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Welcome to Oxford

Welcome to the University of Oxford! We hope that you enjoy your time here as an Erasmus exchange student, and that this guide will help prepare you for your visit by providing some useful information to assist you during your time here.

Oxford University is internationally renowned for academic excellence and welcomes the diversity that international students contribute to the University. Today, one third of its students, including 17% of undergraduates, are from outside the UK and come from 140 countries.

Oxford students receive an intensive education, including personalised tutorials, taught by academic leaders in their field. The University is made up of colleges. These are multidisciplinary communities within which students are supported and intellectually challenged, and have the opportunity to meet people from all walks of life, many different cultures and from all around the world.



Oxford at a Glance

Oxford is consistently ranked one of the world's top five universities.

The University of Oxford is a collegiate University which means it is comprised of over 40 Colleges and Permanent Private Halls.

There are over 22,000 students at Oxford, including 11,703 undergraduates and 10,173 postgraduates.

Our academic staff comes from almost **100** different countries and territories. The largest groups of international academic staff are from the USA, Germany, Italy, China (excluding Hong Kong), Australia, France, Ireland, India and Canada.

Almost **40%** of our total student body – roughly 8,900 students – are citizens of foreign countries, including 16% of undergraduates and 62% of graduate students.

Oxford boasts one of the most extensive global alumni networks in the world, with more than 200,000 Oxonians in over 80 countries.

Students come to Oxford from 140 countries and territories. The largest groups of international students come from the USA, China, Germany, Canada, India, Australia, Italy, Ireland, Singapore and France.

How to apply for an Erasmus Study Exchange

In order to study at the University of Oxford as an Erasmus student the department at your home institution must have an institutional agreement in place with the respective department at Oxford. Applications must firstly be made to your home university, and if selected they will nominate you to Oxford.

All students who have been nominated to take part in an Erasmus exchange will receive the appropriate Oxford application form. The University will only consider applications from students who have been nominated by their home institution.

As part of your application to the University of Oxford you will be required to submit a number of supporting documents including evidence of your English language proficiency. The English language proficiency level normally expected of Erasmus students is B2/C1 confirmed in the form of an English language test certificate.

Applications will be considered by the relevant department, and students will be notified of the outcome. Accepted Erasmus students will be allocated to a college for the duration of their stay. It is likely that you will be assigned to the college where the outgoing study exchange student is based, so you will not be able to choose a college as part of your application.

Alternatives to an Erasmus study exchange

If your home institution does not have an Erasmus study exchange agreement with the University of Oxford, you may apply to study here outside of Erasmus as a Visiting Student. Further information about the Visiting Student Programme can be found on the Visiting Student webpage.

If you wish to work rather than study, the University is able to accept Erasmus trainees. Traineeships must be organised through the department you wish to work for, and they will sign all paperwork and be responsible for you throughout your stay. It is important to note that trainees will not have a college place and would not be registered as a student at the University. Please contact the relevant department directly to see if they are interested, and if so to discuss what the traineeship might involve.



Before you arrive

Visa and immigration

If you are a national of the European Economic Area (EEA) or Switzerland, you do not require a visa to come to the UK to study. Your EEA national/Swiss passport or ID card will be sufficient to enter the UK. This may be subject to change due to the decision of the United Kingdom to leave the EU.

If you are not a national of the EEA or Switzerland you will need to apply for a visa before travelling. The type of permission/visa you require will depend on the length of your stay. For more information please visit the following page: www.ox.ac.uk/students/visa/before or email student.immigration@admin.ox.ac.uk.

University card and arrival information

In the weeks prior to your arrival at Oxford your college or department will contact you with a University card form to sign and return together with a passport photograph. You may also receive further documents and arrival information at this time. To make sure that you receive important documentation promptly, please notify your college, department or the Erasmus office of any changes to the contact details and email address you supplied during the application process.

Access to IT facilities

Once you have signed and returned your University card form, and in advance of your stay at Oxford, you will be sent your University of Oxford Single Sign On IT account details, giving you access to central IT services. Information on the services available, your Oxford email account, and how to set up your IT access, is available on the Welcome to IT web pages.

