

STUDENT NEWS

UNDERGRADUATE - WEEK 0



Applications are open for the newly-expanded UNIQ Summer School

From this summer, UNIQ is expanding the places available by 50 percent, from 850 to 1,350. UNIQ targets students from state schools and areas which are under-represented among Oxford undergraduates. The students spend a week in Oxford living in a college and learning about the life of an Oxford undergraduate. They take tutorials, lectures and some even take laboratory classes. If they go on to apply to Oxford, students taking part in UNIQ have a much better success rate than the average applicant. Around 7,200 state school students have attended the summer school since 2010 and nearly 1,400 of them have become Oxford students. Please help support UNIQ by encouraging students to apply via your social media pages or by forwarding more information on to friends and family. Applications for UNIQ close at 11pm on Monday 4 February.

[Read more](#)



#ActiveatOxford New Year Challenge: Get active and win a hoodie!

The new year means new opportunities to get Active at Oxford, and to give 2019 a fresh and healthy start. We want to see photos and videos of you achieving your sporty new year's resolutions - and our favourite ten posts will win an Oxford University hoodie. Whether it's taking a walk in the park, playing badminton with a friend, or training hard for your Varsity match, share your posts with us on social media using the #ActiveatOxford hashtag until Thursday 7 February, to be in with a chance of winning. Whichever photo you post, ensure it reflects you either 'trying something new', 'making an active choice', 'returning to an activity you used to enjoy' or 'training for an event'. [More information about the competition is available online.](#)

[Read more](#)



Take over the new Oxford Students' Instagram page

The [official Oxford Students' Instagram page](#) has launched and we're looking for students to take over our page for a week at a time. Showcase your photography and share images about your society, course, club, college or general student life on [@OxUniStudents](#). To volunteer to take part in an Instagram Takeover, e-mail academicadmin.comms@admin.ox.ac.uk.

[Read more](#)

Oxford commits to supporting estranged students

Oxford has committed to improving the student experience for undergraduates who study without family support, by taking the Stand Alone Pledge. The University will create a bespoke non-repayable bursary of up to £7,200 per annum to help estranged students meet the costs of living outside of term time. Vacation accommodation will be provided, and where possible students will be offered housing with others who live in Oxford over the holidays. Estranged students will have unlimited access to counselling resources, giving them an additional source of emotional support.

[Read more](#)



Remember to book your degree ceremony

If you're in your final year, you will be able to reserve your place at a degree ceremony on Student Self-Service. Due to health and safety restrictions at the Sheldonian Theatre, you will receive up to two guest tickets this year, compared to three at previous ceremonies.

[Read more](#)

Oxford Life



Image credit: Neutrum.photo

Student spotlight: Odhran O'Donoghue

Odhran O'Donoghue, a Medical Student in Wadham College, talks about his work with the University's AI Society and his involvement in the Oxford Foundry's Student Advisory Board.

[Read more](#)



Learn a modern language or improve your academic English

Interested in learning a new language or improving your English this term? Enrol now for a Hilary term [course in modern languages](#) or written and spoken [Academic English](#). The year-long fast track modern languages pathway has been opened for new starters in Hilary term.



New Fitness Class Memberships at Iffley Road Sports Complex

If you're not much of a swimmer or gym goer, there's a new membership offer just for you. The student Fitness Class Membership gives you access to all fitness classes on the Oxford University Sports weekly timetable until 30 September. Get your membership by visiting the [Oxford University Sports website](#) or emailing reception@sport.ox.ac.uk.



Seven amazing collections to discover for free

Students enjoy free admission to the University's Gardens, Libraries and Museums - including exhibitions. Delve into a *Bacterial World* at the Museum of Natural History and learn more about how these tiny organisms wield huge influence over us. Discover the work of Tibetan photographer Nyema Droma at the Pitt Rivers Museum. View a major exhibition of the work of Jeff Koons at the Ashmolean Museum from 7 February, including 14 works never previously exhibited in the UK. And discover the power of translation in the movement of ideas and stories around the world in *Babel* at the Weston Library from 15 February. Just show your University card to enjoy free admission.

[Read more](#)

Careers & Entrepreneurship



Develop your skills with a Micro-Internship

The [Micro-Internship Programme](#) opens for applications this Wednesday. Micro-internships are short-term, voluntary work experience placements, which take place at the end of each term. Whilst most Micro-internships are based in Oxfordshire and Greater London, the programme began expansion to other cities around the UK and Germany in Michaelmas 2018. Placements will take place in week 9 and week 10 of Hilary term (Monday 11 – Friday 15 March and Monday 18 – Friday 22 March). Last term's opportunities included lifestyle business Central 23, Inside the Box Publishing, National Trust and World Experience Exchange. The deadline for micro-internship applications is midday, Monday 28 January.

[Read more](#)



Explore the world this summer with a global internship

Applications open for the [Summer Internship Programme](#) on Monday 14 January. Hundreds of summer internships are available in more than 40 countries. International placements include consultancy in Tokyo with Mitsubishi, HIV/AIDS social research in South Africa, and outdoor education in Germany. The application deadline for the first batch of placements is Monday 18 February. Applications for UK placements open on Tuesday 19 February. Application support sessions will also be available for prospective applicants. These sessions will take place at The Careers Service from week 1, and can be booked through [CareerConnect](#). For further information, email internships@careers.ox.ac.uk.

[Read more](#)

International Students

Immigration Health Surcharge will increase for visa applications made on or after 8 January

If you are making a Tier 4 visa application on or after Tuesday 8 January you will be charged the new rate for the Immigration Health Surcharge; it is increasing from £150 a year to £300 a year, calculated on the length of the course or extension of time required. The date of visa application is defined as the date you pay the visa fee. Before Christmas the Student Immigration Team emailed all those students who were expected to be applying for Tier 4 in the near future. [Information on the Immigration Health Surcharge is available online.](#)

[Read more](#)

Research & Innovation



Receive funding for your innovative ideas

The IT Innovation Challenges will be running three funding rounds in Hilary term - two of which are open to students. Submit your ideas for innovative digital projects that meet one of the two challenges:

- Summer of Innovation: realise an idea as a digital project supported by professional IT staff (paid summer internship)
- GLAM Labs: adding value to the user experience of GLAM's collections, buildings, resources or programmes through digital means (£10-15K per project).

You can submit your idea between Monday 14 January and Monday 4 February on the [new Oxford Ideas platform](#). You can also visit the platform to view, comment and vote on ideas. For more information, visit the [IT Innovation Challenges blog](#) or get in touch with the team directly at innovation@it.ox.ac.uk.

[Read more](#)



Research highlight: Study solves mystery of how geckos walk on water

Despite being just a few centimetres long, the gecko is known for its superior acrobatic skills and ability to power through the most challenging terrain, such as, climbing the tallest trees and running across cold, slippery ice. Scientists have now cracked perhaps its most head-scratching talent of all: how it walks on water.

[Read more](#)



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