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Student News

Preparing for Oxford



June 2017

Dear Rose

We are looking forward to welcoming you to Oxford in October.

It may seem odd to write to you about what you may do AFTER you leave Oxford, but we do know that some students are already exploring their options, some are focused on exactly what they want to do, and the rest still have an open mind (or perhaps are postponing the whole idea). Whichever group you are in, the June newsletter gives you information on careers and other opportunities available to you during and after your degree.

If you do want to start exploring ideas for your career, the Careers Service has plenty on offer. Read on to find out about careers and employability skills, as well as other useful information regarding your time at Oxford.

Best wishes,

Jonathan Black
Director, Oxford University Careers Service

The Careers Service

The University's Careers Service helps undergraduate students, postgraduate students and research staff in developing their careers. The Service is free, impartial, and confidential, and offers you lifelong access. The twelve expert Careers Advisers have worked in a wide range of industry sectors including teaching and education, public sector, academia, international development, law, consulting, and banking, and

can provide you with industry and sector specific advice as well as reviewing CVs and applications, and answering the, 'What am I going to do with my subject?' question.

There are a huge variety of opportunities and schemes on offer to help shape your future after Oxford, including:

- Almost 5,000 individual 20-minute 1:1 advice appointments each year; these run every weekday and are booked online
- 15 annual themed [Careers Fairs](#) attended by over 500 employers – open to all
- More than 500 workshops and skills sessions
- Over 7,000 opportunities advertised on the vacancies pages of the Careers Service website
- [Internship and work experience programmes](#) that source hundreds of global and local placements exclusively for Oxford students
- [Business Mentoring](#) sessions to encourage and support entrepreneurs
- The [Oxford Guide to Careers](#) publication
- The [Oxford Careers Network](#): a career profile network of hundreds of volunteer alumni who you can contact to gain advice.

If you want to start planning your career or find out what's on offer, visit the [Careers Service website](#). From time to time, Careers Advisers will come into your college and faculty to give talks, run workshops and offer confidential 1:1 sessions. You can find the offices at 56 Banbury Road.

Paid work guidelines

The University recognises that you may want to undertake a limited amount of paid work during your studies. It is recommended that full-time graduate students on a taught course (such as a Master's) do not undertake more than eight hours' paid work each week whilst studying. Part-time graduate students should ensure that any paid work does not interfere with the commitment of time required for their course. If you wish to undertake paid work during your studies, you are advised to speak to your department or faculty when you arrive in Oxford, as well as to your employer to ensure that any study leave requirements may be accommodated. For more information and a full list of the guidelines, visit the [Education Committee web page](#).

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 web page](#) of the Oxford Students website.

Arriving as an international student?

The [International students web page](#) of the Oxford Students website contains the information you require prior to arriving in the UK. This includes essential information about applying for your student visa, your student visa conditions, working permission and details about the new Tier 4 visa pilot scheme for Masters students. You can only apply for your visa three months before the course start date and you will receive detailed further information by email from Student Immigration at the end of June about how to make your visa application. The web page also contains a guide on how to get to Oxford from the major airports and Eurostar terminals. Before you make your travel arrangements, find out from your college (or department if you do not have a college) when you should be in residence.

To help 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, 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 28 September 2017 for graduate students in the Social Sciences Division and Friday 29 September for graduate students in all other divisions. Your college will send you information about how to register for the Programme over the summer so please wait for this first before registering. It will also explain when you can arrive in your accommodation.

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. You will receive the financial declaration form once your college place has been confirmed.

Are you still looking for funding?

The majority of scholarships from the University have now been awarded, but if you are still looking for funding, then you can submit your details online for free access to the [Alternative Guide to Postgraduate Funding](#); the Alternative Guide is an external resource published by GradFunding, which lists hundreds of funding opportunities offered by charities and trusts. Applications for UK master's loan funding will shortly be launched for academic year 2017-18, visit the [UK master's loan web page](#) for further details of eligibility criteria and courses at Oxford.

Your University contract

Your offer letter outlines any conditions you need to satisfy, any actions you need to take and associated deadlines, as well as a link to the [University contract web page](#) which contains three documents you will need to read:

- University Terms and Conditions
- University Student Handbook: Applicant edition for entry 2016/17
- Course Information sheet – as relevant to your course

Your offer letter constitutes your formal offer of a place at the University of Oxford. If you accept the offer you will enter into a contract with the University.

Finding accommodation

There is a wide range of accommodation options available, 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 [Graduate Accommodation Office](#) can help find a suitable property for you and, where required, your partner and/or children.

Depending on your course, there may be a minimum number of terms you must live in Oxford for to be able to enter for your examination(s) and to qualify for your degree. For more information on residency requirements, visit the [Oxford website](#).

Contents Insurance

If you have a college, you should check whether you need to arrange contents insurance before your arrival at your accommodation. Some colleges have insurance policies that cover their students' belongings. If you require your own insurance, [Endsleigh](#) is the official insurance service of the National Union of Students and offers a student policy protecting you against theft, loss and accidental damage on items including laptops and mobile phones. An international student policy is also offered by Endsleigh for those coming from overseas.

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

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

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