GRADUATE STUDY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

2020–21 ENTRY
FROM AFRICAN STUDIES TO ZOOLOGY

The University of Oxford offers over 350 masters’, DPhil (PhD) and other graduate courses in a range of subject areas, including:

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<td>Explore Oxford’s courses, A-Z and by department:</td>
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<td><a href="http://www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/courses">www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/courses</a></td>
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17 Ashley Tsai
The University of Oxford is, above everything, a community of talented people working to push the boundaries of human knowledge.

Some of the buildings are centuries old but our community isn’t. We have thousands of new students and staff arriving every year from around the world who bring a valuable and diverse range of experiences with them.

There is no formula for what makes a great Oxford student, but what you can expect to share with everyone in our community is a passion for your subject, a record of academic excellence and a drive to know more and understand better.

As soon as you arrive, you’ll become part of the University’s centuries-long pursuit of learning and scholarship. Your Oxford experience will open up all kinds of possibilities for you, from career opportunities to lifelong friendships, and will most certainly change you.
The University of Oxford has a worldwide reputation as a global centre of academic excellence, rating very highly in global rankings of research and teaching quality, employability and student satisfaction.

Our academic staff are regularly recognised through international prizes and the latest UK Research Excellence Framework rated Oxford top of all universities in the UK for research quality*.

Our dynamic research and teaching community, supported by world-class library and experimental facilities, delivers over 350 graduate courses. Our courses range from one-year, part-time diplomas and certificates through to a huge range of masters’ courses, both taught and research, to Oxford’s Doctor of Philosophy or DPhil (PhD).

The University offers both a range of courses designed solely for part-time students and part-time options for many other masters’ and DPhil (PhD) courses. About 20% of our graduate community studies part-time, offering flexibility to learn alongside work or other commitments.

Meet some of our graduate students and find out about their study and research on our YouTube channel:

youtube.com/oxfordgradstudy

* Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2014, www.ref.ac.uk

DPhil students Franziska, David, Julie and Gladys interviewed at youtube.com/oxfordgradstudy
Taught courses at Oxford usually last one to two years, with longer courses often including a significant research and/or coursework component. Students are usually taught through a combination of lectures, classes and seminars.

DPhil (PhD) courses centre around independent, original research under the guidance of an academic supervisor to produce a major research thesis over three to four years (or six to eight years for part-time students).

Some specialist courses, like our Centres for Doctoral Training, combine a taught course with a DPhil (PhD) for an integrated learning and research experience.

Our course pages give you an overview of each graduate course, including:

- entry requirements
- deadline dates
- information on fees and costs
- course length
- admissions statistics
- colleges accepting applicants for the course
- contact information for any further questions.

Explore our graduate courses: [www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/courses](http://www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/courses)
I remember when I first started studying here feeling completely floored... It has been a radically humbling experience to work with and learn from just phenomenal minds.

SIMUKAI CHIGUDU, DPHIL IN INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
The University has 44 colleges, each with its own character, history and community of staff and students. The college system is one of the many distinctive and special features of student life at Oxford.

For most courses, you will join both an academic department, which will provide your teaching and supervision, and a smaller interdisciplinary community at one of the University’s world-famous colleges.

Oxford’s colleges are spread throughout the city, though none of them are further than a short cycle ride away from the city centre. Most colleges offer meals, libraries, accommodation, sports, events and other opportunities to enrich your Oxford experience.

Supervision and teaching will be provided by your academic department, so no matter which college you belong to, this will not limit your access to potential supervisors or teaching staff; your course content is the same.

When you apply, you can let us find a college place for you or give a college preference.

Once you receive an offer from your department, you are guaranteed a college place if the course includes college membership.

Explore college options for your course and find out more about the college system:

www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/colleges
JULIA LEFKOWITZ, DPHIL IN INFORMATION, COMMUNICATION AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

MY DEPARTMENT FEELS LIKE HOME, MY COLLEGE FEELS LIKE HOME. IT’S A PLACE I’M ALWAYS HAPPY COMING BACK TO WHEN I’VE BEEN AWAY
SCHOLARSHIPS, FUNDING AND COSTS

Graduate study at Oxford is a rewarding experience, but also a significant investment.

Check the costs for your course and make sure you know as much as possible about your funding options.

As soon as you decide to apply (or even before), explore potential sources of funding for your course and how to apply for them.

You should consider sources both within Oxford, like scholarships and studentships, and outside the University, like charities and loans.

