Ida, 2nd year
Coming here pretty awesome!

Rachael, 2nd year
When I tell my tutors that their argument is ridiculous, they are delighted... as long as I can reason my way to it!

Rowena, 4th year

Oxford is far from being a rich liberal island.

Yedam, 1st year
Comfortable.

Claire, 1st year
quite normal really.

Not everybody is a special collection applicant.

In this world.

Everyone’s experience about it, just do it.

Oxford is for everyone, as long as you have the grades.

Lozzi, 1st year

I'm looking forward to what the future holds!

Charith, 1st year

Oxford is a truly enriching experience...

I'm looking forward to what the future holds!

Clare, 1st year

We go to a Viking island with the historical re-enactment society and cook over an open fire.

Sophie, 3rd year

Being here has opened my eyes to the possibilities in this world.

Chann Yuen, 3rd year

Come with an open mind.

Farasha, 3rd year

Oxford has exceeded my expectations.

Matthew, 1st year

There is no blueprint for any successful Oxford applicant.

Emily, 1st year

Last summer I toured California, India and Edinburgh for free – and made a studio album.

Oxford is hard work but great fun.

Charles, 1st year

Oxford is for everybody, as much as you think.

Olivia, 1st year

It doesn't matter what background – I had a great time with my friends.

Chris, 3rd year

My college ball was a unique experience – I had a reward.

My face was painted by one of the children I volunteer with.

John, 3rd year

Oxford has helped me realize what I believe in, and has got me involved in causes I deeply care about.

Eli, 2nd year

If you're thinking about it, just do it.

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Download a high-contrast version from ox.ac.uk/moreinfo
Braille, large print and audio formats are also available on request from:

Admissions Information Centre
+44 (0) 1865 288000
study@ox.ac.uk
ox.ac.uk/study

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All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without prior permission.
Why Oxford?

I got a lecture on deserts from a lecturer who had arrived fresh off the plane from Chad – he still had the dust on his shoes!

Ryan, 2nd year

My favourite Oxford memory is being told by my tutor about her latest research breakthrough during a first year tutorial. This information is only now starting to filter through to students at other universities two years later, and I heard about it directly from the researcher!

Catherine, 3rd year

Top University in the UK & Europe:
Times Higher Education World Rankings 2014-15

Largest volume of high-quality research:
Research Excellence Framework, 2014

More world-leading academics than any other UK university:
Complete University Guide, 2014
OVER
£23,000
FINANCIAL SUPPORT
An English student from a low-income background who begins a course in 2015 will receive up to £23,660 in non-repayable grants and bursaries over three years.

1 IN 4
STUDENTS GET A BURSARY
A quarter of Oxford undergraduates get a bursary on top of any government support (UK/EU only).

OVER
11,000
UNDERGRADUATES
÷
35 COLLEGES
All the benefits of a small local community, with all the resources of a big international University. It’s like having a campus in the middle of a city.

My college is home to a weird and wonderful bunch of brainy eccentrics from all over the world.

Emily, 1st year

YOUNGEST
CITY
Oxford is the youngest city in England and Wales. 35% of people who live here are aged 15-29, and 24% (30,000) are university students.

OLDEST
UNIVERSITY
Oxford is the oldest university in the English-speaking world – over 900 years old.
How Oxford works

As an Oxford undergraduate you’ll be part of an academic department or departments, depending on the course you’re studying. You’ll also be a member of a college – a community of students and academics from many different subject areas.

The course you study is the same, whatever your college.

The choice of course is the most important part, because it is what you will spend most of your time on for the next 3 or more years.

Catherine, 3rd year

Over 250 courses

From over 30 faculties and departments

1-to-1 and small group teaching through the tutorial system

Course
Each Oxford course has a compulsory core, plus various options you can choose from to tailor it to your personal interests. These aspects of the course are organised by departments of the central University.

Lectures
All students in a particular subject will come together for lectures. These provide core information that you may find useful in tutorials, essays or exams.

