



Opportunity Oxford 2026 Information for Offer-Holders

Congratulations on securing the offer of an undergraduate place at the University of Oxford!

We are delighted that you applied to the University and we are very pleased to have made you an offer. We recognise that you have worked extremely hard to achieve your offer and we hope very much that you will accept and take up your place at Oxford and come study with us!

Your offer has been made with a place on the University's Opportunity Oxford programme. The Opportunity Oxford programme is designed to support students in the transition from school or college to university. Opportunity Oxford underlines the university's long-standing commitment to ensuring that the very best students from all backgrounds have the means and resources to thrive at Oxford. The only difference between your offer with a place on Opportunity Oxford and the standard Oxford offer is that, as well as meeting your offer, you will take part in an academic transition bridging programme in the summer before you begin your course to help you make a strong start to your university degree. Participation in this supportive academic programme is a mandatory condition of your offer and is designed to support your transition from school or college to university life. While participation is a requirement, we are confident that you will find the programme both enjoyable and valuable in preparing for a successful academic journey at Oxford.

The Opportunity Oxford programme focuses on developing core academic skills relevant to your future degree, and allow you to explore strategies for effective independent learning at university, so you'll be able to 'hit the ground running' as you embark on your degree. It will also give you a chance to get to know new students from lots of different subjects and colleges, become familiar with Oxford, and settle into student life. We hope that the programme will be enjoyable, challenging and rewarding and will give you a great start to your university experience. You can find out more about the programme and watch a series of short student videos at: www.ox.ac.uk/opportunityoxford

Around 1 in 5 UK offer-holders have school or other circumstances which mean they are eligible to take part in this academic transition programme (the criteria for eligibility are below in the FAQs). This programme is provided to around 250 students each year to those which Oxford tutors think would get the most out of it.

Please make a note of the **essential key dates for Opportunity Oxford**. There are also a number of FAQs at the end of this document. Being offered a place on Opportunity Oxford is a reflection of your potential and our commitment to helping you thrive here. We believe the programme will help you feel more confident, connected and ready to make the most of your Oxford experience.

Online Welcome Event: Saturday 7th February 2026

We will hold an online welcome event for all Opportunity Oxford offer-holders, together with your parent(s), families, guardian(s) or other supporters you'd like to invite.

This event will give you a chance to find out about the Opportunity Oxford programme, hear from previous participants, meet academic staff who teach on the programme, speak with representatives from your offer college, and learn more about Opportunity Oxford. The day will also include sessions on finance, welfare, and lots of opportunities to ask questions. There will be a condensed evening session on Thursday 12th February to give those who cannot attend the main welcome event a chance to take part in a student Q&A.

We look forward to meeting you then. We warmly encourage your parents, families or guardians to attend. You will receive an invitation together with a timetable for the day and full joining instructions soon; please look out for this email.

Online Academic Course: open from Monday 29th June to Friday 7th August 2026

The online course provides structured academic tasks, together with supporting materials, which will assist you in adapting the skills you have already acquired at school or college to university.

You will follow one of four online courses, depending on your future degree: Humanities / Mathematical, Physical and Life Sciences (MPLS) / Medical Sciences / or Social Sciences.

As well as developing study skills you will have the chance to focus on tasks and materials which are directly linked to your future degree. Your work will be supported by university tutors who will also provide some personalised individual feedback. The online work that you do will provide preparation for the residential course.

The course is open for six weeks and we expect the course to take you about two working weeks to complete. The timetable for the online work is flexible to suit you, so that you are able to fit this academic work around a job, holiday or other commitments.



Students on the OppOx residential head to their academic sessions

Residential: Saturday 5th September – Saturday 19th September 2026

The residential will take place in Oxford, and you will stay in one of Oxford's colleges. During the residential you will build upon the work you completed on the online course, following the course you began online: Humanities, MPLS, Medical Sciences or Social Sciences. You will have classroom and independent work, lectures and tutorials and, where appropriate, practical or lab work. You will study alongside students in related subjects at different Oxford colleges.

Alongside academic work, you will have time to settle into university life and get to know each other through social activities and downtime. You should think of the residential course as being two weeks of full-time study, but you will also have free time. You will work closely with supportive academic staff, and our student ambassadors will be on hand to offer advice, show you the city, help you to make the most out of student life at Oxford, and be a friendly face when you need it. We know that meeting other students, making friends, and learning from each other's experiences will be a very valuable part of the bridging programme.