The University registration process

Student Information will also provide you with details of how to register with the University. You should complete the first step of your University registration by verifying your details online using Student Self Service before you arrive. You will need to use your Oxford Single Sign On details to access Student Self Service.

Accommodation

In most instances it will be possible for you to live in college accommodation whilst you are here. Your college will be in touch with you to provide details about this.

It is also possible for you to live outside of college accommodation. For help with private accommodation, visit the <u>Studentpad</u> website, hosted by the Graduate Accommodation Office, where a number of private landlords advertise for tenants associated with the University.

Please do not forget to notify your college, landlady or landlord of your arrival date.



Organising your finances

Incoming Erasmus students do not pay tuition or college fees to the University of Oxford. However, you will have to pay for expenses such as accommodation or meals.

The Erasmus coordinator at your home institution will be able to provide you with information regarding the fees that are payable to them whilst you are away and about any financial assistance that is available to you.

When budgeting you should be aware that your first few weeks of term are likely to be more expensive as you prepare and settle into life at the University. Living costs vary from country to country and it is important to have an idea of the cost of everyday items. You will need to budget carefully to cover all your living costs, which include accommodation, clothes, transport, books, food and entertainment.

The following website will help you to get an idea how much it will cost to live in Oxford: www.ox.ac.uk/students/fees-funding/living-costs.

There is also useful information on managing your finances and opening a bank account. It might also be useful to research how to best transfer money from your home country to the UK in advance.

Travel and medical insurance

As an Erasmus student you are required to obtain travel insurance to cover your luggage, personal possessions, money and medical costs for your journey and study period in the UK. It may be a good idea to get in touch with your home university to enquire if they offer travel insurance for Erasmus students.

Students from Britain, the European Economic Area (EEA) and any country with reciprocal health

arrangements are eligible for free treatment under the National Health Service (NHS). Before coming to study, you should apply for a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) to give yourself easier access to healthcare in the UK. This may be subject to change due to the decision of the United Kingdom to leave the EU. Students from outside the EEA who are studying full time for more than 6 months and applied for a visa before 6 April 2015 as well as those who paid the Immigration Health Surcharge (IHS) as part of a visa application on or after 6 April 2015 are allowed access to the NHS free of charge. Check your entitlement to healthcare in the UK on this webpage: www.ukcisa.org.uk/Information--Advice/Living-in-the-UK/Health-

What to bring

and-healthcare.

Preparing to come to Oxford is easy if you plan well in advance. Before you leave home, check you have the following:

- A valid passport (or recognised travel document)
- Entry visa / entry certificate (if applicable)
- Photocopies (for safe keeping) of your UK visa and your passport's photo / personal details page
- Any documentation from your college
- Enough cash to support yourself until you can open a bank account
- Travel and medical insurance
- Check the compatibility of any electrical equipment you are bringing with the British system.



Getting to Oxford

Oxford is about 60 miles (90km) northwest of London and has excellent road and national rail links. Regular coach services connect Oxford with the capital and also with Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted airports.

From London airports

The <u>Airline Coach Service</u> operates a frequent 24-hour service to Oxford from London Heathrow and Gatwick airports.

The <u>National Express 757</u> service runs from Stansted airport.

A number of taxi companies offer services to all major airports. CCB Cars and Findlay's offer pre-bookable airport transfers.

By train

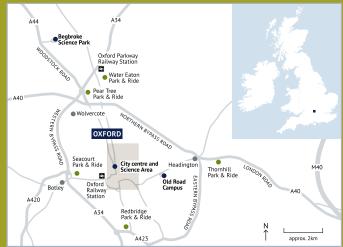
Oxford has two railway stations: the main station is located off Frideswide Square to the west of the city centre and runs regular direct services to London Paddington, Birmingham New Street and others. Oxford Parkway is to the north of the city, next to the Water Eaton park and ride, and runs fast direct trains to and from London Marylebone via Bicester village. For further information visit www.nationalrail.co.uk or www.chilternrailways.co.uk.

By coach

Frequent 24-hour direct services connect Oxford with London (every 10-20 minutes at peak times). The X90 and the Oxford Tube websites contain further information.

For information on coaches to other major cities and airports contact <u>National Express</u>. All coaches arrive at Gloucester Green Coach Station in the city centre.