Practicals
All students in science-based subjects come together for labwork and/or fieldwork – typically, at least two half-days a week.

Assessment
Oxford courses have two stages. There are exams at the end of the first stage (usually the end of the first year) that you must pass to continue the course, but don’t count for your final grade.

After this, assessment depends on the course you are studying. You might sit your Finals (written exams on which your final grade is based) at the end of your last year, or at the end of each year. Some exams may be replaced by a project, extended essay or dissertation, or there might be an oral exam.
Whatever course you are studying, you will also become a member of a small academic community called a college. Colleges provide you with a home-from-home in Oxford – you’ll live there for at least your first year – and in most cases arrange your tutorial teaching.

Tutorials take place at least once a week and it’s up to you to research and prepare for them. Then you meet your tutor, perhaps with one or two other students, to discuss an essay or solutions to set problems. The aim is to review your answers or theories and explore ideas that arise in discussion.

A tutorial relies on the exchange of ideas between you, your tutor and other students. You don’t need to be experienced in debating – just ready to present and defend your opinions, accept constructive criticism and listen to others.

Tutorials develop your ability to think for yourself – not only an essential ability for academic success but also a skill that the best employers look for in Oxford graduates.

Regular meetings with approachable tutors ensure that you never fall behind and are given individual help if needed.

Niloy, 3rd year
Is Oxford for me?

Selection at Oxford is entirely based on academic criteria.

To make a competitive application, you need to have, or expect to achieve, three A-levels or any other equivalent qualifications. The exact requirements vary depending on which course you want to apply for, but as a guide you will need to achieve:

**A-levels:** AAA – A*A*A

**International Baccalaureate:**
38 – 40 (including core points)

Many more qualifications are acceptable: see the full list at [ox.ac.uk/enreqs](http://ox.ac.uk/enreqs)

Apart from any specific requirements, we accept all subjects (except General Studies) – particularly those which can demonstrate that you have the necessary skills for your chosen degree.

We don’t care about your background, your extra-curricular activities* or what kind of school you went to – we’re just looking for academic potential.

*unless your extra-curricular activities show your commitment to or aptitude for your chosen course.

Three years ago I thought it extremely unlikely that I would be here today. If you’re reading this and thinking the same, then we have something in common.

Nikita, 3rd year
I've never felt this free before: from discussing the most esoteric ideas and subjects, to just enjoying myself at Queerfest.

Jordan, 1st year

There's no need to be scared of or intimidated by Oxford - if you want to apply and are capable of achieving the grades you need, then go for it.

Clare, 1st year

I receive a Moritz-Heyman scholarship, which is for students from low-income backgrounds. As well as funding and tuition fee reductions, it provides support for doing an internship during the vacation.

Izzy, 3rd year

It really doesn't matter if you don't have any major extra-curricular hobbies. Not only is interest in your chosen course far more important, but when you get to university there are far more extra-curricular opportunities than you could have foreseen whilst at school!

Nikita, 3rd year

Oxford interviews over 10,000 applicants each December.
Global Oxford

If you are interested in your subject, then you must apply to Oxford! There are almost no places globally which can provide the same student experience.

Niloy, 3rd year

INTERNATIONAL STUDY & RESEARCH

While at Oxford, there are lots of opportunities for you to gain international experience to further your academic, career and personal development. These include studying, working or undertaking research abroad. Organised and funded by the University and its colleges, examples include:

- **Over 650 college travel grants**
- **More than 500 summer internships**
- **Funded Summer Schools at universities abroad**
- **Student exchanges with the US, Asia and Europe**
- **A year abroad for students of: Modern Languages, Oriental Studies and Law with Law Studies in Europe**

**Erasmus** study exchanges let you spend up to 12 months at one of our partner universities. Modern Languages students also have the option of an Erasmus traineeship during their year abroad. Erasmus is supported by the European Commission, and includes a monthly allowance to help with studying or working abroad.