There is no cost for accommodation or food, and we will cover reasonable travel costs to and from Oxford. You will also receive a £375 non-repayable grant to offset additional expenses or loss of earnings you incur.

You will receive more details in due course from the Opportunity Oxford Team. In the meantime, please add the dates to your diary.

Opportunity Oxford – FAQs

The following notes tell you a bit more about Opportunity Oxford. Please read them carefully. We hope you find them useful. If you have any questions which relate specifically to Opportunity Oxford, please email opportunityoxford@admin.ox.ac.uk - the team would be very happy to hear from you. For all other questions relating to your future studies, please contact the admissions team at the Oxford College which issued you with this offer.

What is Opportunity Oxford?

Opportunity Oxford underlines our long-standing commitment to ensuring that the very best students from all backgrounds have the means and resources to thrive at Oxford. The University is aware that not all students come prepared with the same level of educational advantage.



Our team of OppOx student ambassadors will help you settle in

This programme aims to support high-potential students by nurturing essential academic skills and developing a toolkit for the transition to university life. Offers with a place on Opportunity Oxford are made to offer holders across all subjects and Oxford Colleges.

Are there any differences between my offer with an Opportunity Oxford place and all other offers?

You have been made the standard conditional offer for your course, and admitted on the same rigorous basis as all other students. Once admitted, you will follow the same degree programme, receive the same tuition, be assessed according to the same criteria, and be awarded a degree on the same basis as other students. In other words, once you complete the Opportunity Oxford programme and start your course at the beginning of your first term, your undergraduate experience will not be any different to the rest of your cohort. The distinctive feature of the Opportunity Oxford programme is that you'll participate in an academic programme in the summer before the start of your degree. Previous participants have found the programme very helpful, and they tell us that it has given them a huge boost in their studies. We are confident that it is a really worthwhile experience.



OppOx students exploring the city

What is the Opportunity Oxford programme for?

This programme will help you to develop strategies for success at high-level, research-driven, academic study. From our experience of working with first-year undergraduates we know that adapting to the fast-paced nature of undergraduate study at Oxford can be demanding for any new student. Even though you have already secured excellent school and college results, and demonstrated a very good grasp of the fundamentals of your subject, there are new academic expectations to adjust to and new academic tasks to take on. As academic work at university tends to be more open-ended and less structured than work at sixth form, even students who are used to finding things easy are very likely to be stretched and challenged at university. The programme will help you to acclimatise to this new academic environment and to experiment with new working methods before beginning your degree in earnest. You could think of it as a chance to explore how to be an undergraduate student at Oxford.

Why have I been given an offer with a place on the Opportunity Oxford programme?

The University is looking for students with the highest academic potential from all backgrounds. We use a range of contextual information such as postcode and school data to help us better understand your achievements in the context of your individual background.

In common with many other universities, we define higher education progression rates and socio-economic factors according to standard national data, and a student's eligibility for Opportunity Oxford under one or other of these considerations is determined simply by their residential postcode.

All students are automatically considered eligible for a place on Opportunity Oxford if they have more than one indicator of under-representation at Oxford.

We prioritise students who may live in a neighbourhood which is defined as being an area of relative socio-economic disadvantage, and we also take account of such other factors such as eligibility for free school meals, the average academic performance of their current and previous school or college, and care experience. About 20% of all Oxford offers are made to students eligible for the Opportunity Oxford programme.

We don't assume that the postcode or school data describe you as an individual. We recognise and respect that your experiences are your own. Nonetheless, we know that many students who come from backgrounds which are under-represented at Oxford have not been given the level of academic support that some other students have received. This programme is intended to go some way towards addressing that disparity and to contribute positively to your future success at Oxford.



OppOx Medical Sciences students taking part in lab-based practical sessions

What do students think of Opportunity Oxford?

"I feel in a position of advantage since I have quickly learned so much"

Manelle, English student



"I enjoyed the online summer work as it was more interesting than I thought it would be. I was really nervous but the subject matter was interesting, and we had some genuinely exciting discussions. I'm now excited to go to University and I feel like I know how the academic side of University works, I know what I need to work on and generally what living away from home will be like. I also know what I'll need to pack for the real thing!" **Destine, English student**



"It's also a great way to make friends. I can't stress enough how one of the things that also meant that the residential was incredible was that literally everyone was of a similar background, so we could actually see ourselves as Oxford students" **Jay, Law student**

"Make the most of all the opportunities to learn and make friends. It is the best time to make mistakes and learn to manage your time. Study and be independent. You will make friends for life" **Bryan, Materials Science student**



