so easily.*

Mathew, 1st year

OXFORD PEOPLE

26 Nobel Prize winners

26 UK Prime Ministers

International leaders including Bill Clinton and Benazir Bhutto

Scientists like Edwin Hubble, Dorothy Hodgkin and Stephen Hawking

Poets and writers including John Donne, Oscar Wilde and Iris Murdoch

Actors and film-makers including Kate Winslet, Hugh Grant and Ken Loach

How to apply

If you want to study at Oxford in 2016, you need to apply by 15 October 2015. Choose a course and check that you meet its entrance requirements, then follow these steps to apply:

OCTOBER 2015

UCAS APPLICATION

You will need to provide information about yourself, including a personal statement where you talk about your interest in the course you're applying for. A teacher or advisor needs to give you a reference. This is all submitted through an online form – no additional references, transcripts or certificates are required unless you have already completed your first degree.

Make sure you start your UCAS application in good time.

Most people apply to Oxford before they have finished their final year of school or college. If this is the case for you, then your referee will need to provide you with predicted grades – where they say what they expect you to achieve in your A-levels (or equivalent qualifications).

Submit by 6pm UK time on 15 October at www.ucas.com

TESTS

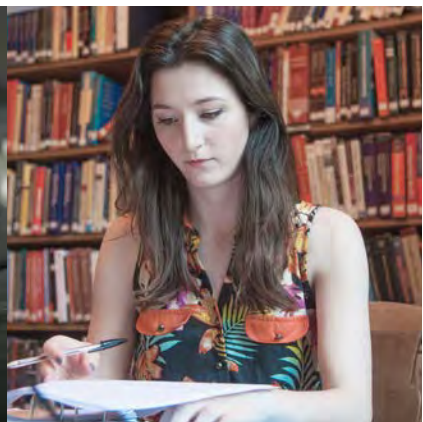
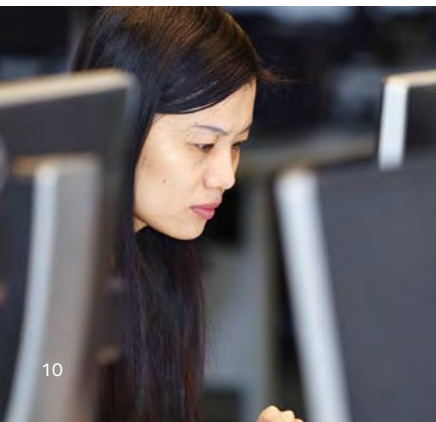
For most courses, **you are required** to take a test as an essential part of your application: check your course page.

Oxford admissions tests are organised by the **Admissions Testing Service**. If you are currently at school or college, you must ask your exams officer to register you to take the test there. Otherwise, see the website for advice on finding an open centre: ox.ac.uk/tests

You must **register by 15 October 2015** and sit the test on **4 November 2015**.

If you're applying to study Law, you must take the LNAT (the National Admissions Test for Law) between **1 September and 20 October 2015**.

To guarantee a test slot you will need to **register by 5 October 2015** www.lnat.ac.uk



Seriously, relax during the interview. Rushing off the first thought that comes to mind will very likely end in a wrong answer. Although, getting an answer wrong doesn't mean that you will fail – if you have fun learning from the interview, chances are that you'll do just fine.

Yedam, 1st year

NOVEMBER 2015 WRITTEN WORK

For some courses, you need to send in written work as part of your application: check the page for your course. For exact requirements for each subject, and to download a cover sheet, please visit **ox.ac.uk/writwork**.



Download
Oxford interviews:
your guide at
ox.ac.uk/interview

DECEMBER 2015 INTERVIEW

Tutors review each UCAS application, along with any test or written work, and decide on a shortlist of candidates to interview. You will find out whether or not you have been shortlisted in late November or early December.

If you are shortlisted, you will be invited to come to a particular college in December. The college will provide free accommodation and food while you are here. You will be interviewed by tutors at that college, and possibly by tutors at other colleges as well.

If you live outside the EU, and are unable to travel to Oxford for interview, then you may be offered an interview by Skype. (Medicine is an exception – all shortlisted candidates must come to Oxford.)

There are lots of myths about interviews at Oxford, but really they're just conversations about your chosen subject.

JANUARY 2016 DECISIONS

You will hear by mid-January 2016 whether or not your application has been successful.

If you have not yet completed the necessary qualifications, then any offer made will be a 'conditional offer'. **You will have until August 2016 to achieve the required grades.**

SPRING 2016 FINANCE

Student finance applications open from early 2016.

For fees, funding, grants and bursaries information see page 170 or visit

ox.ac.uk/funding

OCTOBER 2016 START YOUR COURSE?