For full and up-to-date information about funding your graduate study at Oxford, visit the website:

www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/funding

Funding statistics are based on funding from all sources, including the University and external organisations. Based on data collected from students starting a new graduate course in 2018–19.
Funding for graduate courses is competitive, but the University of Oxford offers more than you might think.

On average, around half of our graduate students receive full or partial funding from the University or other funders.

SCHOLARSHIPS
The University of Oxford and its colleges offer hundreds of fully funded scholarships to graduate students starting new courses every year.

Scholarships are usually awarded on the basis of academic excellence and potential. Some awards have broad eligibility criteria, others focus on specific subject areas and/or applications from particular countries or regions.

Some awards have additional benefits, like leadership programmes or a wider community to support you.

How do I apply?
For most of our scholarships, all you’ll need to do is submit your graduate application by the January deadline for your course – there’s no separate application process or extra supporting documents for funding. You will be considered automatically if you’re eligible.

The vast majority of college scholarships do not require you to select that college as your preference. If you’re selected for a college scholarship, we’ll move your application to the right college.

Use the Fees, Funding and Scholarship Search, as well as college websites, to see which scholarships have additional requirements to apply: www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/fundingsearch

STUDENTSHIPS
Funded studentships usually offer either full or fees-only financial support to pursue research for a named project or area of study.

How do I apply?
Check your academic department’s website for details of any current studentship opportunities and how to apply.

RESEARCH COUNCILS
There are publicly funded UK Research Councils supporting research and studentships across a range of subject areas. Our graduate students receive a large number of awards, recognising our world-class research.

Research Council scholarships cover course fees and living expenses for UK nationals. A small number of EU and other international applicants are also supported by some Research Councils.

How do I apply?
You will automatically be considered for Research Council funding awarded to the University if you submit your graduate application by the January deadline for your course.
FUNDING FROM OUTSIDE THE UNIVERSITY

There are many other funding options beyond those offered by the University itself. Start by exploring our resources on external funding – you might be surprised at the range of support available.

Read our quick run-down of other funding sources to start your research at www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/otherfunding

CHARITIES AND VOLUNTARY SECTOR
Charities and the voluntary sector can provide either full or partial funding – the Alternative Guide to Postgraduate Funding is a great way to start looking at what might be available to you.

The University’s subscription enables you to access information on an extensive range of external funding options.

FUNDING FOR US VETERANS
US Department of Veterans Affairs funding is available to US veterans.

We can process applications and submit certificates of enrolment to the VA.

EMPLOYERS AND PAID WORK
Past or present employers may be willing to provide financial assistance if your course is related to your work.

Paid work whilst studying is sometimes available, including teaching or research assistant opportunities through the university – but it is not usually feasible to earn your way through your course. If you are a full-time student, there will not be much time to take on paid work, and there is a limit to the number of hours permitted alongside study. If you are a part-time student, you will need to ensure that work does not impact on your studies.

LOANS
Loans are an option for investing in your graduate qualification, including government-run schemes operating in the UK, US and Canada. We have teams to support your application.
The Clarendon Fund is one of the largest scholarship schemes at the University of Oxford, offering around 140 new scholarships every year to the most academically outstanding students.

- All applicants for degree-bearing graduate courses at Oxford (except PGDip courses) are automatically considered for a Clarendon scholarship provided they apply by the January deadline for their course.

- There are no restrictions on your nationality, residency or the subject you want to study.

- Scholarships are awarded based on academic excellence, to the best applicants amongst those accepted for graduate study at Oxford.

- Clarendon offers full funding to scholars, covering course fees and a generous grant for living costs.

Beyond its financial support for graduate study, the unique appeal of the Clarendon Fund lies in its large community of scholars drawn from around 70 countries.

The Clarendon community is extremely diverse, offering excellent opportunities for interdisciplinary interaction among scholars. The Scholars’ Association arranges a range of academic, educational, cultural and social events for Clarendon scholars.

Read more about the Clarendon Fund: [www.clarendon.ox.ac.uk](http://www.clarendon.ox.ac.uk)
APPLYING FOR COURSES AND FUNDING

This timeline gives you a quick overview of Oxford’s application process.

You’ll find detailed, step-by-step information on how to apply on our website, with specific information for each course:

www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/apply

1 EXPLORE COURSES AND FUNDING

You can look at our courses as an A–Z list, with filters for the type and length of course, or by academic department. Each graduate course page has an overview of essential information, including entry requirements and application deadlines:

www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/coursesaz

Check the costs for your course and start to explore potential sources of funding, both within Oxford, like scholarships, studentships and Research Council funding, and outside the University, like charities, employer support and loans:

www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/funding

Remember that the January deadline for your course is also the deadline for most of Oxford’s scholarships.

