

ORIENTATION PROGRAMME 2014
FOR GRADUATE
EUROPEAN AND INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

(for students taking postgraduate
taught or research degrees in Humanities,
Maths, Physical & Life Sciences, and Medical
Sciences Divisions)



Friday 3rd October 2014

Examination Schools, High Street, Oxford



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Welcome to Oxford

The Orientation Programme for European and International Students is designed to help you settle into the University and to give you assistance and advice about various practical aspects of living in the United Kingdom and Oxford.

If you have any questions during the programme, please talk to the University staff or student helpers, who will be wearing name badges for identification. There will also be an enquiries desk where staff will be available throughout the programme. Any further enquiries after the Orientation Programme may be directed to Student Information, which is based in the Examination Schools.

About Student Information

Student Information is responsible for providing advice about issues affecting European and International students, including immigration questions, and assisting students needing to extend their visas. It runs a termly orientation programme for new students, arranges workshops and presentations during term time, and provides general support and guidance for students during their time at Oxford.

Student Information is located in the Examination Schools, High Street, Oxford OX1 4BG. Email enquiries should be addressed to student.information@admin.ox.ac.uk or student.immigration@admin.ox.ac.uk (for visa matters). When e-mailing Student Immigration, please remember to include a title in the subject field and state your course, nationality, and College.

Website: www.ox.ac.uk/students/international_students



Practical Information

Venue for the programme

The programme will take place at the Examination Schools, High Street (see the map on page thirteen for directions). When you enter the building, follow the signs to the right and upstairs as you walk in the main entrance. For disabled access, use the dedicated entrance just beyond the main doors on the High Street; all floors are accessible via lifts in the building.

Timings of the talks

You are **not** required to attend all the talks of the Orientation Programme and may choose which talks to attend depending on your interests.

The starting times for individual sessions are listed in the timetable. Please make sure you arrive in plenty of time **before** the talks that you wish to attend start. Latecomers will not be allowed in once an individual session has begun. If you miss a talk and would like to read the handout prepared for the session this will be available to download a week after the programme has finished at www.ox.ac.uk/students/new/orientation/

Information fair and individual consultations

In the afternoon there will be a series of talks, or you may prefer to visit the information fair at any time and consult with a number of advisors who will be present during the afternoon:

- Opening a bank account
- Libraries
- Careers advice
- Visa and Immigration advice
- Language Centre
- US loans and Graduate Funding advice
- Oxford Union debating society
- Oxford University Student Union
- Oxford University Sport and bicycles
- Oxford University Sustainability Team
- Oxford University Shop
- Alumni Society

Social hour

There will be a social hour from 4.00pm-5.00pm, which will give you the opportunity to meet other new students and some current students. You will also be able to meet staff from Student Information to ask any questions you may have about immigration/visa matters or other issues affecting European and International students. The advisors from the information fair (see above) will also be available for consultation until 5pm.

Internet café

An internet café will be available on Friday 3 October from 10.00am to 5.00pm for you to use one of the laptops available. Ask at the enquiries desk for details.

Bank accounts: Open your account at the orientation programme

Representatives from the main banks (Lloyds, Barclays, Nat West, and Santander) in Oxford will be present during the afternoon and during the social hour to answer questions about opening bank accounts. HSBC will not be present but information about their bank accounts is contained in the guide. The banks will be able to open accounts or arrange an appointment to do so later in the week.

You may like to read the guide prepared by Student Information about opening a bank account. Please ask the staff if you do not have a copy in your welcome pack. To open an account you will need your passport or EU identity card and the Oxford student enrolment certificate stamped by your college.

Special late bank opening hours: To assist you in opening a UK bank account the following high street banks will keep their Oxford city centre branches open late specifically for incoming international Oxford students, as scheduled below:

Thursday 2 October 5pm-7pm: Lloyds, Santander

Friday 3 October 5pm-7pm: Lloyds, Santander

Monday 6 to Thursday 9 October 5pm-7pm: Lloyds

US loans and Graduate Funding: Advice for students

Members of the Graduate Funding team will be present from 10.00am-5.00pm to distribute bursary cheques and material. They will answer any queries you may have regarding your current loan application as well as to offer advice to any students who have yet to make an application but would like to do so in the future. Students are invited to apply for loans throughout the academic year, so if you did not apply before arriving in Oxford, it is not too late to start the process. The University offers a comprehensive advisory service for students taking out U.S. Federal Stafford, PLUS or private loans, as well for students from Canada, or those wishing to defer payment of previous loans whilst studying at Oxford.

Staff will also be available to answer questions about graduate funding and meet current scholarship holders.