Studying at the University of Oxford

Dates of term

Teaching at Oxford generally operates within three main terms, known as Michaelmas, Hilary and Trinity. Term dates are available online: www.ox.ac.uk/about/ facts-and-figures/dates-of-term.

Teaching and assessment

Each department at Oxford with an Erasmus exchange in place has a departmental coordinator. The departmental coordinator is responsible for the organisation of your courses or modules. Please get in touch with them to find out more about the options available to you.

Teaching in Oxford may be different from what you are used to at your home institution. Depending on your area of study you will participate in:

- Traditional lectures
- Tutorials
- Seminars
- Lab work
- Research projects

Assessment varies across faculties and departments. Students participating in the Diploma in Legal Studies or the MSt in Modern Languages will follow the regular structure of the course. Other Erasmus students may have coursework assessed during tutorials throughout the term.

This is a link to all lecture lists of Oxford University's departments and faculties: www.ox.ac.uk/students/ academic/guidance/lectures.

Colleges

The collegiate system is at the heart of the University's success, giving students and academics the benefits of belonging to both a large, internationally renowned institution and to a smaller, interdisciplinary, academic college community. It enables leading academics and students across subjects and year groups, and from different cultures and countries to come together to share ideas.

Erasmus paperwork

All Erasmus paperwork would usually be supplied by your home institution.

Learning Agreements will be signed by your departmental coordinator at Oxford as the person responsible for you whilst you are here.

Oxford's institutional Erasmus coordinator is located in the Examination Schools on the High Street, if you additionally require their signature or the University stamp on your Erasmus paperwork. You can also contact Oxford's Frasmus coordinator at

erasmus@admin.ox.ac.uk.

The departmental coordinator for your exchange will be responsible for providing you with a record of study at the end of your stay. This may take the form of a transcript showing the equivalent number of ECTS credits, a letter confirming your marks along with their equivalent value, a qualification certificate (if applicable) or certification of research completed.

Oxford Glossary

Oxford has some unique words and terms that may seem quite confusing at first. This Oxford glossary should hopefully help to explain some of them.



Your first few weeks

Your University card

Your <u>University card</u> will be issued to you by your college or department on arrival in Oxford once your University registration has been completed. The card:

- Enables you to access facilities and services such as libraries, computing services and the Language Centre
- Acts as a payment card in some colleges and departments
- Allows entry to buildings which have swipe-card access control
- Provides you with a form of identity whenever you are on college or University premises
- Offers a student discount at many stores, including 10% off in the University's High Street Shop and online at <u>oushop.com</u>.

Look after your University card carefully as you will be charged a fee for a replacement lost card. If your card is lost, stolen or damaged inform your college or department administrator to request a replacement. Reporting a lost or stolen card quickly will help prevent unauthorised use including identity theft for which you may be held responsible. Return damaged, expired or found cards to your college or department administrator to destroy.

Matriculation

Erasmus students who will be completing the Diploma in Legal Studies or the MSt in Modern Languages will need to take part in an Oxford ceremony known as Matriculation. This is the ceremony that marks your formal admission to the University and attendance is compulsory. Your college or department will advise you of the arrangements for your Matriculation if required.

Registering with a GP

Erasmus students have to register with a doctor in Oxford as, in the eyes of the Department of Health, they are deemed to spend the major part of the year resident here. Student health is primarily a college responsibility and your college will already have an arrangement with a particular NHS doctor known as "the college doctor". You are free to choose any other practitioner if you prefer, but most students find that the most convenient arrangement is to register with their college doctor. Most of the time, it is possible for you to choose to consult either a male or a female doctor.

For minor cases of sickness and ailments, you are generally able to consult and obtain treatment from a college nurse, and most colleges either provide sickbays or have special arrangements for students who are confined to bed in their rooms.

Like all doctor-patient relationships, those between college doctors, college nurses and students are confidential.

It is also possible to speak to a National Health Service (NHS) operator 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Call 111 or visit NHS Choices.

Registering with the Police

If you are required to register with the police as part of your visa requirements, it is an offence not to do so. You also have to keep your Police Registration Certificate up-to-date and to report any changes to your student status. Further information can be obtained here: www.ox.ac.uk/students/visa/during/police.