[ox.ac.uk/erasmus](http://ox.ac.uk/erasmus)

[ox.ac.uk/students/goabroad](http://ox.ac.uk/students/goabroad)
Oxford has introduced me to people from around the world I never could have met otherwise.

Jack, 1st year

ALUMNI
When you complete a degree at Oxford, you join a global community of over 200,000 graduates. You can tap-in to this network online (through the Oxford Alumni Community) or in-person at regular group events – from Bermuda to Berlin, Shropshire to Shenzhen, you’ll find Oxford alumni all over the world.

All Oxford alumni benefit from lifelong access to the latest research through regular news digests, continued online library access, events and more. See all that Oxford offers after graduation at www.alumni.ox.ac.uk

Oxford people

26 Nobel Prize winners
26 UK Prime Ministers
International leaders including Bill Clinton and Benazir Bhutto
Scientists like Edwin Hubble, Dorothy Hodgkin and Stephen Hawking
Poets and writers including John Donne, Oscar Wilde and Iris Murdoch
Actors and film-makers including Kate Beckinsale, Hugh Grant and Ken Loach
How to apply

If you want to study at Oxford in 2016, you need to apply by 15 October 2015. Choose a course and check that you meet its entrance requirements, then follow these steps to apply:

**OCTOBER 2015**

**UCAS APPLICATION**
You will need to provide information about yourself, including a personal statement where you talk about your interest in the course you’re applying for. A teacher or advisor needs to give you a reference. This is all submitted through an online form - no additional references, transcripts or certificates are required unless you have already completed your first degree.

Make sure you start your UCAS application in good time. Most people apply to Oxford before they have finished their final year of school or college. If this is the case for you, then your referee will need to provide you with predicted grades – where they say what they expect you to achieve in your A-levels (or equivalent qualifications).

Submit by 6pm UK time on 15 October at www.ucas.com

**TESTS**

For most courses, you are required to take a test as an essential part of your application: check your course page.

Oxford admissions tests are organised by the Admissions Testing Service. If you are currently at school or college, you must ask your exams officer to register you to take the test there. Otherwise, see the website for advice on finding an open centre. ox.ac.uk/tests

You must register by 15 October 2015 and sit the test on 4 November 2015.

If you’re applying to study Law, you must take the LNAT (the National Admissions Test for Law) between 1 September and 20 October 2015.

To guarantee a test slot you will need to register by 5 October 2015 www.lnat.ac.uk
Seriously, relax during the interview. Rushing off the first thought that comes to mind will very likely end in a wrong answer. Although, getting an answer wrong doesn’t mean that you will fail — if you have fun learning from the interview, chances are that you’ll do just fine.

Yedam, 1st year

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**NOVEMBER 2015**

**WRITTEN WORK**

For some courses, you need to send in written work as part of your application: check the page for your course. For exact requirements for each subject, and to download a cover sheet, please visit ox.ac.uk/writwork

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**DECEMBER 2015**

**INTERVIEW**

Tutors review each UCAS application, along with any test or written work, and decide on a shortlist of candidates to interview. You will find out whether or not you have been shortlisted in late November or early December.

If you are shortlisted, you will be invited to come to a particular college in December. The college will provide free accommodation and food while you are here. You will be interviewed by tutors at that college, and possibly by tutors at other colleges as well.

If you live outside the EU, and are unable to travel to Oxford for interview, then you may be offered an interview by Skype. (Medicine is an exception – all shortlisted candidates must come to Oxford.)

There are lots of myths about interviews at Oxford, but really they’re just conversations about your chosen subject.

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**JANUARY 2016**

**DECISIONS**

You will hear by mid-January 2016 whether or not your application has been successful. If you have not yet completed the necessary qualifications, then any offer made will be a ‘conditional offer’. You will have until August 2016 to achieve the required grades.

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**SPRING 2016**

**FINANCE**

Student finance applications open from early 2016. For fees, funding, grants and bursaries information see page 170 or visit ox.ac.uk/funding

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**OCTOBER 2016**

**START YOUR COURSE?**