Refreshments and lunch

Coffee, tea, fruit juice and biscuits will be provided free of charge during the morning and afternoon breaks. Lunch is not provided but there are sandwich shops and cafes on the High Street and numerous cafes and restaurants along Cornmarket Street. Please ask the student helpers if you need suggestions of places to go for lunch.

Other information

National and international newspapers will be available for you to read during the day. Literature about the arts in Oxford and advice on practical topics such as insurance, mobile phones and travel will also be available in the North School.

Late arrivals

If you are arriving in Oxford late and are not able to attend the graduate programme then you are welcome to attend the information fair at the undergraduate programme on Monday 6th October from 10.00am to 1.00pm at the Exam Schools which will allow you to meet representatives from the banks, libraries, careers service, student union, visa advisors etc. If space permits, you may be allowed to join some of the talks but priority will be given to undergraduate students first.

There will also be late drop-in sessions on Friday 17th October and Friday 24th October from 3pm-5pm at the Exam Schools on both days. Drop in to collect a welcome pack and ask any questions you may have.

Optional events happening on Saturday 4th October

There will be a number of optional events taking place on Saturday 4th October which you are welcome to attend. In most cases you will need to sign up at the orientation programme the day before, or for the spouses and partners event email student.information@admin.ox.ac.uk in advance.

The events on Saturday 4th October include the following, (see page 11 for more information)

- Walking tours of Oxford
- Spouses and Partners Event
- Women & the Graduate World lecture
- Eco-centric: How to be a Sustainable Student

We hope you enjoy the Orientation Programme, and that you have an enjoyable and rewarding time at Oxford University.

Quick programme summary

Friday 3rd October

This is a quick summary to help your plan your schedule.

09.30 – 09.45	WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION		
10.00 – 10.45	THE ACADEMIC ESSENTIALS		
10.45 – 11.15	<i>Break for refreshments</i>		
11.15 – 12.00	THE SOCIAL ESSENTIALS		
12.00 – 13.30	Break for lunch (not provided) <i>Students who hold a student visa <u>must attend</u> the session at 12.00 listed below</i>		
12.00 – 12.30	VISAS AND IMMIGRATION		
13.30 – 14.00	CAREERS ADVICE FOR POSTGRADUATE TAUGHT STUDENTS	COMPUTING SERVICES FOR POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH STUDENTS	<p style="text-align: center;">INFORMATION FAIR</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Bank accounts Santander, Lloyds, Barclays, Nat West 12.00-17.00</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Visas and immigration queries 12.30-17.00</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Graduate Funding 10.00-17.00</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Careers information 13.00-17.00</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Libraries 13.00-17.00</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Alumni Society 13.00-17.00</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Language Centre 15.30-17.00</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sustainability team 12.00-17.00</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Oxford Friends International 12.00-16.00</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Oxford University Student Union 13.00-17.00</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Oxford Union Debating Society 13.00-17.00</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sports and Bicycles 13.00-17.00</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Oxford University Shop 16.00-17.00</p>
14.00 – 14.30	COMPUTING SERVICES FOR POSTGRADUATE TAUGHT STUDENTS	CAREERS ADVICE FOR POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH STUDENTS	
14.30 – 15.00	<i>Break for refreshments</i>		
15.00 – 15.30	THE ALTRUISTIC OXONIAN	LANGUAGE CENTRE	
15.30– 16.00	STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES	THE SPORTING LIFE	
16.00 – 17.00	SOCIAL HOUR		

Saturday 4th October

A range of optional events that you may like to attend

10.00 –13.00	WALKING TOURS OF OXFORD One hour walking tours, that leave at 10.00, 10.30, 11.00, 11.30 and 12.00 Please sign up at orientation on Friday 3rd October
10:30-11:30	ECO-CENTRIC: HOW TO BE A SUSTAINABLE STUDENT One-hour session: please sign up at orientation on Friday 3rd October
12.30-13.30	WOMEN AND THE GRADUATE WORLD LECTURE One-hour session: please sign up at orientation on Friday 3rd October
10.00-13.00	SPOUSES AND PARTNERS EVENT Please email student.information@admin.ox.ac.uk to sign up