Orientation programme and freshers' events

To help you to settle into Oxford life, the University offers an undergraduate and graduate <u>Orientation</u>

Programme for European and international students. Erasmus students may attend either programme, as appropriate.

The programmes aim to cover practical details for living and studying in the UK and Oxford and we hope that you will then be ready to begin your studies here with confidence and with many new friends and contacts. At the orientation programme you will meet many other students from all over the world starting at Oxford, as well as current Oxford students and staff who will be available to help and advise you. At the end of the first day of each programme there will be a social hour where you will have the chance to network.

For Erasmus students who arrive in October it might be interesting to attend the Freshers' week, which takes place in Week 0 (the week before term begins) and consists of orientation activities for new students including the annual <u>Freshers' Fair</u>, registration, tours, and social events.

Language classes

The Oxford University Language Centre offers English Language courses for Oxford students as well as summer pre-sessional courses in English for academic purposes. Further information on course content and registration can be found here: www.lang.ox.ac.uk.

Clubs and societies

There are over 200 clubs and societies covering a wide variety of interests available for you to join or attend including Oxford University Sport (www.sport.ox.ac.uk), over 150 recognised societies (www.ox.ac.uk/students/life/clubs/list) and the Oxford Union (www.oxford-union.org).

Oxford University Student Union

As a student at Oxford you are automatically a member of the Oxford University Student Union (OUSU). However, you have the right to **opt-out of membership**. OUSU promotes the academic, social and welfare interests of its members throughout the University. The Student Union provides a range of services to its members including events, socials, publications, and advice and information on student issues, academic difficulties, housing, welfare, disability, financial problems and childcare. Please visit the **Oxford University Student Union** website for more information.



Health and welfare

In addition to your college as your main area of welfare support, there are a number of services available to you during your studies at the University of Oxford. You can seek advice from your college, department, central University services, fellow students and the Student Union.

Within the University

Counselling Service: free and confidential service to help you address personal or emotional problems. Call 01865 270300, email counselling@admin.ox.ac.uk.

Disability Advisory Service: information, advice and guidance and assistance with organising disability-related study support. Call 01865 280459, email disability@admin.ox.ac.uk.

Harassment Advisor Network: within colleges and departments across the University: call the Harassment Line 01865 270760 or email harassment.line@admin.ox.ac.uk.

OUSU Student Advice Service: guidance on the many different support services available to you. Call 01865 288466, email <u>advice@ousu.org</u> or visit <u>OUSU</u>.

Outside the University

For police, ambulance and fire services call 101.

Nightline: the independent listening, support and information service run for and by students. Talk to someone in confidence. Call 01865 270270.

Optician: colleges do not normally have a special arrangement with opticians, so you should register with an optician of your choice

Dentist: For routine or emergency dental treatment you should seek the advice of your college doctor or nurse. <u>Studental</u>, NHS dental care for Oxford, is located at Brookes campus on Headington Hill.

Further information on issues including health, disability or counselling can be found on: www.oxiac.uk/students/welfare.



Living in Oxford

Adjusting to life in the UK

Coming to study in a different country is a major change to your life. Remember that this is a huge transition and it may take time to adjust to life in a different culture. Take opportunities to familiarise yourself with the culture here (reading papers, watching TV, talking to others). Spending time with someone from your culture can also help you feel less isolated. Keeping in contact with your friends and family back home may help you feel more settled, but if you find that your feelings of depression, isolation or anxiety persist, advice and help is available from your college, your department, central University services, fellow students and the Student Union. UKCISA provide further information on culture shock and the transition phases you may go through.

Weather

The UK has a fairly mild climate with temperatures reaching between 14°C and 30°C in the summer (June to August) and dropping to between 0°C and 5°C in the winter (December to February). The most important thing to note is that, whatever the season, the weather is very variable and likely to change from day to day. You can get an idea of the weather before you come from the BBC website.

Clothing

It is a good idea to bring a selection of light clothes that you can wear in layers, as well as some warm outer clothing and a waterproof coat or umbrella. Hats, gloves and scarves are often needed in the winter but can be bought at a reasonable price in the UK.