When you’re ready to apply, start an application using the link on your course page.
2 START YOUR APPLICATION

Check the application deadline for your course and work backwards to give yourself time to make the best possible presentation of your academic achievements and potential through your application.

You’ll definitely need to submit your transcript(s) and reference letters. You should request or download your transcript(s) and contact potential referees as soon as you decide to apply.

You’ll also need to submit a personal statement and/or a research proposal, and you might need to submit academic essays, a portfolio or other course-specific documents:

www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/applicationguide

3 SUBMIT BY THE DEADLINE

We always recommend that you submit your application as soon as you’re ready and ideally well before the deadline, to make sure that there’s still time for you to fix any last-minute issues.

Your application and all your supporting documents have to be submitted by the deadline, including your references. Keep in contact with your referees and make sure that they have everything they need to submit references on time:

www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/referees

Within a few days of submitting your application, you’ll be able to access Graduate Applicant Self Service to check whether your application is complete and ready for assessment:

www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/selfservice

4 AFTER YOU APPLY

You might be interviewed after you apply, though not all courses hold interviews. You’ll find out whether your application is successful around eight to ten weeks after the deadline you applied to (for January deadlines, around mid- to late March).

If you’re successful, you’re guaranteed a college place (unless your course doesn’t need one) and you’ll usually find out which college eight to ten weeks after you get your offer letter:

www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/afteryouapply

Funding decisions are made between late February and June – for example, Clarendon Fund offers are usually sent out by early April. Each scholarship has its own decision timeline:

www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/scholarships
DATES TO REMEMBER

MAIN DEADLINES

12 noon UK time, Friday 10 January 2020
12 noon UK time, Friday 24 January 2020

All courses use one of these two deadlines. You must apply by the relevant January deadline if you wish to be considered for most University funding.

You must also apply by the relevant January deadline if you are resident in a low-income country and intend to request an application fee waiver. We strongly recommend that you apply by January if you need a student visa.

OTHER DEADLINES

Some courses also accept applications for deadlines in November and March:

12 noon UK time, Friday 15 November 2019
12 noon UK time, Tuesday 3 March 2020

Check the course page to see which deadlines apply to your course: www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/courses

There are also separate application deadlines for some specific studentships and some courses may stay open after the last published deadline if places are still available.

The Saïd Business School operates separate deadlines for its courses: www.sbs.ox.ac.uk
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

We want to make applying for graduate courses and funding as straightforward as we can. Everything you’ll need to know when you apply is available on our website: www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/apply

If you do have a question or problem, look at our FAQs or contact our Graduate Admissions team: www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/aq

DO I NEED TO CONTACT A SUPERVISOR?

For most masters’ courses, you don’t need to contact a supervisor. If you’re applying for a DPhil or other research course then you may need to contact potential supervisors before you apply, or give a list of research projects and/or academic staff you’d like to work with.

Check your course page to see whether you should contact potential supervisors and any additional guidance on how to go about it.

WHAT GRADERS OR QUALIFICATIONS DO I NEED TO APPLY?

Admissions to the University of Oxford are very competitive and there are specific entry requirements for each course.

For many courses, the minimum requirement is a strong upper-second or first class UK undergraduate degree with honours or the equivalent in your country’s grading system, such as a minimum GPA of 3.5 or higher in the US system. However, courses may have higher and/or additional requirements – for example, you may need a master’s degree to apply to a DPhil (PhD) course.

WHICH DOCUMENTS DO I NEED TO SEND WITH MY APPLICATION?

All applications will need to include:
• a research proposal and/or personal statement
• official transcripts of your university-level education
• CV/résumé
• three references (letters of recommendation).

Depending on your course you might also need to send academic written work, a portfolio, GRE results, an admissions exercise or other documents that show that you have the right qualifications and/or skills for a course.

Check your course page to see a checklist of everything you will need to send with your application by the deadline.
INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Over half of our graduate student community comes from outside the UK.

The application process for graduate study at Oxford is the same for all applicants, regardless of where you are applying from. Our Application Guide is for all applicants of all nationalities: www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/applicationguide

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ABILITY
You’ll need to demonstrate your ability to study in English – your course page specifies exact requirements. Departments can request either standard or higher scores:

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<td>TOEFL iBT (Internet-based)</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>110</td>
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<td>Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English</td>
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<td>Cambridge Certificate of Advanced English</td>
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See our website for the breakdown of minimum requirements for each component of the tests: www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/englishproficiency

TRANSCRIPTS IN OTHER LANGUAGES
If your official transcript is not in English, you must submit both:

• the original official transcript, and
• a translation of the transcript into English, visibly certified by either a professional translator, the issuing body of the original transcript or an authorised notary.
Graduate students represent half of the University’s community of 24,000 students, living and working in the beautiful and vibrant city of Oxford.