Programme timetable

Friday 3rd October

09.30 – 09.45	<p>WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION Professor Andrew Hamilton Vice Chancellor (held in the South School)</p>
10.00 – 10.45	<p>THE ACADEMIC ESSENTIALS <i>This talk will be divided into four groups as follows:</i> <i># Research students: DPhil, MSc(Res) degrees and recognised students</i> <i>* Taught students: BCL, BPhil, MBA, MFE, MJur, MLitt, MPhil, MPP, MSt, MSc, visiting students and all other degrees</i></p> <p><i>Research Students & Taught Students in the Humanities: South School</i> <i>Taught Students in the Maths, Physical & Life Sciences and Medical Sciences: East School</i> <i>Research Students Medical Sciences: Room 7, ground floor</i> <i>Research Students in Maths, Physical & Life Sciences: Room 6, ground floor</i></p> <p><i>This session is intended as an introductory session for students who have been accepted to read for taught or research graduate degrees of the University. The talk will describe the administrative framework of a graduate degree, some of the potential opportunities and problems of a graduate course in Oxford, and the many sources of advice and support available for graduate students.</i></p>
10.45 – 11.15	<p><i>Break for refreshments</i></p>
11.15 – 12.00	<p>SOCIAL ESSENTIALS Oxford University Student Union http://ousu.org</p> <p>Sessions in both the South and East School (same content but different speakers)</p> <p><i>This session will cover travel and transport in Oxford and the UK, telephone and mail services, entertainment, sports and shopping. It will also discuss academic and social life from the perspective of an international student and offer advice on how to make the most of your opportunities at Oxford.</i></p> <p><i>The second part of this session will give an introduction to OUSU (Oxford University Student Union) covering what it exists for, how it interacts with the College Common Rooms, what services and events it provides for students and how people can get involved. There will also be an outline of the myriad campaigns that OUSU coordinate, including amongst others pressure groups on the Environment, Anti-Racism, LGBT Rights, Women's Campaign and the International Students Committee.</i></p> <p><i>In addition there will be an introduction to the Student Advice Service which can advise students confidentially on any issue from academic concerns, disciplinary procedures, welfare problems, and harassment and discrimination of all types.</i></p>
12.00 – 13.30	<p><i>Break for lunch [lunch is not provided]</i> Note: <i>all students who hold a student visa must attend the session from 12.00-12.30 listed below.</i></p>

12.00 – 12.30	IMMIGRATION AND VISA ADVICE: <i>(all students who hold a student visa must attend this session)</i> Sue Castle-Miller and Jo Aldhouse Student Immigration South School www.ox.ac.uk/students/visa <i>Sue and Jo are here to help you with visa and immigration matters during your time at Oxford. In this session we will show you how to check your visa is correct and talk to you about how immigration regulations affect you, including your permission to work and whether you need to register with the police. We will cover what you will need to do to renew your visa before it expires and the help available. If you are thinking of staying on in the UK to work after your studies, we can advise you on the different immigration applications when the time comes.</i>		
AFTERNOON PICK AND MIX SESSION In the afternoon you may choose from any of the sessions listed below in any combination.			
13.30 – 14.00	COMPUTING SERVICES FOR POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH STUDENTS IT Services (East School) www.it.ox.ac.uk <i>Information about how Oxford IT Services supports the University's primary computing infrastructure through services such as email, web, news, backup servers, security, anti-virus support and over 100 courses per term through the IT Learning Programme (ITLP). This programme offers an extensive series of practical IT courses, covering introductory and specialized uses of computers, common systems, and packages. Courses are free apart from a small charge for documentation. All courses are taught in the modern lecture suite, equipped with some of the latest computers and teaching facilities.</i>	CAREERS ADVICE FOR POSTGRADUATE TAUGHT STUDENTS Jane Chanaa Careers Service (South School) www.careers.ox.ac.uk <i>Oxford University Careers Service is one of the best resourced and most used career services in the country. The Careers Service offers objective information and guidance about a full range of careers and works proactively to advertise vacancies in all sectors. This talk provides an introduction to the University's Careers Service and how best to make use of it</i>	INFORMATION FAIR AND INDIVIDUAL CONSULTATIONS (North School) Bank accounts Santander, Lloyds, Barclays, Nat West 12.00-17.00 Visas and immigration queries 12.30-17.00 Graduate Funding 10.00-17.00 Careers information 13.00-17.00 Libraries 13.00-17.00 Alumni Society 13.00-17.00 Language Centre 15.30-17.00 Sustainability team 12.00-17.00 Oxford Friends International 12.00-16.00 Oxford University Student Union 13.00-17.00 Oxford Union Debating Society 13.00-17.00 Sports and Bicycles 13.00-17.00 Oxford University Shop 16.00-17.00
14.00 – 14.30	CAREERS ADVICE FOR POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH STUDENTS Jane Chanaa Careers Service (East School) (see description above)	COMPUTING SERVICES FOR POSTGRADUATE TAUGHT STUDENTS IT Services (South School) (see description above)	
14.30-15.00	<i>Break for refreshments</i>		