Exploring Oxford







Colleges

- 1 All Souls College
- **Balliol College**
- Blackfriars
- **Brasenose College**
- **Campion Hall**
- 6 Christ Church
- Corpus Christi College
- 8 Exeter College
- **Green Templeton College**
- **Harris Manchester College**
- **Hertford College**
- 12 Jesus College
- **Keble College**
- **Kellogg College**
- **Lady Margaret Hall**
- **Linacre College**
- Lincoln College
- Magdalen College
- **Mansfield College**
- **Merton College**
- **New College**
- **Nuffield College**
- **Oriel College**
- 24 Pembroke College
- The Queen's College
- Regent's Park College
- St Anne's College
- St Antony's College
- St Benet's Hall
- St Catherine's College
- St Cross College
- St Edmund Hall
- St Hilda's College
- St Hugh's College
- St John's College
- St Peter's College
- St Stephen's House
- Somerville College
- **Trinity College**
- **University College**
- **Wadham College**
- **Wolfson College**
- **Worcester College**
- **Wycliffe Hall**



Contacts and useful websites

Erasmus office

Student Fees and Funding, Student Affairs University of Oxford Examination Schools, Oxford OX1 4BG

T: 01865 616705

E: erasmus@admin.ox.ac.uk

W: www.ox.ac.uk/erasmus

Departmental coordinators

The departmental coordinator will be your main point of contact when it comes to all academic affairs.

66 I especially enjoyed the small seminars and tutorials. **99**

(Christina, Universität Heidelberg)

Emergency contacts

Within the University

University Security Services: if you encounter any problems on University property, contact Security Services on 01865 289999 (24 hours a day, 365 days a year).

Outside the University

For police, ambulance and fire services call 999.

Emergency medical treatment can be obtained at the Emergency Department (A&E) of the John Radcliffe Hospital, Headley Way, Headington OX3 9DU, 24 hours a day. 0300 304 7777.

Emergency dental treatment: contact the East Oxford Emergency Dental Clinic on 0845 3458995. Open from 18:30-22:00 weekday evenings and all day at weekends. Alternatively contact NHS 111

The Samaritans: free 24 hour support on any issue. Call 08457 909090, email jo@samaritans.org or visit Samaritans. If English is not your first language, the Samaritans also provide support for non-English speakers.

The contact details of all foreign Embassies and High Commissions in the UK can be found here: www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/ attachment_data/file/98058/embassy-list.pdf



Useful websites

University websites

www.ox.ac.uk/students/international_students
Advice and information for international students
www.ousu.org Oxford University Student Union
www.lang.ox.ac.uk Language Centre
www.oucs.ox.ac.uk Computing Centre
www.ox.ac.uk/libraries/ University Libraries
www.ox.ac.uk/about/organisation/history/oxfordglossary Guide to Oxford University terminology
m.ox.ac.uk Mobile Oxford

Erasmus+ Student and Alumni Associationwww.esaa-eu.org

Travel

www.nationalrail.co.uk Train timetables and information

www.chilternrailways.co.uk Train timetables and information

<u>www.nationalexpress.com</u> UK coach timetables and information

www.oxfordtube.com
 Bus information and timetables, including buses to London (Oxford Express)
 www.oxfordbus.co.uk
 Bus information and timetables, including buses to London (Oxford Express)
 www.stagecoachbus.com
 Bus information and timetables, including buses to London (Oxford Tube)
 https://tfl.gov.uk
 London Underground information

Oxford information

www.dailyinfo.co.uk Useful guide to living in Oxford www.thisisoxfordshire.co.uk Oxford news and classified adverts

www.oxford.gov.uk Oxford City Council

Immigration advice

<u>www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/studyingintheuk</u> UK Border Agency

https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/visa Oxford
University Visa & Immigration information
www.ukcisa.org.uk
UK Council for International
Student Affairs

www.gov.uk/browse/visas-immigration/workvisas Home Office guide to working in the UK

Other information

www.hostuk.org Welcome scheme for International Students

www.educationuk.org Safety guide for International Students (click on Life in the UK, then creating your Life)

www.educationuk.org/global/main/living-andstudying British Council guidance on living and studying in the UK









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