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Student News

Preparing for Oxford



April 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.



Scholarship opportunities

Selection is underway for the majority of graduate scholarships offered by the collegiate University, with most scholarships being awarded between March and the end of June. You can review the details and expected decision dates via the relevant [scholarship page](#) or, for [department](#) and [college](#) awards, via their respective webpages.

You can also review major sources of funding provided by organisations external to the University via our [external scholarships](#) page. In particular, we recommend the Alternative Guide to Postgraduate Funding - an external resource providing a database of alternative funding opportunities. If you are a PGCE (Postgraduate Certificate in Education) student, then you will find funding information on the [Department of Education](#) website.

Information on the financial requirements for international students arriving in Oxford to study on a Tier 4 visa can be found on the [Oxford Students website](#).

Managing your finances

You should take all the necessary steps before the start of the academic year to ensure that your basic funding provision is in place. Taking the time to think about your spending each academic year can make a real difference to your financial situation, while the University has some useful tips on [managing your finances](#).

Remember you might not be able to rely on taking on a job while studying. Further information is available in the University's [paid work guidelines](#) and, for international students, in the [tier 4 visa guidelines](#).

The [fees and funding](#) pages also provide information on the support available to students, including those who are parents, who have a disability, or who experience financial difficulty during their studies. You can also find out how much the University has estimated it will cost to live and study in Oxford in 2015/16, on the [living costs webpage](#).

Have you signed your financial declaration?

Your college (or, for some courses, your department) will require you to complete a [Financial Declaration](#) form in order to meet the financial conditions of admission. This aims to ensure that you are fully aware of the expected fees and living costs associated with your chosen course of study. It is your opportunity to consider very carefully the financial commitment you are entering into and to take full responsibility for it.

Don't be a victim of fraud

Phishing scams targeting prospective students are very common, so you are advised to be mindful whenever you are contacted about finances. To read more about [phishing](#) or how to [stay safe online](#), visit the Student Loans Company website.

Finding accommodation

There is a wide range of accommodation options available to graduate students, both privately and within the University, to suit a variety of needs and living arrangements. Your college will contact you to confirm whether they can offer you accommodation during your studies. If college accommodation is not available, or right for you, the University's [Graduate Accommodation Office](#) can help find a suitable property for you and, where required, your partner and/or children.

Welcoming partners and children

We know that you will be able to better focus on your studies if your family members feel at home in Oxford. Your college and department will provide information on events at which your family members will be welcome. The [Newcomers' Club](#) provides a meeting point for partners of newly-arrived students, while the [student parents](#) webpage contains links on childcare, schools and other useful information.

Hear from students already studying at Oxford

Many students feel both excited and apprehensive about the prospect of starting a new university course. Whether you are moving to a new city or country, or starting the next step of your academic career, there will be a range of challenges and opportunities to navigate. You can hear a number of graduate students talking about their time at Oxford on the [wall of faces](#).

An online insight into life at Oxford

Watch lectures and hear stories about our research, students and staff on YouTube and iTunesU. With over 5,500 hours of material free to download from [iTunesU](#), you can experience teaching at Oxford before you arrive. Alternatively, visit our [YouTube channel](#) to get an insight into the huge range of research undertaken across 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.