<p>15.00-15.30</p>	<p>THE ALTRUISTIC OXONIAN Lucie Cousmaker Oxford Hub (East School) www.oxfordhub.org <i>Oxford has a proud tradition of charitable engagement from Toynbee Hall to the foundation of Oxfam. Oxford Hub unites all the student clubs dedicated to charitable aims and assists them with fundraising, resourcing and operational issues. If you want to volunteer or need to do voluntary work as a condition of your funding package this talk will help you to get involved and most importantly, help you to help others.</i></p>	<p>LANGUAGE CENTRE Robert Vanderplank Language Centre (South School) www.lang.ox.ac.uk <i>The University's Language Centre is among the best equipped in the UK and is open to all members of the University. This talk provides an introduction to the courses and services offered by the Language Centre and will include information on English language courses for academic purposes as well as on foreign language courses and our extensive independent language study resources.</i></p>	<p>INFORMATION FAIR AND INDIVIDUAL CONSULTATIONS (North School)</p> <p>Bank accounts Santander, Lloyds, Barclays, Nat West 12.00-17.00</p> <p>Visas and immigration queries 12.30-17.00</p> <p>Graduate Funding 10.00-17.00</p> <p>Careers information 13.00-17.00</p> <p>Libraries 13.00-17.00</p> <p>Alumni Society 13.00-17.00</p>
<p>15.30-16.00</p>	<p>STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES Ms Elsa Bell Counselling Service (East School) www.ox.ac.uk/students/welfare <i>This session will cover the range of support services available to enable students to make the best of their time at Oxford University. You will be given information about student health and welfare provision, and about specialist services such as the Disability Advisory Service and the Counselling Service, what the Proctors do and how the University demonstrates its commitment to equality and diversity. We will even tell you how to make complaints (we hope you have few) or suggestions (we hope you have many) so that the University can continue to improve its provision for its much valued students</i></p>	<p>SPORT AT OXFORD Jon Roycroft Oxford University Sport (South School) www.sport.ox.ac.uk <i>The opportunities for sporting involvement at Oxford are immense: from World class athleticism such as the Boat Race to casual team games and keeping fit. This talk will introduce you to the facilities and structures, tell you how to get involved and get you up to speed for 0th week tryouts for University and college teams. You can do almost any sport at Oxford: football, rugby, ultimate frisbee, Quidditch, martial arts (medieval or modern!)....Find out here from the Director of University Sport about routes to involvement and competition and ways to access funding for your sporting pursuits.</i></p>	<p>Language Centre 15.30-17.00</p> <p>Sustainability team 12.00-17.00</p> <p>Oxford Friends International 12.00-16.00</p> <p>Oxford University Student Union 13.00-17.00</p> <p>Oxford Union Debating Society 13.00-17.00</p> <p>Sports and Bicycles 13.00-17.00</p> <p>Oxford University Shop 16.00-17.00</p>
<p>16.00 - 17.00</p>	<p>SOCIAL HOUR (North School) <i>This hour will give you the opportunity to meet many new students and current students. You will also be able to meet staff from Student Information to ask any questions you may have about immigration/visa matters or other issues affecting international students. The advisors from the information fair will also be available for consultation.</i></p>		

Programme timetable

Saturday 4th October

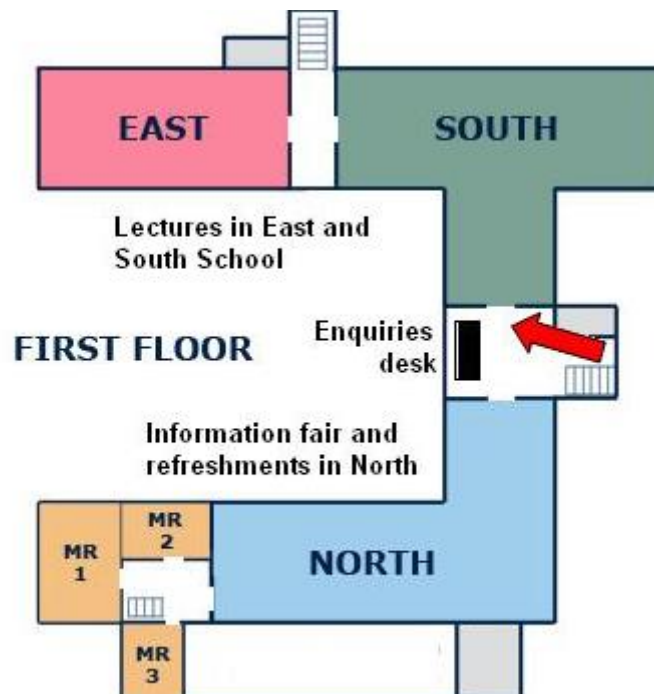
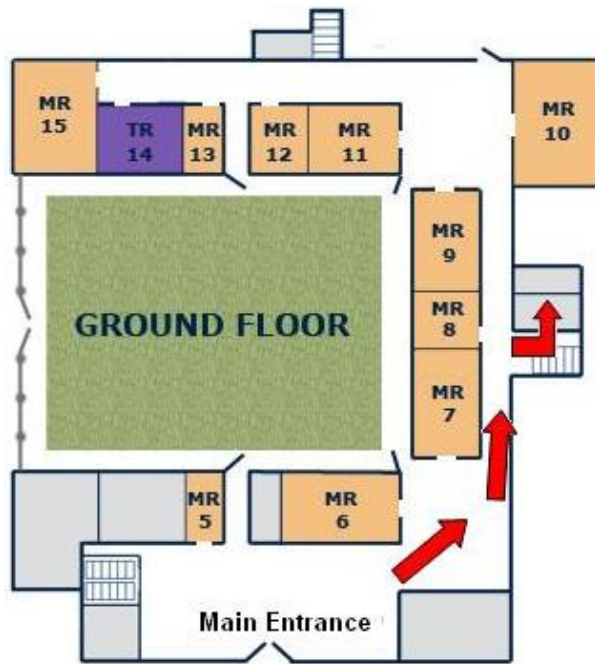
There will be a number of optional events taking place on Saturday 4th October which you are welcome to attend. In most cases you will need to sign up at the orientation programme the day before, or for the spouses and partners event email student.information@admin.ox.ac.uk in advance.