It’s easy to get around by bike or on foot – more of Oxford’s commuters cycle to work than almost anywhere else in the UK. There’s plenty of green space to enjoy in Oxford’s parks, quads and gardens.

Some graduate students live in accommodation owned by their college or by the University’s Accommodation Office, though many students rent privately. Some accommodation options are specifically designed for couples, families and students with disabilities:

www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/accommodation

Graduate students play a huge role in community life throughout the University and city and are represented in groups and societies at all levels, including our 80+ sports clubs.

Whether you want to participate casually, compete in a team, train solo or just get moving and meet new people, there are opportunities to get active at every level at Oxford (search #ActiveatOxford for a few examples).

Colleges often have sports teams and facilities, and Oxford University Sport offers a wide range of sports, gym, swimming and fitness facilities to students and staff:

www.sport.ox.ac.uk
www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/studentsocieties

The University and its colleges offer a range of welfare and support services throughout your course, from staff in your department and college to the Oxford SU (Oxford University Student Union) and the University’s Counselling Service:

www.ox.ac.uk/students/welfare
Oxford’s gardens, libraries and museums provide world-class research and learning resources for students and researchers, as well as inspirational places to study and relax.

The University’s collections together constitute one of largest and most important research repositories in the world. Over 20 million artefacts, specimens and printed items represent the history, science, culture and knowledge of all major global civilisations.

These outstanding resources enrich the research and learning experiences of students and scholars through multi-disciplinary research projects, curatorial expertise and teaching, and dynamic public engagement with research programmes.

The University’s 100+ libraries offer a huge variety of working spaces, from cosy sofas and reading nooks to iconic, vaulted landmarks used by scholars for centuries.

If you’re working remotely, our collections can also come to you. Our museums and libraries use digital technology to provide an unprecedented level of access to the collections, including many objects and texts that you might not otherwise get to see. Projects like Digital Bodleian and the online collections of the Ashmolean Museum and the Museum of Natural History make the University’s extraordinary collections accessible from wherever you are.

Find out more about Oxford University’s gardens, libraries and museums:

www.glam.ox.ac.uk
AFTER YOUR DEGREE

Your Oxford experience doesn’t end with your graduation. Our Careers Service will help you make the most of your qualifications at every stage in your career and the Alumni Office will keep you connected to the University community for life.

CAREERS

Comprehensive careers advice and support for all our graduate students is available from our expert Careers Service, and not just while you’re here: our careers support is for life.

The Careers Service aims to help you develop the self-awareness and skills necessary for a purposeful and fulfilling career. You’ll have access to tools designed to help you understand your own motivations and abilities, identify any skill gaps and work on bridging those gaps.

The Careers Service offers tailored individual advice, job fairs and workshops to inform your job search and application process, whether your next steps are within academia or beyond. Bespoke advice to graduate students on academic progression and other specific career paths is available.

You’ll also have access to thousands of UK-based and international internships, work experience and job vacancies while you’re studying here.

www.careers.ox.ac.uk

ALUMNI

After you graduate you can access our alumni network from wherever you are in the world, offering support in searching for your first job and with career changes, as well as contacts in your chosen industry.

With more than 300,000 alumni and hundreds of alumni groups worldwide, you’ll be able to stay connected to Oxford wherever you go and whatever you do after your degree.

www.alumni.ox.ac.uk
“IT’S AN INCREDIBLE PLACE THAT ATTRACTS A LOT OF INCREDIBLE PEOPLE. I DON’T KNOW IF I’D HAVE BEEN ABLE TO FIND THAT ANYWHERE ELSE”

ALEXA MAGEE, MST IN INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS LAW
YOUR NEXT STEPS

HEAR FROM OUR STUDENTS
You can see many of the students you have heard from in this brochure on our YouTube and Medium channels.

JOIN US AT OUR EVENTS
Talk to us about graduate study at events and live Q&A sessions:

www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/events

ASK US A QUESTION
www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/aq

Follow us  
OxfordGradStudy

Detailed course descriptions, including information relating to fees, can be found at www.graduate.ox.ac.uk/courses

Throughout this publication, the term ‘colleges’ includes those designated as Permanent Private Halls.

It may be necessary for the University to make changes to courses and to increase fees. Information on the circumstances in which such changes can be made is set out on the Graduate Admissions website: www.graduate.ox.ac.uk.

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