"I really enjoyed the variety of content we covered on the course. It's been useful to learn about the kind of work we will be doing, and what/where the departments are like. The fact we got to do an essay (and got feedback) was really useful." **Isabel, History student**

"I feel positive about being able to deal with the transition, because OppOx has helped make me more confident in socialising and getting on academically. I really enjoyed and found the tutorials and classes style system of the academic sessions the most useful because it helped me get tailored feedback and pick up study skills easier" **Mohammad, PPE student**



"Opportunity Oxford gave us a support system and almost a safety blanket to be able to try out new things and acclimate to a new overwhelming environment." **Amino, Biochemistry**

"The tutorials were very useful as the concept of them was daunting beforehand, but that doubt/confusion was removed via OppOx. Also the student ambassadors provided a lot of help as they showed an insight into student life and helped a lot in making the most out of the residential." **Priya, Engineering Science**



"I think being able to come to Oxford, know my way around and that I already have some friends that I can go and talk to and we can work together really takes the pressure off the initial first few weeks of term time. I will already have some sort of support network in place" **Suzi – PPE**

A final word

Congratulations again on securing the offer of an undergraduate place at Oxford. This is a very significant achievement on your part, and we very much look forward to meeting you and working with you on this next part of your journey to Oxford.

Please make a note of the essential compulsory dates of the Opportunity Oxford programme:

- Online Welcome Event: Saturday 7th February 2026
- Online Academic Course: open from Monday 29th June to Friday 7th August 2026
- Residential in Oxford: Saturday 5th September to Saturday 19th September 2026

Please also look out for emails from us at the email address you provided on your UCAS application.

The next page includes some resources on where to access information for offer-holders such as Funding, Bursaries & Scholarships, and Welfare & Disability Support Services

You can find out more about Opportunity Oxford, and watch interviews with students who've been on the programme, on our webpage www.ox.ac.uk/opportunityoxford. You are also very welcome to contact us on opportunityoxford@admin.ox.ac.uk or call us on 01865 270554.

Best wishes,

Lucinda, Rachael, Charlotte and Lewis

The Opportunity Oxford Team



opportunityoxford@admin.ox.ac.uk
01865 270554

Opportunity Oxford Offer Holders: Preparing for Oxford

At Oxford, you will be part of an inclusive, supportive and welcoming community which values your wellbeing.

Below we outline a few key areas of support which will help you thrive during your time here. These include scholarship and financial support packages, welfare and disability support services, and university transition support.

Funding, Bursaries and Scholarships

Oxford offers one of the most generous financial support packages available for UK students. Around 1 in 4 UK students currently receives an annual, non-repayable bursary from Oxford. Our ambition is to ensure that no one with outstanding academic potential is deterred from studying here because of their background, personal circumstances, or finances.

- Crankstart Scholarship & Oxford Bursaries
www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/fees-and-funding/oxford-support
- Other Oxford scholarships
Please note that the **deadline to apply** for many of these will be in **early February**.
www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/fees-and-funding/oxford-support
- Funding for UK undergraduates who are care-experienced or estranged from their family
www.ox.ac.uk/students/fees-funding/assistance/targeted-support
- Search for undergraduate fees, funding & scholarships
www.ox.ac.uk/students/fees-funding/search/undergraduate

Welfare and Disability Support Services

If you have a disability, specific learning difficulty (SpLD) such as dyslexia, dyspraxia or ADHD, sensory or mobility impairment, long-term health condition, autistic spectrum condition or mental health difficulty we would encourage you please to let us know.

Letting us know will mean that:

- The University can understand the difficulties you face and offer appropriate help.
- Reasonable adjustments and individually tailored support can be arranged in time for your participation in the Opportunity Oxford programme and your undergraduate studies.

Who do you need to speak to?

- Please complete the Disability Advisory Service Registration Form in order that we can explore and put in place appropriate support: www.ox.ac.uk/students/welfare/disability/needs

You're not sure

- **If you are not sure about the process, don't know what you might need, don't have a formal diagnosis, or have any questions**, the team would be very happy to hear from you! OppOx has a friendly team of University Disability Advisors supporting students on the programme – Pauline and Veronica. You can contact them at: disability@admin.ox.ac.uk

More information: www.ox.ac.uk/students/welfare

Student Insights

- Watch the University's video for an insight into what life as a student here is really like: www.bit.ly/youtube_student_life
- Oxford Transition Support provides a range of resources to help you make the most of Oxford: www.ox.ac.uk/students/new/oxford-transition-support