EVENTS	
10.00 –11.00 10.30 –11.30 11.00 –12.00 11.30 –12.30 12.00 –13.00	WALKING TOURS OF OXFORD (optional) <i>Please sign up for these tours in the North School on Friday and then meet on Saturday in the entrance hall of the Exam Schools. Don't forget your umbrella just in case! The walks are primarily to show you the location of food and clothing shops, banks, post offices, etc. We will also give you a brief history of some more notable Oxford buildings.</i>
10:30-11:30	ECO-CENTRIC: HOW TO BE A SUSTAINABLE STUDENT <i>Concerned about environmental issues and wanting to do your part for the planet? Find out how Oxford can help you to live and study sustainably.</i>
10.00 -13.00	LATE ARRIVALS <i>Did you miss the programme yesterday? Then drop in to the Exam Schools and pick up a welcome pack and ask any questions you may have about university facilities and services. You may also attend the information fair at the undergraduate programme on Monday 6th October from 10.00am to 1.00pm which will allow you to meet representatives from the banks, libraries, careers service, student union, visa advisors etc. If space permits, you may be allowed to join some of the talks but priority will be given to undergraduate students first.</i> <i>Late-comer drop in sessions will also be held on Friday 17th October or Friday 24th October from 3pm-5pm on both days at the Exam Schools.</i>
12.30-13.30	WOMEN AND THE GRADUATE WORLD <i>The Oxford University Student Union (OUSU) will hold a session for all those who identify as women about women in leadership in the graduate world of Oxford. The session will discuss barriers and solutions for women in leadership, then explore leadership opportunities in academia, common rooms, the University, sports, OUSU, and Springboard. The aim of the session is to understand the problems and solutions, identify areas where women can become involved, and encourage women to lead.</i>
10.00-13.00	SPOUSES AND PARTNERS EVENT <i>If you are in Oxford with a spouse or partner come along to this event at the Exam Schools. The event will cover topics such as childcare, working and employment, visa and immigration matters and the chance to meet other students. Please email student.information@admin.ox.ac.uk if you would like to attend</i>

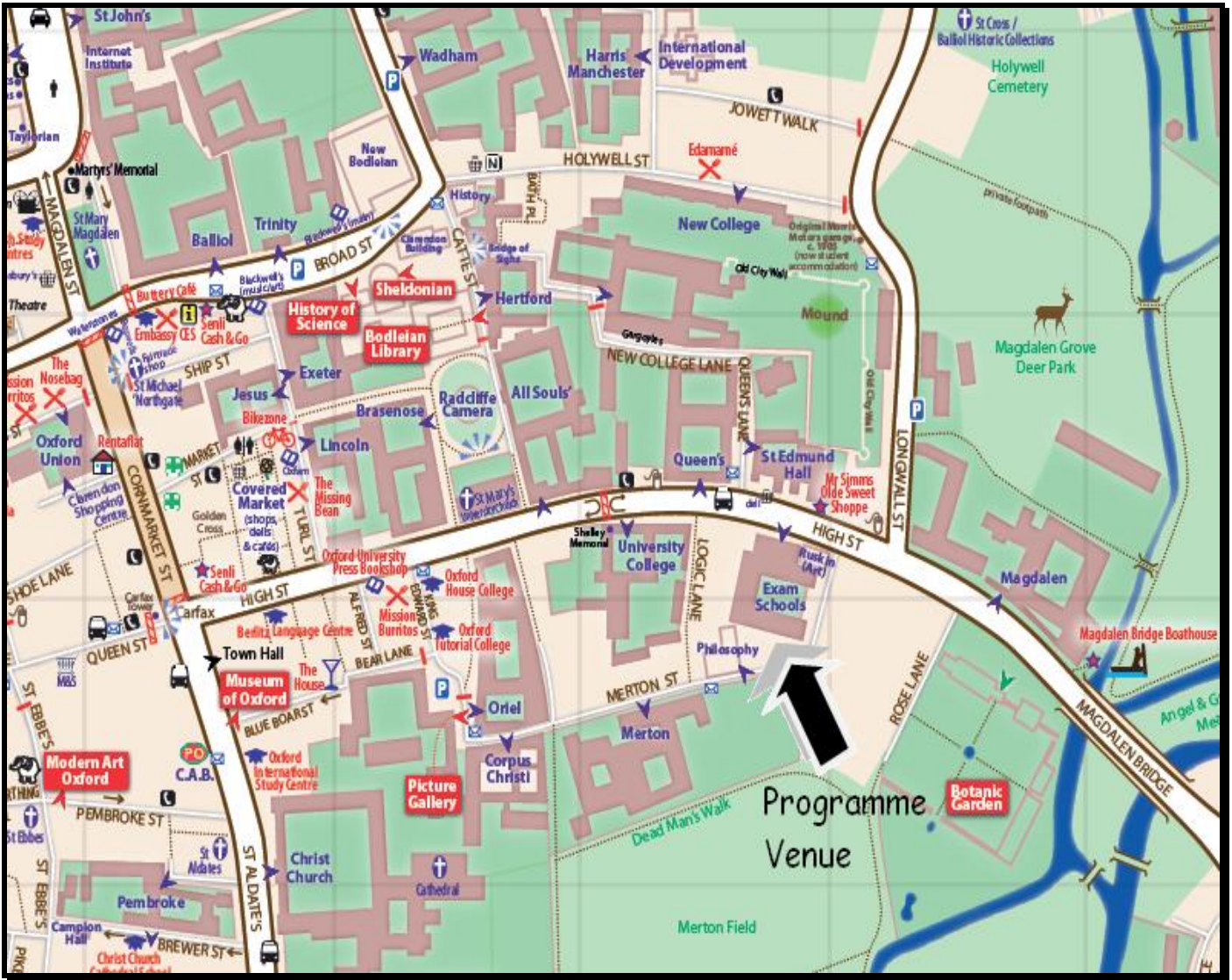
Examination Schools room guide

Lectures will take place in the South and East School (First Floor) and in Room 6 and 7 (ground floor)

The information fair will be held in the North School and refreshments will also be served here in the morning and afternoon break.

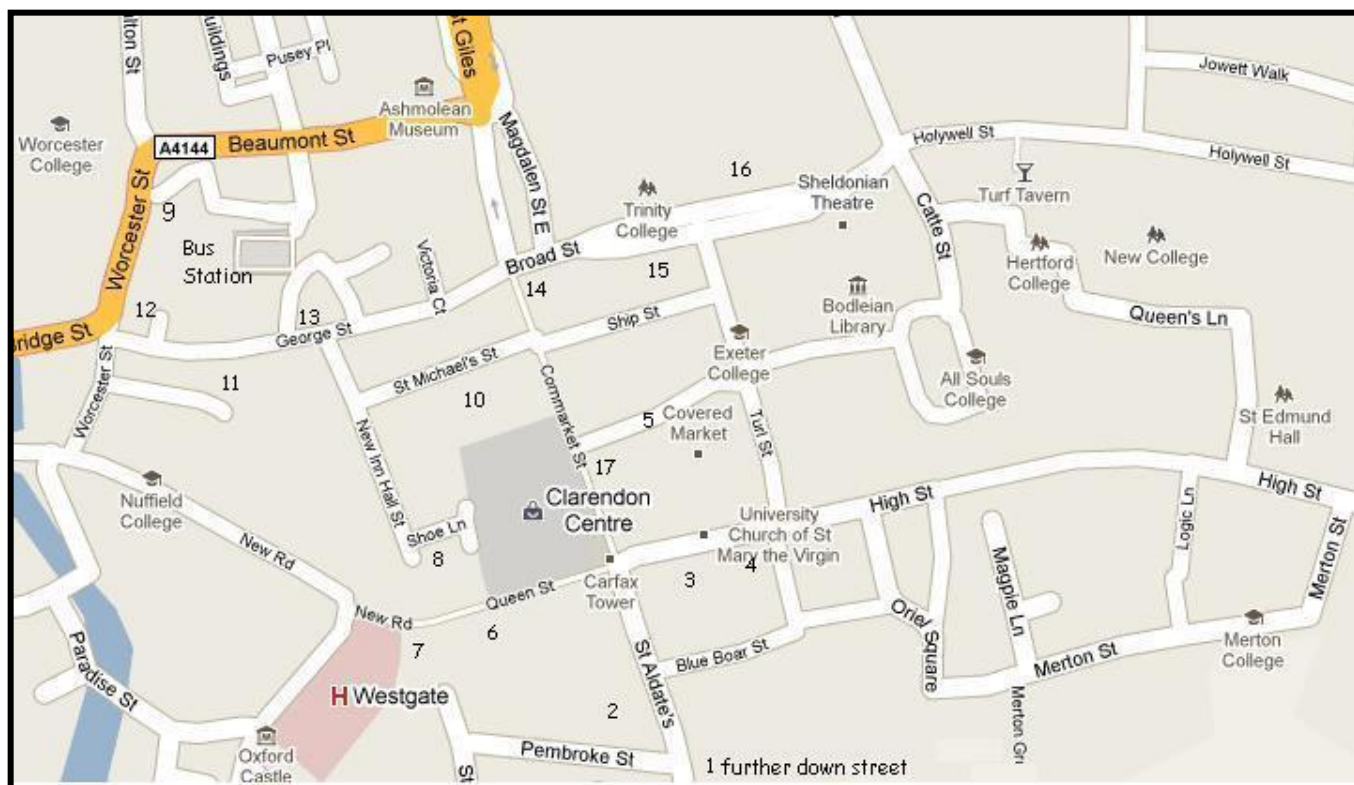


Map of Oxford and programme venue



Entrance to the Examination Schools is via the High Street

Useful places for your first few weeks in Oxford



- (1) **Police registration**- some nationalities need to register with the police. This will be marked on the visa stamp in your passport and you must do this within 7 days of arriving.
- (2) **Main Post office** – postal services and also issue TV licences, travel insurance, etc
- (3) **University shop** for official merchandise
- (4) **Gowns shop** – for hire or purchase of academic gowns
- (5) **Covered market**- cafes, delicatessens and shops
- (6) **Marks and Spencers** department store- food, clothes and foreign exchange section upstairs
- (7) **BHS department store**- cheap household products in basement
- (8) **Argos store**- cheap household and electrical goods
- (9) **OUSU**- Oxford University Student Union
- (10) **Oxford Union**- debating society
- (11) **Western Union**- International Money Transfers
- (12) **Job Centre Plus**- if you get a job you will need to get a National Insurance (NI) number here
- (13) **STA Travel**- discount student travel and International Student Identity cards
- (14) **Boswells department store**- household goods in basement
- (15) **Tourist Information** and foreign exchange
- (16) **Blackwells Books**- largest bookshop in Oxford
- (17) **Boots**- Pharmacy/chemist also have photographic facilities upstairs

Opening hours

Sainsbury's Supermarket (Magdalen Street) 7am-11pm Mon-Sat and 11am-5pm Sunday
Sainsbury's Supermarket in Westgate centre)7am-8pm Monday to Saturday and 11am-5pm Sunday
Tesco Supermarket (Magdalen Street) 7am-11pm Mon-Sat and 11am-5pm Sunday
Blackwells Books- 9am-6pm Monday to Saturday and 11am-5pm Sunday
Post Office- 9am-5.30pm Monday to Saturday, closed Sunday
Banks- usually 9am-5pm Monday to Saturday and Saturday mornings

About the Examination Schools

The historic Oxford University Examination Schools are located on the High Street in the heart of the medieval city centre of Oxford. The building, commonly known as the 'Schools' by the thousands of undergraduates who have sat for exams in traditional sub-fusc (black and white attire still required to be worn) was designed and built by Thomas Jackson as the University examination centre, between 1876 and 1881.

The Examination Schools building was built in 1882 specifically for the holding of examinations and lectures. The architect was Sir Thomas Jackson Bart. R.A. This building, considered by many to be his masterpiece, brought him from obscurity to prominence in architecture. During the two World Wars the Examination Schools was used as a military hospital.

During term University lectures are held here with over a thousand students coming and going every hour. Examinations are also held here at various times throughout the year. These are mainly for the degree of B.A., but also include degrees of Master of Philosophy; Master of Science; Master of Studies; Bachelor of Civil Law, and a number of other Diplomas and Certificates and also oral examinations for Doctorates. During the peak period in June almost twelve hundred students are seated every day for written examinations. They are all required to attend in sub-fusc clothing (black and white), an Oxford tradition which is still rigidly enforced.



Main entrance to Examination Schools

A number of portraits, which form a part of the University's Collection, are housed in the Schools. These include a portrait of Emperor Wilhelm II in the South School; the 1st Duke of Wellington in the North School, Chichester Fortescue, and the Herkomer Collection (in Room 9) which includes a portrait of the Very Revd. Henry George Liddell, Dean of Christ Church and father of 'Alice in Wonderland'.

Sir Thomas Jackson put into this building the things he deeply believed about architecture: that the architect was essentially an artist; that he should be the creator and designer of everything in his building; that the decorative arts were an essential part of an architectural design. His respect for, and love of, the past is illustrated by his use of materials from old buildings: the marble inlay on the West staircase, bought in Rome on his honeymoon; the doorcase and overmantle plaques of the Luncheon Room; Wren's pulpit from the Divinity School which he made into the Examiner's throne in the South School and the throne in the North School made from the Vice Chancellor's seat from the Old School with the sounding board from Wren's pulpit over it. His sense of humour is most obviously seen in the creatures from Aesop's fables depicted in the marble floor in the Great Hall.

The Examination Schools has proved invaluable to the University for over one hundred years. Many thousands of students have passed through the building in that time, doubtless with feelings of considerable nervous tension on entering, but with great elation on leaving.

Useful websites for European and International Students

University websites

www.ox.ac.uk/students/international_students

www.ousu.org

www.lang.ox.ac.uk

www.it.ox.ac.uk

www.ox.ac.uk/libraries/

www.ox.ac.uk/about_the_university/introducing_oxford/oxford_glossary/

Student Information

Oxford University Student Union

Language Centre

IT Services

University Libraries

Guide to Oxford University terminology

Travel

www.nationalrail.co.uk

www.nationalexpress.com

www.oxfordbus.co.uk

www.stagecoachbus.com/oxfordshire

www.oxfordbus.co.uk (click on 'the airline')

www.thetube.com

www.streetmap.co.uk

www.easyjet.co.uk

www.ryanair.co.uk

Train timetables and information

UK coach timetables and information

Bus information and timetables, including buses to London (Oxford Express)

Bus information and timetables, including buses to London (Oxford Tube)

Bus to Heathrow and Gatwick airports

London Underground information

Find UK addresses

Cheap flights to Europe

Cheap flights to Europe

Oxford Information

www.dailyinfo.co.uk

www.thisisoxfordshire.co.uk

www.oxford.gov.uk

Useful guide to living in Oxford

Oxford news and classified adverts

Oxford City Council

Immigration Advice

www.gov.uk/tier-4-general-visa

www.ox.ac.uk/students/visa

www.ukcisa.org.uk/

Home Office

Student Immigration

UKCISA (Council for International Student Affairs)

Other Information

www.ukcisa.org.uk/

www.hostuk.org

www.yell.co.uk

www.ukstudentlife.com

www.educationuk.org/global/articles/safety/

Useful advice for International Students (Council for International Student Affairs)

Welcome scheme for International Students

UK telephone directory

Information about living in the UK

Safety guide for International Students

Checklist of things to do in your first month

This is not a complete list of things to do. Your college and department may have other suggestions.

Immigration matters

- If you have a Tier 4 Student visa, your College will ask to scan your passport and visa page in the first few weeks. Please make sure you do this as it is important for you and the University to meet this legal responsibility.
- You must register with the police within seven days if the stamp in your passport says this is necessary. See notes in A-Z guide of Studying in Oxford. This is a legal requirement and is treated very seriously by the police.
- Make a note in your diary now to make preparations for renewing your visa two months before it expires. It is a criminal offence to stay in the UK after your visa has expired and is treated very seriously. You may be removed from the UK if you overstay and it may make further applications more difficult.
- If you are planning to travel to Europe and need a Schengen visa, plan this at least three months before you need it (or even further ahead at Christmas time and Easter).
- Make a photocopy of the identification page of your passport and the UK visa stamp in case you lose your passport.

Academic matters

- Complete the online registration procedure at www.ox.ac.uk/students/registration_self_service
- Attend Library, Language Centre and Computer Centre induction programmes.
- Book early at the Language Centre, to learn a new language or to brush up your English.
- Meet your supervisor to discuss your research and a schedule for meetings.

Finance

- Find out about the easiest and most convenient way to transfer money to the UK.
- Plan your budget for the next 12 months, remembering to prepare for currency fluctuations.
- Buy a TV licence if you are going to use a television in your accommodation.

Health and safety

- Register with the College doctor.
- Find out about insurance for your belongings (see Oxford Essentials booklet) and insurance for travelling outside the UK.
- Be especially careful about pickpockets and thieves in the first few months you are in Oxford, as there are some opportunistic thieves aware that many students have just started at the University.
- Make a list of emergency contact numbers (police, doctor, college contact, etc).

Notes